

INTERMENT
Forest Hill Cemetery

PALLBEARERS
Clarkstown Men's Club

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Our family wishes to convey our sincerest appreciation for your prayers and support during our bereavement. We are truly blessed to have family and friends like you and are thankful for all you've done. A special thank you to Vi Royal (daughter-in-law), Melzetta Smith (family friend) for your time and attention to our mom and the Heartland Medical Center. Your unwavering support will always remain in our hearts.

The Children

CELEBRATION *of* LIFE



REPAST

Immediately following the interment the family will receive guests in the church fellowship hall.

Services Entrusted to:
Your Loving Granddaughter,
"Papoose"

Pridgen

9455 LANHAM SEVERN RD.
LANHAM, MD 20706
(301) 577-9455

Programs by:
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FUNERALMALL.NET

Laura
MAE ROYAL

SEPTEMBER 12, 1925 ~ FEBRUARY 10, 2019

1925

Her Journey

2019

Laura Mae Royal, daughter of the late John Wesley Leftwich and Mary Elizabeth Leftwich, was born on September 12, 1925 in Lynchburg, Virginia. She had two brothers who preceded her in death. Her older brother was John Thomas Leftwich and her twin, Lloyd who was called to be with the Lord at the young age of 18 months.

As a young girl growing up in the Clarkstown community of Lynchburg, Laura attended the Campbell County Public Schools. It was here that she met the love of her life, Thomas Wardell Royal, Sr. They married at the young age of 17 and remained in this union for 72 years until the death of her beloved husband on October 31, 2015. From this union, four loving and devoted children were born, Nyrtha, Thomas Jr., Kevin and George Royal.

Laura was affectionately known as "Boots" and "Midget". She grew up in a Christian home that always put the Lord first. She was a member of the Saint James Christian Methodist Episcopal Church.

Laura and Thomas resided in Washington, DC for a short period of time. Laura loved to take trips; especially New Jersey where she could not get enough of the Atlantic City boardwalk. She even traveled across the country from Lynchburg to California with her family to visit her oldest son, Thomas Jr., who was in the Marine Corps.



Laura wore many hats during her work life. She was a chef, a nanny, a sales supervisor and a waitress. She retired from G.C. Murphy's with over 20 years of dedicated service to care for her father. She was very determined that she would keep her promise to him by not placing him in a nursing home. This single promise became her greatest mission in life, until his death.

Later in years, Laura was employed by the Long John Silver's restaurant. During her tenure there; she received many accolades and recognitions for her excellent customer service. Many of the customers came in on a regular basis, just to have Laura wait on them. Laura would be so excited when she would come home and spread her tips outs. She would count her money at least three times and shake her apron pockets, before putting it in her money jar. Laura did so well with her tips. She was able to buy and pay for her very own car. If she was here right now, you would hear her say "well how about that". Laura remained employed at Long John Silvers until her short-term memory started to fail her. Once no longer employed, on a daily basis, several times a day, she would ask Thomas, "Do I go to work today?" Thomas would say "no Laura Mae, you are off today" When he really needed a break from her asking, he would tell her she was on vacation. This would buy him a break for a couple of hours. Laura enjoyed sewing. She loved to write editorials for the Lynchburg Daily Advance Newspaper. Her articles were very inspiring, thought provoking and eye opening. She would write with such conviction, whereas, her family would often tell her not to submit an article, if it was too controversial.

To My Children

Now, I don't want any of you to be sad and worry about me. "I'm Alright". When I arrived here in heaven, I could not believe my eyes. It is so beautiful here. The angels greeted me with open arms. The gates are made of pearls and the streets are paved in gold.

Boy was I surprised when the Lord had your dad to usher me in. Boy was I excited to see him. Did you all know he was here? Surely, I did not know. I do not recall any of you telling me Tom had been called home to be with the Lord. My memory may have been gone, but I would have remembered that. He looks as youthful as the day we were married.

We have so much catching up to do. You see the Lord has made me whole again. He has given me a sound mind; he has restored my limbs and given me Eternal Life.

Remember my children, "Weeping may endure for the night, but joy comes in the morning."

Mom Forever!

Christmas spirit

Editor:
Let us honor the coming day that Mary and Joseph journeyed toward the most blessed event in the history of the world: the birth of Christ.

The stores have the beautiful decorations, but what is Christmas without the spirit of Christ in it? Doesn't Christmas seem duller than it did long ago? That is because the spirit of Christ is gone. Let's put it back by sharing the spirit of Christmas with someone. It does not have to be an expensive gift. Send Christmas cards, greet your neighbor with a smile and a "Merry Christmas," hum Christmas carols as you work, look around your house and see if it has the Christmas spirit in it.

