

Obituary

*"Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart Be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength,
and my redeemer" Psalms 19:14*

Merline Evans Lyle was born June 12, 1935 to the late Merlin B. Evans and Odessa Breeding Evans in Decatur, Alabama. A loving mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, aunt and dear friend, to all who knew her, **Merline** departed this earthly life and met our Heavenly Father on April 24, 2016.

Merline confessed hope, faith and trust in God at an early age. She became a member of Garner Memorial CME Church in Decatur, Alabama. A graduate of Decatur Negro High School, she later earned an Associates Degree in Business from Calhoun Technical & Junior College.

After becoming a single mother, **Merline** was steadfast in rearing her five children to be deeply rooted in God's love and mercy; to grow into respectful and productive individuals; and to know the importance of education to achieve their life aspirations. As the years passed, **Merline** met and married her soul mate, Frank Lyle, Jr. on February 12, 1972. She and Frank brought together 11 children to this union. There was only one earthly love strong enough to change the Alabama native into an Ohio girl; that of her "*Darling Frank.*" Following marriage they relocated to Lima, Ohio. **Merline** resigned from IBM Corporation after many years of service and became a full-time homemaker. In 1999, they chose Dothan, Alabama as their home to delight in retirement and eternal love.

Merline loved cooking, gardening, fishing, leisure piano playing, crossword puzzles and most of all spending quality time with family. To everyone that met her, she was referred to as "*such a sweet lady*" and was lovable to everyone whose life she touched.

Merline was preceded in death by her parents; son, Dewayne Lyle and grandson, Derrick Dobbins,

Merline leaves to cherish her memory: *her devoted husband of 44 years*, Frank Lyle, Jr.; *their children*, Mary Alice Dobbins, Baton Rouge, LA, Charles E. (Valerie) Dobbins Jr., Mobile, AL, Gloria Denise (Kenneth Wayne) Johnson, Dallas, TX, Roderick G. Dobbins, Henderson, NV, L. Randall Dobbins, Austin, TX, Carolyn A. (Gay) Jackson, Lima, OH, Mary Jane Turner, Patricia Nelson, Miami, FL, Diania (Robert) Rowe, Barbara (Dorian) Ware, and Keith (Constanta) Lyle, Pontiac, MI; *grandchildren*, Theodore (Kimberly) Jackson, II, Michael D. (Shana) Jackson, Shanna Dobbins, James (Tasha) Lane, Jr., Charla (Terence) Dobbins-Adams, Curtis Bryant (Brittney), Erika (Moses) Semakula, Latoya S. (Jeremy) Henderson, Breeland R. Dobbins, Randall A. Dobbins, Bryce Dobbins, Brodi Dobbins, Latonya Jackson, Melissa Cowell, Christopher Jackson, Dion Jackson, Justin Turner, Julian Truth, Mylea Hall, Ross Rowe and Dennard Ware; *3 sisters*, Gwendolyn E. Dobbins, Nashville, TN, Toni E. Shine, Ponoma, CA and Gloria E Smith, Cincinnati, OH; *38 great-grandchildren*, a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Order of Service

Prelude		Soft Music
Invocation		The Rev. Steven D. Little
Selection		"How Great Thou Art"
Affirmation of Faith		The Rev. Steven D. Little
	<i>I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen.</i>	
Scripture	Old Testament - Psalm 23 New Testament - I Thess. 4:13-18	The Rev. Debbie Smith
Solo		"I'm Going Back To My Lord"
Reflections		Sis. Allean D. Reid Bro. Joseph Weatherspoon
Acknowledgment		Sis. Melicent Bolden
Obituary	Read Silently	Soft Music
Selection		"Amazing Grace"
Eulogy		The Rev. Adolphus Elliott, Sr.
Solo		"Yes God Is Real"
Recessional		<i>Beautiful the earth around her Peaceful the sky above Harmony and joy surround her Gentle is a mother's love ~ Author Unknown</i>

Pallbearers

Theo Jackson ~ Michael Jackson
Breeland Dobbins ~ Randall A. Dobbins
James Lane, Jr. ~ Bryce Dobbins

Flower Bearers

Missionaries/Stewardess

Words of Appreciation

Maybe you sang a lovely song, or prayed a silent prayer; Maybe you visited our home, or called us on the telephone; Maybe you sent food or drinks; Maybe you sent flowers as a reminder of nature's beauty; if so, we appreciate it all; Whatever you did to console our hearts, We are grateful and thankful! We offer special thanks to the staff (Deann, Andrea and Bruce) of Kindred at Home-Hospice Care for the wonderful and loving care given during the past six months. May God's blessings be with you all!

The Family of Merline Evans Lyle



Interment

Sterrs Cemetery



Repast

Garner Memorial CME Church Fellowship Hall



REYNOLDS
FUNERAL HOME

103 13th Avenue, NW
Decatur, Al 35601
www.reynoldsfh.com

Homegoing Celebration
for

Mrs. Merline Evans Lyle



Alpha

June 12, 1935

Omega

April 24, 2016

Tuesday, May 3, 2016
11:00 a.m.

Garner Memorial C.M. E. Church

401 Cherry Street, Northwest
Decatur, AL 35601

The Reverend Steven D. Little, Pastor-Officiant
The Reverend Adolphus Elliott, Sr., - Eulogist

Tribute to Mama

God looked around his garden and found an empty place.

He then looked down upon his earth and saw your loving face.

He put his arms around you and lifted you to rest.

His garden is so beautiful, he always takes the best.

He knew you were suffering; he knew you were in pain,

And he knew that you would never get well on this earth again.

He saw your path was difficult; he closed your tired eyes,

He whispered to you "peace be thine" and gave you wings to fly.

Then we saw you sleeping so calm and free of pain,

We could not wish you back to earth to suffer once again.

You've left us precious memories; your love will be our guide,

You'll live on through your children; you'll always be by our side.

It breaks our hearts to lose you, but you did not go alone.

For part of us went with you on the day God called you home.

Your children and grandchildren



Before You Cry

Before you cry for me

Just try to understand

That I am resting safely,

In the hollow of God's hand.

If I could send a message to each,

This is what I'd say,

"Please now, don't cry for me,

For I've reached a brighter day.

Before you cry, remember,

That God alone knows best.

He has called me Home,

And with Him I will rest."

Author Unknown

