

A Celebration of Life for
MRS. MARTHA M.H. PARKER
“PETE”

November 18, 1931

December 17, 2021



*Your Mother is Always with You!
She's the whisper of the leaves
as you walk down the street.
She's the smell of certain foods you remember,
flowers you pick, the fragrance of life itself.
She's the cool hand on your brow
when you're not feeling well.
She's your breath in the air on a cold winters' day.
She is the sound of the rain that lulls you to sleep,
the colors of a rainbow.
She is Christmas morning.
Your mother lives inside your laughter.
She's the place you come from, your first home.
She's the map you follow with every step you take.
She's your first love, your first friend,
even your first enemy.
But nothing on Earth can separate you.
Not time. Not space. Not even death.*

By: Deborah R Culver

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2021
VIEWING - 10:00 O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING
PRIVATE SERVICE - 11:30 O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING
IN THE CHAPEL OF MCGUIRE FUNERAL HOME
7400 Georgia Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20012
REVEREND DR. EUNICE MEREDITH, OFFICIANT

Order of Service

Musical Selection

Mr. Ryan Jones

Musical Selection

“Jesus Promised Me a Home Over There” by Jennifer Hudson

Reading of God’s Word Rev. Dr. Eunice Meredith
Old Testament – Job 12:7-10
New Testament – Matthew 11:28-30

Prayer and Obituary Reading Rev. Dr. Eunice Meredith

Musical Selection

“What a Wonderful World” by Louis Armstrong

Poem Reading by Grandchildren (Strength, Courage, Wisdom & Love)

Courtney Parker (Strength) The Strength Within
Nicholas Parker (Courage) Courage Doesn’t Always Roar
Christopher D. Parker (Wisdom) Take Wisdom
Nataja Radford-Blackmon (Love) Love Is

Tribute from Children

Pamela M. Parker
Christopher L. Parker

Musical Selection

Mr. Ryan Jones

Eulogy

Reverend Jerome F. Thornton

Musical Selection

“Wholy Holy” by Aretha Franklin

The Strength Within

Read by Courtney L. Parker

*Build the world you dream of in your heart and in your mind
Leave things a little better from the challenges you find*

*Stretch yourself in directions you wouldn't always go
And you will find new purpose and ways that you can grow*

*These are the seeds I've planted and sometimes seen come true
Not only in my own life but in my children too*

*Just as one dream is ending another one can begin
Fueled by love and memories and strength you have within*

-Robert Longley

Courage

Read by Nicholas L. Parker

*Courage doesn't always roar.
Sometimes courage is the quiet voice
at the end of the day saying,
I will try again tomorrow.*

-Mary Anne Radmacher

Take Wisdom

Read by Christopher D. Parker

*What does wisdom do?
What does wisdom say?
How does wisdom move about,
And live from day to day?*

*Wisdom points to Calvary;
Shows man his greatest need.
Wisdom makes those happy,
Who follow where it leads!*

*It helps direct our every step;
Make use of every day;
Guides safely past each obstacle,
We find along the way.*

*It moves about in hearts and minds,
Surrendered to the Lord.
Wisdom lives from day to day
In His eternal Word!*

*True wisdom isn't found, you see,
Separate and apart
From Christ who IS our wisdom.
Let him dwell then, in your heart!*

Love

Read by Nataja S. Radford-Blackmon

*Love is patient, love is kind.
It does not envy, It does not boast,
It is not proud.*

*It does not dishonor others,
It is not self-seeking,
It is not easily angered,
It keeps no record of wrongs.*

*Love does not delight in evil
But rejoices with the truth.
It always protects, always trusts,
Always hopes, always perseveres
Love never fails.*





Obituary

Martha Marion Hill Parker (family nickname “Pete”) was born to Richard Hill and Bessie Smith Hill on November 18, 1931 in Scotland Neck, North Carolina. Martha was born tenth in line to what would grow to be a family of 11 children for Richard and Bessie Hill. They were a family of eight girls and three boys.

