

*In Loving
Memory of*

Florence Virginia Haygood

Sunrise
December 23, 1915

Sunset
January 18, 2016

Service
Tuesday, January 26, 2016 - 10:00 a.m.

BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH
275 West Market Street • Newark, New Jersey

Obituary



Florence Virginia Haygood, a resident of Rossmoor Estates in Monroe, New Jersey, died on Monday, January 18. Born December 23, 1915 in Binghamton, New York, she had, just the month before, celebrated her one-hundredth birthday. She was the fourth-born child of Welford Hester, Sr. and Annie Hester, nee Geter. While she had spent a part of her childhood in Cleveland, Ohio and Corning, New York, by age nine, she was in Newark, New Jersey, where she resided until 1998 when she moved to Rossmoor.

She graduated from Newark's Barringer Evening High School in 1934. During the Depression, in order to work, she had dropped out of West Side High when that school was new. She was a good student and held fond memories of her schooldays: recess games of jacks and jump rope, classical concerts at Symphony Hall with schoolmates, participation in citywide track competitions, and visits to the library. She was a life-long reader and an aficionado of classical music, inclinations that she passed on to her daughters. She passed on to them her love of board games—Old Maid, Pit, solitaire, Word Find puzzles, and Flinch, the last here surviving into the present as a game played by most Hester descendants.

Winifred Anne, Carol Sue, and Nancy Elizabeth are the children of her fourteen-year marriage to James Conrad Shannon, a resident of Summit. A self-taught television repair shop, he died in 1952. To ensure that knowledge of their father's intelligence and character survive across generations, she made certain that at family gatherings she recounted how school officials in Summit High School refused to recognize their father's excellence in science in an assembly and had given him the prize he had earned in a school corridor instead. He, like she, embodied the intellectual style and stance of a college educated person although they were, in fact, high school graduates.

For a period in the fifties, she worked as a supervisor of the Newark-based Jerry Lewis Muscular Dystrophy Drive and a secretary in the office of an industrial publisher in Newark as well as for the Internal Revenue Service. Over time, she had stints as secretaries for the Boys' Club, the NAACP, and for the National Council of Negro Women. She faithfully volunteered at The Newark Youth House for Boys and The Newark Youth House for Girls.

In 1959, she married James Haygood, a Georgia-born Newarker. They became the foster parents to brothers Barry and Johnny Thompson as well as to boys named George and Derrick. It was Johnny who inaugurated the use of the appellation *Mumsey* with which she was routinely identified, oftentimes in the letters and notes included on cards that relatives and acquaintances received from her on holidays, birthdays and other special occasions, those cards and notes always seeming to arrive at the appropriate time. Writing was a passion. She wrote letters, impressions, and commentaries. Her notes of encouragement almost always contained a Bible verse or the blurbs: "God bless!" and "Know that I care!" Widowed a second time in 1973, she acknowledges having had two loving, fulfilling marriages.

Throughout her life she enjoyed doll collecting, watching baseball, gardening, holiday decorating, and family gatherings. She was an ardent lover of animals, especially her dogs. She loved baking cookies with and for all her loved ones. She prided herself in having taught three generations of children how to jump rope, the last of which were taught while she was in her seventies and eighties. She even expressed regret for not having had the opportunity to teach the present generation.

Mumsey consistently adopted new family members any and everywhere she went. She may have been introduced as Mrs. Haygood, but, once adopted, she became your Mumsey too. She was predeceased by her husbands, James Shannon and James Haygood; her sister, Mabel Hester; her daughter, Winifred A. Butler; and her grandchildren, Christopher Butler and Cassandra Butler. She is survived by her brothers, Welford A. Hester (Ida) and James W. C. Hester; her children, Carol S. Jones (William) and Nancy Shannon; her grandchildren, Leonard J. Butler, Cheri-Anne Butler, Florene A. Hawks (Steven), William S. B. Jones (Sonya), and Paula C. Jones; and her eight great grand children, Loleeta C. Butler, Lenora V. Butler, Bianca L. Daniel, Illicia C. Daniel, Mehrissa E. Butler-Childs, Simone A. Hawks, Christopher M. Ross, and Grace I. Jones; and by five great-great grand children, and three nieces and nephews, and a host of other relatives. She will also be missed by her countless friends and acquaintances.

Order of Service

Organ Prelude.....Brother Robert Richardson

Processional.....(All stand except for family)

Congregational Hymn..... *“Leaning on the Everlasting Arms”* #262

Prayer of Comfort

Scripture Readings

Old Testament.....(Job 19:25-27)

New Testament.....(Luke 20:27-38) Deacon Kevin Maynor

Musical Selection..... *“Amazing Grace”*

Brother Robert Richardson

Reflections/Tribute

William Jones (Son-in-law)

Rev. Wallace Lee (Cousin)

Lonnie Brice (Friend)

Shirley Satterfield (Friend)

Resolutions/Acknowledgements.....Sister Marjorie Hunter

Church Clerk

Obituary.....(Read Silently)

Musical Selection..... *“His Eye Is On the Sparrow”* #60

Eulogy.....Dr. M. William Howard, Jr.

Closing Prayer

Recessional

Entombment

Forest Woods

East Brunswick, New Jersey

~Rest~

Bethany Baptist Church

Family and friends will be received in the Fellowship Hall, downstairs.

Pall Bearers

*Derek Dent
Rev. Wallace Lee*

*Stephen Hester
Pernell Brice*

Perhaps

Perhaps you sent a lovely card, or sat quietly in a chair. Perhaps you sent a floral piece if so we saw it there. Perhaps you spoke the kindest words as any friend could say. Perhaps you were not there at all, just thought of us that day. Whatever you did to console our hearts we thank you so much whatever the part.

Acknowledgement

The family wishes to acknowledge with deep appreciation the many expressions of love, concern and kindness shown to their family during this hour of bereavement.

May God Bless and Keep You!

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