

PALLBEARERS

Harry Garrett, Jr.

Kenneth Garrett, Sr.

Yosef J. Giles, Sr.

Henry C. Hall

Thomas A. Hall, Jr.

Leon Hendrix

DeVinci Thomas

Reginald Tiggs

INTERMENT

Cedar Oak Memorial Park

IN GRATITUDE

The family of the late Mrs. Willie Marie Gray wish to express sincere appreciation for all acts of kindness expressed during our time of bereavement. It is our prayer that God will bless you as you have blessed us.

Professional Services Provided By

Rainey Mortuary Service, LLC

4807 20th Street
Tuscaloosa, AL 35401

"We are not satisfied unless you are."

Celebration of Life *for* *Mrs. Willie Marie Gray*



Sunrise
March 5, 1942

Sunset
August 16, 2017

Tuesday, August 22, 2017
11:00 a.m.

Beautiful Zion A.M.E. Zion Church
7420 Sanders Ferry Road
Tuscaloosa, AL 35401

Rev. Terry L. Cole, Pastor
Rev. Dr. Jeffery L. Cammon, Interim Presiding Elder
Mrs. Jacqueline Inez Willias-Lartey, Missionary Supervisor
Rt. Rev. Seth O. Lartey, Presiding Prelate

❧ OBITUARY ❧

On Wednesday, August 16, 2017, Willie Marie Gray was called home to rest in the arms of God. She was the youngest daughter of the late Cash and Bertha Garrett. Marie was married to James Howard Gray, Sr. for almost 53 years. Although she was the birth mother of three children, grandmother of four, and great grandmother of one, there are many that called her "mother" or "Granny Gray."

At an early age, Marie confessed belief in Christ and joined Beautiful Zion A.M.E. Zion Church. Throughout her years at Beautiful Zion, she served faithfully in many capacities including church secretary, usher, chairwoman of multiple events, trustee, Director of Christian Education, Life Members Chairman, and General Claims Steward. For more than ten years, Marie was appointed Church School Superintendent, a role she held until her death. She found great joy in the position as she nurtured and transported children, planned programs to promote growth, expanded the Church School Benediction, and was instrumental in adopting "As Long As I Have Breath," as the theme song.

A product of the Big Bend Community, Marie was educated in the Tuscaloosa City School System—a proud 1959 graduate of Druid High School. She earned a Bachelor's degree from Stillman College and a Master's Degree from The University of Alabama. As a business education teacher, Marie positively affected the lives of many. She taught in the Hale County School System and on the community college level at C. A. Fredd and Shelton State.

Willie Marie Gray was preceded in death by brothers, Harry L. Garrett, Sr., and Loucish "LC" Davis and sister, Mary E. Hendrix. She leaves to cherish her memory a devoted husband, James H. Gray, Sr.; children, Veronica J. Williams, James H. Gray, Jr. (Rosianna), and Kimberly J. Gray; grandchildren, James H. Gray, III, Diamond A. Gray, CamRon Ruffin, and Jordyn Gray; greatgrandchild, Carlon Ace Morris; sister, Annie B. Hall of Madison, AL; brothers Lester Garrett of Los Angeles, CA, Johnny Garrett (Yolanda) of Chicago, IL, James Roy Garrett (Laura) of Tuscaloosa, and Roscoe Brown (Sharon) of Mareno Valley, CA as well as a host of other relatives and friends.

ORDER OF SERVICE

Processional

Opening Hymn #82.....*"Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"*

Scriptures

Old Testament (Ps. 46:1-10)..... Elder Clemmie LaShaun Hilton
Impact Nation Fellowship Church

New Testament (John 14:1-3)..... Rev. Warren Williams
Petty's Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church

Prayer..... Rev. Dr. Jeffery L. Cammon, Interim Presiding Elder
Tuscaloosa-Bessemer District

Selection..... Beautiful Zion A.M.E. Zion Church Unity Choir

Reflections

As a Colleague and Friend..... Mrs. Ruby Bennett

As a Classmate Mr. Tommy Woods
Druid High Dragons Class of 1959

As a Church Member Mrs. Cassaundra Grice

Selection..... Beautiful Zion A.M.E. Zion Church Unity Choir

Acknowledgments

Instrumental Solo..... James H. Gray, III
"It Is Well With My Soul"

Eulogy..... Rev. Terry L. Cole

Recessional Song *"Going Up Yonder"*