Martha attended Mary’s Chapel school in Scotland Neck for grade and middle school and then on to Brawley High School where she graduated in 1949.

Martha remained at the original home place for her early adult years, helping her family with the daily household and farming chores. At a young age Martha took notice of the work and sacrifice made by her parents to make sure she and her siblings had everything they needed to be successful in whatever they chose to do. It was there on the family farm that Martha developed her hard work ethic and “finish the job right” attitude. These are the attributes Martha would carry throughout her life and also instill in her children and grandchildren.

Martha was at a church musical performance in 1953 when she met a young man. Her encounter with this young man would change everything. She later learned his name to be Willie Lee Parker. They met for the first time at this church musical and they hit it off right away. It was love at first sight. They lived approximately ten miles apart and started their relationship by writing letters to each other as often as they could. It didn’t take long for the couple to realize they wanted to be with each other for the rest of their lives.

In the following months Willie was drafted into the US Army and would go off to serve in the Korean War. While away serving his country Martha and Willie would write each other faithfully. She promised that she would be right there when he returned from his service. By the time Willie returned from Korea Martha had moved to Washington DC to unite with some of her siblings that had moved to the city. Willie headed that way soon after.

Shortly after arriving in Washington DC, Martha decided to pursue her lifelong ambition to become a nurse. She began her postsecondary education at the Freedmen’s Hospital Nursing School (now Howard University Hospital). After graduating Martha would go on to work as a nurse at a number of Washington DC area hospitals including Children’s Hospital, Holy Cross Hospital and Sibley Memorial Hospital.

On June 20, 1959, Martha and Willie married. They lived at 13th and Buchanan Street NW for approximately two years before moving to Shepherd Park NW, DC in 1966 where they would live out the rest of their lives. Martha and Willie had two children, Christopher L. Parker and Pamela M. Parker.

Martha had a strong love for children. Her heartfelt concern and compassion for the health and well-being of children is what made her an exceptional nurse. She would often come home after work to talk with her family about the condition of a young patient she was caring for at the hospital and express how badly she wanted them to recover and feel better.

Martha was always involved with her children's friends and took them in as her own. All the friends knew they were welcome at "Ma Parker's" house as she was affectionately called by many of the young children that would visit. Every chance she got she would ask "how are you doing and how are your grades?" If the grades weren't up to par, you had some explaining to do along with your plan to bring the grades up.

Martha and Willie joined Northminster Presbyterian Church in NW DC in the late 1960's. Martha remained active in her church community for many years and many lifelong friendships were developed from her love for her church family.

Martha's legacy will live on. Anyone that had the pleasure of meeting Martha knew that her family and friends meant everything to her. One of her greatest joys was chatting on the phone. If she got you on the phone, you might as well take a seat because more than likely she would have you for some time. Often in the same conversation there would be laughter and tearful moments of joy.

Instead of mourning, the family would like to celebrate her life; the way she lived. Martha would ask us to gather for laughter, catching up with each other, talking and just enjoying the simple things in life. That's what gave her joy, peace and comfort throughout her life.

Martha was very passionate about donating to her favorite charities which included the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History & Culture and the United Negro College Fund. In tribute to Martha's life a donation to one of these charities or any that works to expand our knowledge of history and culture or invests in the education of our youth would be in the spirit of her giving nature.

Martha is survived by her daughter, Pamela; her son, Christopher and his wife Sonja; grandchildren, Nataja, Courtney, Christopher David and Nicholas; and great grandson, Messiah

The family sincerely thanks everyone for their love, support and comforting words.



Pallbearers

Family and Friends

Acknowledgements

The family would like to express our sincere thanks to our many friends and relatives who have been so thoughtful and kind during our time of bereavement.

Interment

Monday, January 3, 2021
Mary's Chapel Baptist Church Cemetery
Scotland Neck, NC



Professional Services Entrusted to

McGuire Funeral Service, Inc.
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202-882-6600 www.mcguire-services.com

Programs by Another Marvelous Design: 240.353.5113