

In Loving Memory
of
Eleanor Gilliam

Sunrise
March 20, 1919

Sunset
June 7, 2013



Tuesday, June 11, 2013 - 11:00 a.m.

ETERNITY FUNERAL SERVICES

129 Engle Street • Englewood, NJ 07631

Bryant Crockett, Organist

Obituary

Eleanor Gilliam quietly departed from this life in her Teaneck, New Jersey home on Friday, June 7, 2013 at age ninety-five.

Eleanor was born on March 20, 1919 to Hogan and Sally (nee Kinard) Gilliam in Greenville, South Carolina. She was the youngest of their three children. While she was still an infant, her parents died during the pandemic flu epidemic of 1919.

As a result of these tragic circumstances, Eleanor and her brothers were separated. She and her older brother James went to live in Newberry, South Carolina with her aunt Cogie and West Wilson and their daughter Mildred. Luther, her middle brother was taken to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to live with his uncle, John Gilliam and his wife. The children would not be reunited until they were adults. Eleanor often expressed the wish that she could just see a photograph of her parents.

Eleanor and her cousins, Mildred both attended Drayton Street High School, and plans were under way for Mildred to attend college and Eleanor Nursing School. When her aunt Cogie's husband West died in 1935, those plans had to be abandoned and instead all three of them moved to New York City to live with her cousin Ella Dennis and her family.

Eleanor worked briefly as a nanny, then for a printing company in NYC. Finally she was employed with Prentice Hall Publishers in Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey until her retirement. After retiring, she became primary caretaker for her brother, James who passed in 2002.

Eleanor joined St. Charles Catholic Church in New York City and attended Mass every Sunday. When she moved to New Jersey, St. Cecelia in Englewood became her new church home. Life obviously had not always been easy for Eleanor, but her philosophy was to take The "Lemons" of life and to make lemonade. While with the printing company she lost the tips of three of her fingers and promptly decided to master the art of sewing.

At the age of sixty, she decided she would take driving lessons and bought an Oldsmobile which she drove everyday to work. During her free time at home, she made a professional aquarium with tropical fish and worked diligently in her garden. She enjoyed sports, took swimming lessons and enjoyed helping "older people" whenever she could, she was feisty with a delightful sense of humor.

As she herself grew older and lost close family members, it became difficult for her to accept help from anyone since she always did things for herself. Fortunately, she was able to remain in her home until the end and to leave the world with her much cherished dignity intact.

She leaves behind: her cousin, Carolyn Jones; her nephews, Phillip Gilliam, Edward Eigner (Emma), Tony Eigner (Audrey), Michael Gallman, Clifton Gallman, Ralph Gallman, James Gallman, and nieces, Maria Morrisi, Alicia Johnson (Jerome).

She was also very fortunate to have a host of loyal and sincere caretakers, Helen Barrett, Sandra Harrell R.N., Aleshia Henry and in the early stages of her illness, Norma Roundtree.

Special appreciation to members of the medical profession, Dr. Melissa Freeman and Dr. Joseph Cassotta and also her spiritual advisors, Father Hilary of St. Cecilia's and Sister Thomas Marie, along with Rev. Ella Hayes of the Hospice Program.

Order of Service

Prayer

Scripture John 14:1-3

Song Selection “Amazing Grace”

Acknowledgements/Reflections Romaine Harris

Song Selection “How Great Thou Art”

Obituary Romaine Harris

The Eulogy Father Hilary
St. Cecelia’s Catholic Church

Postlude “When We All Get To Heaven”

Recessional



Interment

Werts Cemetery
Newberry, South Carolina

Afterglow

*I'd like the memory of me
To be a happy one,
I'd like to leave an afterglow
Of smiles when day is done.
I'd like to leave an echo
Whispering softly down the ways,
Of happy times and laughing times
And bright and sunny days.
I'd like the tears of those who grieve
To dry before the sun
Of happy memories that I leave behind,
When the day is done.*

-Helen Lowrie Marshall

Acknowledgement

*The family acknowledges with deep appreciation all acts of kindness extended to them during this bereavement hour.
God bless you for all your thoughtfulness and concern.*

Professional Services Entrusted To:

Eternity Funeral Service, LLC

Aree Booker, Executive Director

Licensed Funeral Director in New York & New Jersey

NY Lic. # 00367 NJ Lic. # 4346

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