It is a holiday season for everyone, but at the same time we forget the true reason behind all those lights that brighten our lives at Christmas.



Forgiveness needed

Editor:
This letter is in reference to the Rev. Jim Bakker, I think he and his church should be reinstated in the denomination. We all make mistakes of one kind or another; we should not judge him. We should not be so quick to condemn him. The ethics of his life should not be judged because all of you righteous people standing tall about any sin, ready to judge and condemn, hats off to you because you said in His own words when everyone was ready to judge the woman at the well: "He without sin cast the first stone." They all dropped their stones and heads and walked away. So where is all that Christianity and love that everyone teaches about? Forgiveness and love is the key to heaven.

LAURA ROYAL

Support the troops

Editor:
The war is something no one anticipates, but when it comes, we should support our troops in the Middle East and not lie down in streets and protest against it. We should accept the things we cannot change and let our boys know that we are for them. By all means, don't be a defeatist, one who is ready to accept defeat.

So many of us say — why are we fighting? We should not go out of the U.S. The way that country was treated, their homes taken, children and wives were killed and you still think that we should not have given them a help and hand?

Well, suppose the shoe were on the other foot, and it was our country that needed help. Would you protest against another country coming in to help us? No, we would welcome them with open arms.

So, let us all come together in one accord and be more supportive. That's the least we can do because the Bible is fulfilling its word. It says there will be wars and rumors of wars, so let's join hands all over and pray for peace — and peace it is to come.

2-9-91 LAURA ROYAL Lynchburg



Let the children pray

Editor:
Prayer is a conversation with God. So don't take prayers away from the ones who want to pray; the school is big enough for all sides. If they don't believe, then don't make them, but if the children want to pray in their locker room, please let them, for prayer has never hurt anyone. Just think if a fire or tornado hit the campus, everyone would be running and screaming "Lord, save me."

Well, why wait till something happens to call on God? There is so much hatred in this world that everyone, not only children, should pray for peace and love. Children get their roots of Christianity at home, but if it's taken away at school, then there is doubt. Don't take their faith or belief away; you might be the cause of turning a great child into a heathen of the world.

Because children are our future generation, we should let them ask God to give them guidance and a greater love. Remove all hatred, intolerance and prejudice from their hearts and help them to love one another, because on all of our currency, what do we see: "In God We Trust"; in our leaders' oath or affirmation, what do they say — so help me, God.

So why can't the children go in their quiet place and say "Thank you, God." Those three little words might turn a child's life around. I am begging you to let them pray. Let them show some form of recognition of the Almighty God, for the nation is being corrupted by drugs, and we need prayer in every corner. Prayer will make a difference in everyone's life, so please let us all pray that the



Papoose (Tuawana) . . . Hi darling, you are my first grandchild and what a bundle of joy you were. I am so proud of you. I am still going to tell everyone here about your wedding, I know it has been over 14 years, but I had never seen a wedding such as yours. It could not have been any more perfect or beautiful. The Lord is truly continuing to bless you. He has given you your funeral home, and just think, I got to stay in it, even if it was in spirit. My stay with you these past two weeks was quite comfortable. Thank you for the royal treatment. I was bathed in my favorite Olay body wash and not Dawn dish detergent like the others. Oh and I was the only one with a beautiful blanket. Papoose why you keep it so cold in there? And don't think for one minute that you pulled one over on me, just because you got to wash my hair without me being able to say "No thank you papoose". You are still a little on the rough side and heavy handed, but I know it was all done in the name of love. Remember, no matter what you do in life, I will be right there by your side. Love you sugar!

Boo (Justin) . . . To me, you will always be "My boy" and "Little J" and I will always be your "Grannie" You too gave me so much joy and happiness. When you graduated from high school your grandad and I were just so excited and beaming from head to toe. Continue to honor your mother and father, and please continue to stay on the right path and let the Lord order your steps and you will be just fine. Thank you for being so attentive and loving towards me as your grannie. Oh, congratulations are in order, I heard through the Angel vine that you are engaged to be married. When that day comes, your granddad and I will be there in spirit, standing right with you. For a few years now, you have helped to watch over me, I am now in a position to watch over you, and that`s just what I will be doing. Love you, Grannie.

