



Obituary

Born: Thursday, January 9, 1919

Died: Tuesday, February 5, 2019

The Life and Legacy of Mrs. Lonnie Mae McElderrya loving mother, a kind neighbor, a loyal friend, a Christian servant. Lonnie Mae was born on January 9, 1919 to the late Alonzo and Ida Shack in Gadsden, Etowah County, Alabama. To this union there were ten children born, the late Alonzo Shack and Rosa Lee Shack; late sisters, Louis Palmer, Rudartha Johnson, Elve King and Christine Woods; living sister, Ida Lois Taylor(late Cleveland Taylor), Buffalo, NY; late brothers, Alphonzo(Flora) Shack, John T. Shack, David Shack(living, Paula Shack), Gadsden, AL. Lonnie attended school in Gadsden, Alabama. At a young age, Lonnie met the late Norman S. Thomas and the two were married. To this union five children were born; the late Robert James and Tommie Thomas, Barbara Riggins(late Johnny Riggins), the late Leon Thomas(living, Alice Thomas), Gadsden, AL, Loretta White (late Maurice White), Buffalo, NY and late Alphonzo Thomas, Gadsden, AL. After completing her secondary education, Lonnie later went back to Nursing School where she became a Nurse and worked at McGuffey Nursing Home, now called McGuffey Health and Rehabilitation, for many years. Lonnie lived in Brooklyn, New York for a short period of time. She later returned to her home in Gadsden where she worked several other jobs, nurturing her family and providing for their needs. Later in life, Lonnie married Ernest McElderry and the two would spend their lives together until his demise. Lonnie (Momma) enjoyed cooking and was a spectacular cook. She also enjoyed sewing and quilting, reading, listening to music; she would often sing sometime and do her 'little dance'. Momma loved her flowers and ceramics figures. I would say, "Momma could anything." She loved her family and friends and loved working with people. She loved the Lord. Lonnie was a devoted member of Athens CME Methodist Church on E. Broad Street in East Gadsden. After moving to a new location she eagerly became a member of the church in her residence. She always spoke softly with a smile and gave good, practical advice if it was needed. She had just celebrated her 100th birthday on January 9, 2019. Lonnie leaves to cherish her memory, nine grandchildren, Carolyn Thomas, Sharon Thomas, Linda Aaron, Anita Riggins, Mark Riggins, Dorian and Ebonie White, Stephen Thomas and Loretta Wright; eleven, great grandchildren; a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, family and friends.

Service Summary

Visitation

11:00 AM to 12:00 PM, Thu Feb 14, 2019

Athens CME Church

2220 East Broad Street
Gadsden, Alabama 35903

Celebration of Life

12:00 PM Thu Feb 14, 2019

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