

In Loving Memory of



Wilda Mae Terrell
"Dollye"

Sunrise
March 8, 1921

Sunset
April 12, 2016

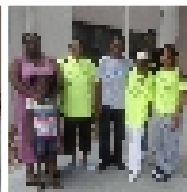
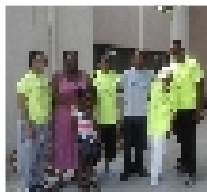
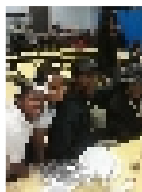
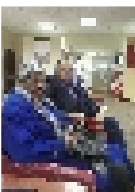
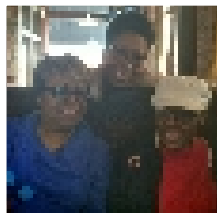
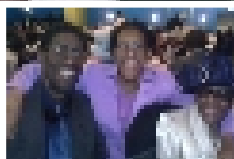
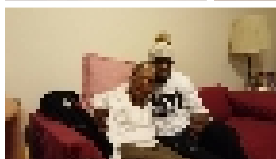
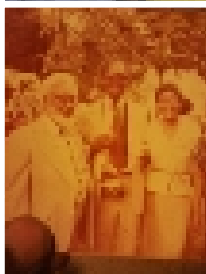
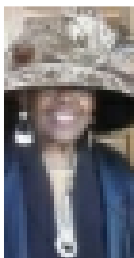
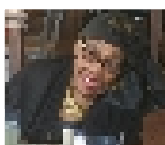
Service

Friday, April 22, 2016 - 11:00 a.m.

Metropolitan Baptist Church

149 Springfield Avenue • Newark, New Jersey

Rev. Dr. David Jefferson, Pastor



Obituary

WILDA MAE "Dollye" TERRELL

Wilda Mae Johnson was born March 8, 1921 in Jackson, Alabama to John and Henrietta Gailes Johnson. She was one of eight siblings, which included her twin brother, Willard. Family lore has it that when she came home, someone remarked that she was as pretty as a baby doll, and for most of her life, to family and close friends, she was known as Dollye. She lost her parents at a relatively young age, their mother in 1930 and their father in 1937, but she remained close and deeply loyal to her family throughout their lives.

After attending Carver High School in Gadsden, AL, she married the love of her life, Millard Earl Terrell, who was off to join the Army to serve his country at the height of World War II. Wilda and Willard then came to Newark, NJ in 1942, and she began laying down roots in her new home, working at jobs that contributed to the war effort. When Millard returned from the war, they began a lifelong association and commitment to New Jersey's largest city.

The two settled down to begin a family. Their union was blessed with four children, Veronica Louise, Stanley Earle, Michael Glenn and Allyson Lorraine. The children were raised in Franklin D. Roosevelt Homes, a public housing development in the Ironbound section of the East Ward, commonly referred to as Down Neck. The Terrells became active in tenants affairs and other civic activities aimed at improving the quality of life for minority and low-income residents.

Mrs. Terrell worked side by side in enhancing life at FDR, bringing about a host of improvements and opportunities for its residents. Millard Terrell served for more than two decades as president of the FDR Tenants League, which gradually became a force for change in Newark's public housing community. In addition to helping to form the citywide Newark Tenants Council, Mr. Terrell became the first public housing resident to sit on a policy making body when he was named to serve as a commissioner to the Newark Housing Authority by Mayor Kenneth Gibson. Upon his death in 1986, FDR was renamed Millard E. Terrell Homes in his honor.

But Mrs. Terrell was more than a supportive voice in the tenant movement, holding several elective offices with the FDR tenant group. She was known and highly respected by the residents of the little bricks, many of whom later came to refer to her as the "Queen of Terrell Homes." She also remained active in the tenants group for the remainder of her residency at the development, which she left in 2002.

As her children grew older, Mrs. Terrell was bitten by the education bug and worked as a teacher's aide at Hawkins Street School, which all of her children - and some of her grandchildren - attended. While there, she completed studies for an associate education degree from Essex County College, and in 1975 - at the tender age of fifty-four she earned her teaching degree from Rutgers University. For the next decade, she worked teaching assignments at Cleveland and Speedway schools until her retirement.

