

In Loving Memory of
Catherine Elizabeth Hayes

December 8, 1918 - May 17, 2016



Tuesday, May 24, 2016 - 11:00 a.m.

St. Paul A.M.E. Church

*15-21 Sanford Street
East Orange, New Jersey*

Rev. Dr. Jerome Stembridge, Officiating

Obituary

On May 17, 2016, **Catherine Elizabeth Hayes** departed this earthly life. Catherine was born the second of eight siblings to Webster and Recillia Duncan on December 8, 1918 in Accomac County, VA. She was educated in the Accomac County school system and joined the St. Luke A.M.E. Church at an early age. She married Charles Bagwell and had one daughter, Alice Marie Pressley. The marriage ended in divorce and Catherine left Accomac for East Orange to live with her older sister, Alice Savage. There she met and married Lelon Hayes and they became members of St. Paul A.M.E. That union produced three children, Pamela, Lelon Jr., and Brandon. The home they purchased in East Orange and lived in for over 50 years served as the hub for family dinners EVERY Sunday and many family Christmases, Easters, holidays, weddings, graduations, and other social occasions. Many happy hours were spent talking and laughing on their screened in porch, watching TV in the living room, or sharing coffee in the kitchen.

Catherine was very active in the St. Paul A.M.E. Church, where she was a member of the usher board and nursing guild. She truly enjoyed reading, and never went anywhere without a book to read. After the passing of her husband, Lelon, in 2001, Catherine moved to Willingboro, NJ, where her home once again became the hub of numerous family gatherings. She also enjoyed family vacations to the Jersey Shore, where she could peruse the bookstores on the boardwalk and read her favorite novels on the porch enjoying the ocean breeze.

Catherine leaves behind her four children, Alice Pressley, Pamela Holland, (Calvin Holland), Lelon Hayes, Jr., and Brandon Hayes; three siblings, Virginia White, Mary Jones, and Lucille Duncan; four grandchildren, Valerie Pressley, Vivian Pressley-Harris (David Harris), Chealsey Malewicz (Kyle Malewicz), and Bryant Holland; three great grandchildren, Austin Harris, Hunter Harris, Kiya Malewicz (2 months old!); and a host of nieces, nephews, and friends to cherish her memory.

“Cat”, “Gonkey”, or “Gran”, as she was affectionately known to her family and friends, was a towering presence in her own quiet way for 97 years. She lived a wonderfully active and full life with no health issues until the very end. Her doctor continually exhorted her to write a book, because he wanted to be “just like her”. She was always there for us, with a bit of encouragement or a sage piece of advice. We will truly miss her.

Order of Service

Organ Prelude

Processional

Prayer

Hymn..... *“Leaning on the Everlasting Arms”*

Scripture Reading

Musical Selection

Obituary

Family Tribute..... *Valerie Pressley*

Selection..... *“Walk in Jerusalem Just Like John”*

Eulogy

Recessional..... *Clergy & Family*

Interment

*Rosedale Cemetery
Orange, New Jersey*

Miss Me, But Let Me Go

*When I come to the end of the
road and the sun has set for me,
I want no rites in a gloom filled room,
Why cry for a soul set free?
Miss me a little-but not too long,
and not with your head bowed low.
Remember the love that we once shared,
Miss me-but let me go.
For this is a journey that we all must take,
And each must go alone.
It's all part of the Master's plan,
A step on the road to home.
When you are lonely and sick at heart,
Go to the friends we know.
Laugh at the things we use to do
Miss me-but let me go.*

-author unknown

Acknowledgement

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

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