Ervin . . . I have always regarded you as my grandson. Thank you for loving me and I am so glad you are a member of our family. I will always remember your thoughtfulness and the concern you had for me. And thanks for not hesitating to bring Nite down the road to check on me. Just remember, I will always be your "Ma-Ma".

Cotton Ball (Ethan) . . . I just love to brag on my great grandson. The Angel vine has revealed to me that you are an "A" student. I am so proud of you. Keep up the good work, keep God first and you will go far in life. Thank you for all the hugs and kisses over the years. Your "Ma-Ma" will always be watching over you. No matter where you go, I will be there.

Aaman and Elijah . . . Great grandsons, you are all grown up now. I want you both to remember the whole world is a stage and each of you has a part to play. The decisions each of you make, will follow you for the rest of your life. Thank you for loving me. Remember to keep me close at heart and I will always be with you.

Vi and Mel . . .the two of you were assigned as my guardian angels. However, I regarded you both as my daughters. I would not have had it any other way. The two of you made me the envy of the nursing home ladies: who else got their hair combed and styled almost every day? Who else had their skin cleansed with the best oils, and lotions? Who else got to have their window and room decorated according to the season and holiday? Mel, I am glad you painted my nails, I heard Dick giving you the blues about it, but I enjoyed having them done. Thank you both for loving and caring for me, especially during these past years. I know you made a lot of sacrifices when you could have been elsewhere. Keep me close to your heart and I will always be with you.

Buggs . . . I will always be your aunt Laura. I just heard from the Angel vine that you have finally moved back home. Please stay close to your cousins, and know I will always be with you in spirit. You know you were really my fourth son. To my other nieces, nephews, relatives and friends, I love you all.

Love,
Laura Mae



Laura and Thomas both loved a rose garden. She would always put her garden in competition with Thomas, to see which one would have the biggest, and prettiest roses, even though Thomas was maintaining and working both gardens. That was Laura Mae for you. Cooking was a love of hers as well and another household competition. If Thomas made a cake, Laura had to make a cake. Eventually as her health and memory started to decline, she declared him as the champion over gardening and cooking.

Laura faithfully knelt at her bedside nightly to say her prayers before going to sleep; until she was no longer physically or mentally able to do so. Laura loved the Lord. Her faith was unwavering and she had a personal relationship with the Lord. No matter what the situation was or how devastating, Laura would stand convicted that the Lord will not put any more on us than we can bear.

During her six year stay in the Heartland Medical Center, Thomas showed his unwavering love for his bride by caring for her as he battled cancer without peeping one word to his family. He would visit her every day, two to three times a day and just sit with her and hold hands. This ritual went on until a week before his death. Laura continued to be cared for by her children who always kept dad's standards and expectations as their guide. Everyone who was directly assigned to her or just came into contact with her, treated her with love and affection. She in turn, greeted everyone with a "Hi Sugar" or a "Hi Darling". The staff just fell in love with her. The care she received there goes beyond phenomenal.

Laura leaves to cherish her memory, one daughter, Nyrrha Braxton, three sons, Thomas Jr., Kevin and George Royal. Two grandchildren, Tuawana Pridgen and Justin Royal, three great grandsons, Ethan, Elijah and Amaan (Raekel), two great-great grands Liam and Leah, a devoted and loving daughter-in-law, Viola Royal, one loving nephew, John Leftwich, Jr.(Jackie), one grandson-in-law, Ervin Pridgen, a faithful and caring friend who was regarded as family, Melzetta Smith, a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.



Saturday, February 23, 2019

VISITATION: 11:00 A.M. ~ SERVICE: 12:00 P.M.

CHRIST CHAPEL BAPTIST CHURCH

205 Chapel Lane ~ Lynchburg, Virginia 24501

REVEREND CARLTON JACKSON, EULOGIST

Order of Service

INVOCATION

SCRIPTURE

Old Testament
Justin Royal

New Testament
Ethan Pridgen

PRAYER OF COMFORT

George Royal

SELECTION

Rodney Allen

OBITUARY

Melzetta Smith

REFLECTIONS

"Messages From Heaven"
Tuawana Pridgen

REMARKS

Family and friends
(Please Limit to Two Minutes)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Linda Pankey

SELECTION

Rodney Allen

EULOGY

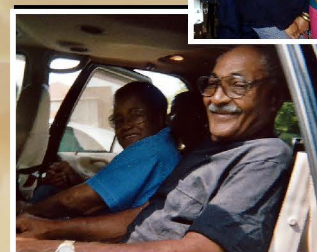
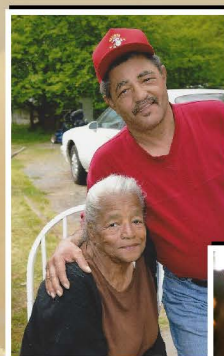
Reverend Carlton Jackson

