

Obituary

Mrs. Bertha Mae Gilliam Gary was born on September 21, 1932 to the late Murray Gilliam and Cleve Taylor Gilliam in Clinton, South Carolina. She was the last surviving sibling of the six children born to the late couple.

Bertha Mae lived in Clinton all of her life and attended the old Bell Street High School. At a very young age, she joined Hebron Baptist Church in Clinton, South Carolina and was a member of the Women's Aide Society No. 79.

There were not many times before her health began to fail that Bertha Mae was not doing what she loved best, which was cooking. She baked cakes, pies, cookies, and whatever she felt like trying out of her "recipe books". Oftentimes, she'd bless you with a jar of some type of fruit preserves or chow chow and buttery yeast rolls to go with it; then advise you that you shouldn't eat too many rolls. She was a retired Food Service Employee for Laurens County School District 56 where many former students have remembered and thanked her for good food and kind words. One of her most liked songs was "Use Me" by Ron Kenoly.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband Will Gary who passed away in 2005; two sons: Jerome Gilliam and James Rufus Gilliam; one sister, Etta Gilliam; and four brothers: Walter Tayler, Willie Earl Taylor, William Gilliam, and James Gilliam.

Early Wednesday morning, July 22, 2020, Mrs. Bertha Mae Gilliam Gary departed this earthly life and entered into Eternal Rest at Prisma Health Laurens County Hospital in Clinton, South Carolina at the age of eighty-seven.

She leaves to forever cherish her memories a son, Willie Gary of the home; three daughters: Sharon (William) Bates, Vivian Richmond, and Sophia Gilliam(Lucius Pitts); a stepdaughter, Essie Conway; five grandchildren: Kevin Gilliam, Sr., Latoya Gary of the home, Alleluia Bates, Lakeyta Richmond, Juleeza Richmond; four great grandchildren: Kevin Gilliam, Jr., Zy'Kevious Jones, Zendiayah Gilliam, and Lacey Miller; five step grandchildren: Barbara Conway, John Fleming, Barney Fleming, Vickie Conway, and Willie James (Virginia) Gary; a special niece, Hattie Vance; three special cousins: Delores Harris, Shirley Broome, Shirley Williams; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends from near and far.

Order of Service

**PRAYER OF COMFORT:
REVEREND HERRY MANSEL**

SCRIPTURE READING:

REVEREND HERRY MANSEL

SELECTION:

MYRA BURTON

WORDS OF COMFORT:

REVEREND ANTHONY SIMS

COMMITTAL SERVICE:

PRAYER, COMMITTAL, AND BENEDECTION



GO ON, GO IN LOVE

You can shed tears that I am gone,
Or you can smile because I have lived.

You can close your eyes and pray that I will come back
Or you can open your eyes and see all that I have left.

Your heart can be empty because you can't see me
Or you can be full of the love that I've shared.

You can turn your back on tomorrow and live yesterday,
Or you can be happy for tomorrow because of yesterday.

You can remember me and only that I am gone,
Or you can cherish my memory and let it live on.

You can cry and close your mind,
Be empty and turn your back,

Or you can do what I, your mother, would have wanted
Smile...Open your eyes... Love and Go On.



TOGETHER AGAIN

A reunion occurred in Heaven this week
 Of the sweetest and most joyful kind.
 As Bertha Mae's spirit moved beyond this earth
 Released from her mortal life.
 And what a reunion it must have been!
 A joy beyond our conceiving.
 When a wife met her husband in Heaven again,
 Ending years of dignified grieving.
 Although we will miss them terribly
 And will long for them with deepest grief.
 We're reminded that love is more powerful than death
 And this knowledge gives us comfort and peace.
 We can still feel their love surround us;
 Giving us a desire to continue on.
 To try our best to live our lives well
 In the ways they would have done.
 For we know this isn't the only reunion;
 Someday, we'll be called back to be with them.
 For life can lead us to greater happiness
 With the Lord and our loved ones in Heaven.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The family of Mrs. Bertha Mae Gilliam Gary wishes to express their heartfelt appreciation to the many friends, family and love ones who shared words of comfort during our time of bereavement. We offer a special thank you to Josie, Sharon, Heather, Dr. Jenkins, the staff of Laurens County Prisma Health, Reverend Herry Mansel of Bethlehem Grove Baptist Church in Clinton, SC and Reverend Bryant Cheek of Springfield Baptist Church in Laurens, SC. We would also like to sincerely thank Jeannie Malone and the staff of NHC Home Healthcare for their exceptionally compassionate care for our loved one.

God bless each of you.
 ~-~ The Family ~-~

Childs Funeral Home, Inc.

"Professional Service with Excellence is Our Commitment"

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Designed by [Dianna Rice/inspiredfirst@yahoo.com](mailto:Dianna.Rice@inspiredfirst@yahoo.com)

Rest In Heaven

Bertha Mae Gilliam Gary



ALPHA **OMEGA**
 SEPTEMBER 21, 1932 JULY 22, 2020

Graveside Service

Monday, July 27, 2020
 11:00 AM

Orchard Park Memorial Gardens
 Clinton, South Carolina

Reverend Anthony Sims, *Officiating*

