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A
Celebration
of Life
—

Emma Lee Mays

FUNERAL SERVICE

Friday, June 18, 2021

10:30 a.m.

HISTORIC MCKINLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

196 Hawthorn Street

Dayton, Ohio


Obituary



Emma Lee (Bryant-Alexander) Mays, was born April 12, 1931 to Pearl and Lonnie Bryant in Palmetto, Georgia. She was the oldest of 8 children. Emma's journey home was on June 9, 2021. Emma learned to play the piano at the early age of 6, as she became older Emma sharpened her piano playing and singing skills. Emma moved from Georgia to Dayton. Emma continued to hone her skills, in/for church choirs. This eventually led to a long career as one of Dayton's well-known musicians. Emma has played and was the Director for the McKinley Gospel Clefs, she was a member of the United Gospel Chorus, which was made up of various voices and musicians around the Dayton area. Emma was a musician and songstress for the McKinley United Methodist Church for over 50 years. Emma's voice is one that will never be forgotten as she had a voice that would carry from the rooftops and would rattle your soul. The way Emma banged a piano would make a deaf man move with joy! What a joyous time it was when Emma hit those piano keys and her foot hit the pedals on the piano. Praising the Lord was one of Emma's life's work, helping others was a part of her life's journey.

Emma worked for Montgomery County Children's Services (aka Shawen Acres) as a caseworker for over 20 years, before retiring from St. Joseph's Children's Treatment Center (now called Glen at St. Joseph) with over 15 years of service. Emma was also an employee of H.H. Roberts Funeral Home for many years where she worked in the office and played the piano for funeral services. Emma graduated from Dunbar High school and attended Sinclair College. Emma was a 45+ year member of the Order of Eastern Star, where she served a Past Worthy Matron of Ruth Chapter as a Past Matron, Ruth Chapter No.15 OES, a Past Grand Worthy Matron of the Benevolent Grand Chapter OES, State of Ohio, Past Most Worthy Grand Matron, Grand Council of Deliberation, Daughters of Sphinx; Past Grand Most Ancient Matron, Mohab Court, Heroines of Jericho State of Ohio.

Emma leaves to cherish her memory of life, love, strength and family. Six children: Vernon M. Alexander, Vivian D. Alexander, Sondra Alexander (Byron) Banks, Philmore "Pete" Alexander III, Clarence D. Mays Jr., Deidre (Mike) Harris. Bonus daughters Stacy Turner and Kennyatta Davis, Diane Johnson, Cheryl Knuckles, Engua (James) Cason. Bonus sons Charles Harris and Theodore Beane. Emma has 24 Grandchildren: James Alexander, Craig Alexander, Ryan Reeves, Tony Rogers, Jr., Toni'sha Rogers, Sean'ae Banks, Byron Banks II, Paul Crane, Javona Alexander, Lashawnda Alexander, LaKeisha Alexander (Duke) Carton, LaQuita Alexander, ShaCrystal Alexander, ShaDiamond Stephans, Jewel Alexander, Philmore Alexander IV, Dajahnn Alexander, Dymond Cartwright, Clarence (Morgan) Mays III, Antoinne Mays, Porsche Johnson, Terrence Wilson Jr., Deidric Wilson, and Terrell Wilson. Emma has 37 great-grandchildren, 6 great-great-grandchildren. Emma's siblings: Lonnie (Sharon) Bryant, Carlton (Brenda) Bryant, Kevin (Aleisha) Bryant, Valerie Bryant. Alyce Harris, her day one sister ride or die. Emma is preceded in death by her devoted husband Clarence D. Mays Sr., her Mother Pearl Bryant, Father Lonnie Bryant, Mother Zeola Bryant, her brother Ronald Bryant, her sister Carla Bryant, her grandson Sean A. Mays, and her former husband Philmore Alexander Jr. Emma lived a wonderful life; ninety long years is a blessing to celebrate! What a legacy for us to follow.

Emma has so many devoted friends and family to name, she touched a lot of lives with her caring soul and open-door policy to her home. All were welcome! From our family to yours we would like to thank you all for sharing in our celebration of our Mother's life. She has so many accolades we can't name them all. What we pray that you take with you is the peace of the Lord beyond all understanding, please love each other and be kind and caring while you still have breath. Do all you can while you can!!!! 

Order of Service



Entrance

Gathering

Word of Grace ~ Dr. Lois Fortson Kirk

Greetings to the People

Musical Selection ~ Ms. Melody Williams

Prayer ~ Pastor Norman Brandfield

Old Testament Reading: Psalm 23

New Testament Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:50

Tributes by Family (no longer than 2 minutes)

Musical Selection

Eulogy

Gospel Lesson ~ Dr. Lois Fortson Kirk

Dismissal ~ Pall Bearers

Musical Selection



PALLBEARERS

Clarence D. Mays Jr. James Alexander Craig Alexander Ryan Reeves
Antoinne Mays Clarence D. Mays III Byron D. Banks II

WEEP NOT FOR ME

by an Unknown Author

Weep not for me though I have gone
Into that gentle night
Grieve if you will, but not for long
Upon my soul's sweet flight
I am at peace, my soul's at rest
There is no need for tears
For with your love I was so blessed
For all those many years
There is no pain, I suffer not
The fear is now all gone
Put now these things out of your thoughts
In your memory I live on
Remember not my fight for breath
Remember not the strife
Please do not dwell upon my death
But celebrate my life

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

*To McKinley Church Pastor Peter Matthews, Dr. Lois Fortson Kirk,
Pastor Norman Bradfield, the Choir, and all Musicians for your time and talent,
and McKinley Church members for your love and support.*


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