SPECIAL TRIBUTE

"Really Gonna Miss you"

BENEDICTION

RECESSIONAL



Messages From Heaven

My Dearest Family,

There are not enough words that I can say to express the love I will always have for each of you. Certainly, there is nothing I can say to ease the pain you must feel at this moment. On the day that the Lord called me home, I need you all to understand that February 10th was not an expiration date for my love and title as mother. You see, my love for all of you was non-perishable. It was very organic; as natural as it could be. Free from artificial and processed ingredients, which allows you to store my love in your hearts forever.

On my last day with you all, I was overjoyed to have everyone in that room with me including Tom, yes your dad was there too. You didn't know it, but I could feel every touch and hear every word that you spoke to me. I was so excited and happy to know I would finally be in a place where I could get back to watching over you, I know it must have been very hard on you to know I had to stay in the Nursing home and options of returning home were very slim. Yet, this was a cross the Lord placed on me to carry, but as usual as heavy as it was, each of you helped me to carry it, right up until my last day on earth with you.

Nite . . . "Boss Lady", as my first born and only daughter, you are in charge now. There are just no words to adequately thank you for being a devoted, faithful and loyal daughter. There have been so many times that you took the shirt off your back and your earrings and gave to me. Thank you for loving and caring for me in a manner that went beyond what was expected. For instance, look at all the traveling back and forth over the years, just to care for and spend time with me. While you could be doing something for yourself or taking a vacation, you chose to come and do for me. Just think; within a span of 50 years from the time you left home, you only missed one Thanksgiving and one Christmas. I will ask the Lord about getting you into the Guinness Book of World Records. You have brought so much joy to me, there was never a time I was not your first priority. All through your life, you always made sure I was at the top of your list, and even on today I am still ranking as number one! I will always be close by, I will never leave you.

Tom Dick . . . You are truly the son every mother wants. The caring and nurturing you provided to me, went beyond amazing. I want you to get some rest now that you do not have to make 3-4 trips to the nursing home a day, just to see if I was alright and whether the nursing staff was doing their jobs. Thank you for doing my laundry. I never knew clothes could feel and smell so good. I am so grateful for all that you did to make sure I was safe, comfortable and appropriately cared for. You see, it was the little things that you think I did not notice such as making sure the curtains were pulled a certain way to keep the sun out of my face, It's a wonder that the thermostat is still working; you really gave it a work out every day to ensure I was comfortable. I can tell you now, on occasions, it was a little too warm. The special blankets you put on my bed; they were so soft and cozy. I was so happy when you asked the nurses to remove that old out of date spread from my room. Now when everything quiets down, and you feel the need to talk to me; just call out to me and I will be there.

Kevilee . . . "Mr. Responsible", thank you for loving me and making sure I had everything I needed. I thank you for making sure my affairs and medical decisions were on point. You made me so proud as my Power of Attorney. You probably experienced that some decisions are easy and some are very difficult to make. But because of the love you, your sister and brothers have for each other, all of the difficult decisions turned out to be not so difficult. That's because they were made with love, care and concern. It was a blessing to have a son like you. One who made sure I got the best of what could be offered at any given time, whether in the nursing home, the emergency room or the hospital. I cannot think of a decision you and your siblings made that I would have done differently. Oh, daddy and I are expecting you to make sure everyone eats. You are now in charge of all holiday meals; your daddy and I noticed that you picked up our cooking skills. Remember, I will always be watching over you, as you have watched over me. Love you my son.

Pogie . . . my devoted baby boy. Thank you for sitting with me those late nights. Boy did I enjoy watching westerns with you. I especially enjoyed Matt Dillon and John Wayne. It is too soon for me to ask if there is a TV up here, so I think I will wait a while. Thank you for always verifying and clarifying information so that all of you would understand the situation at hand. It was no accident you were the chosen one that the Lord assigned to be with me when I slipped away from my earthly life. Having you with me that evening as I took the Lord's hand, I had no doubt you were the one that could lovingly assure your sister and brothers that I did not suffer, but peacefully slipped away. Thank you for loving me unconditionally and for being a faithful and devoted son. I want you to continue leaning on the Lord for all your understandings. Remember, a mother's love never dies so I will be with you always; just call out "Laura Mae" like you always do. Hey, and try not to eat all the food and leave some for your brothers and please be careful in those woods.