Mrs. Terrell was a diligent and active member of Metropolitan Baptist Church for more than fifty years, working with the Bible Study and Sunday School

groups as well as a number of Women's Circles, as well as volunteering each summer for Vacation Bible School during the summer months. It was a rare Sunday when Mrs. Terrell could not be seen in the church pews for all three services. She also worked for many years as a hostess to bereaved families at repasts which followed funerals held at the church - a function she continued until recent years when declining health interfered with her abilities to carry out her functions effectively.

Mrs. Terrell was a God-fearing, hard-working, family-oriented woman who never hesitated to extend a helping hand, a compassionate ear or a sturdy shoulder to someone in need. She was a caring and attentive mother who found innumerable ways to demonstrate to her family how much they were loved. At the same time, her boundless love was shared with many neighbors, friends and associates who came within her sphere of influence. A friendly smile and a warm welcome were her trademarks.

Mrs. Terrell was known for many things. Her cooking and love of children were legendary, and she opened the doors of her home with a hospitality that made all who entered feel comfortably welcome. She was fond of saying that once you visited her house, you were no longer a stranger, and she graciously shared whatever she had to offer. No one ever left her home hungry, if she had her way.

Wilda loved to travel, and in her later years attended nearly every family reunion in various parts of the country - Georgia, Denver, Chicago, Virginia, to name a few of the venues she visited. One of the highlights of her travels was when she made a trip to the Middle East to visit the Holy Land. She made an almost yearly trip to Denver to spend time with her twin brother - including the the last nine months of his life when she stayed to help assist in his care.

Mrs. Terrell was also a snappy dresser, a woman with a sense of style that drew admiring looks and turned heads. She could put a hurting on a hat or a headwrap - making them elegant and regal accessories to her stylish outfits. She was a prompt woman who hated to be late and even though she never drove, she always managed to get where she wanted to go, with or without a ride from anyone.

The most outstanding character she possessed was her commitment and adherence to the word of God. She conducted herself in a manner in which her faith was constantly on display simply by the manner in which she lived her life. She walked her talk and demonstrated her belief by example. Though she read the Bible each night before bed, it was the way she lived her life that proclaimed to all that she was a true believer in Christ and that her actions and words were guided by that principle. Anyone who came in contact with her could detect immediately that she was a true child of God.

Mrs. Terrell was predeceased by her husband, Millard, her oldest child, Veronica and her youngest son, Michael. She is survived and mourned by: her children, Stanley and Allyson; grandchildren, Darlene Scott, Shalisa Earp, Cassaundra, Aaron, Torian Terrell and Malika Adams, Salimu Terrell; Toussaint and Malcolm Terrell, and Jahad and Tiamoyah Terrell; brother, Calvin Johnson, and foster brother, James Ike Jackson. She also left thirty-eight great grandchildren and twenty-eight great grandchildren, as well as a host of nieces, nephews, extended family and friends.

Order of Service

Processional

Scripture Reading
Old Testament
New Testament

Prayer

Hymn

Obituary & Acknowledgments

Remarks

Solo

Eulogy

Recessional

Interment

Fairmount Cemetery
Newark, New Jersey

Life Is But A Stopping Place

Life is but a stopping place,
A pause in what's to be,
A resting place along the road,
to sweet eternity.
We all have different journeys.
Different paths along the way,
We all were meant to learn some things,
but never meant to stay...
Our destination is a place,
Far greater than we know.
For some the journey's quicker,
For some the journey's slow.
And when the journey finally ends,
We'll claim a great reward,
And find an everlasting peace,
Together with the Lord
- Author unknown

Acknowledgements

The family would like to express their deep appreciation and sincere thanks for all acts of kindness shown to them during their time of bereavement.

Professional Services by:
Whigham Funeral Home

580 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Newark, New Jersey 07102
973-622-6872

Carolyn Whigham, Director

