

*Homegoing Service For*

*Grace Eileen Turner Byrd*



*Sunrise*  
*July 20, 1929*

*Sunset*  
*August 30, 2016*

*Tuesday, September 6, 2016*  
*Wake: 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.*



*Wednesday, September 7, 2016*  
*Homegoing Service at: 10:00 a.m.*

**COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH**

*156 North Broadway • Yonkers, NY 10701*

*Rev. Clarence E. Bolling, Pastor, Officiating*

## *Obituary*

*Grace Eileen Turner Byrd was born July 20, 1929, in Bayside, Queens, NY. A "Native New Yorker," Grace was educated through the Yonkers Public School system, graduating from Roosevelt High School. She immediately attended the Harlem School of Nursing, where she graduated as a Registered Nurse (RN). Grace's love for learning and her discipline and dedication were evidenced by the fact that she eventually earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Mercy College and a Master's of Science degree in Guidance and Counseling from Long Island University, both of which she completed while working.*

*Grace's love, compassion and concern for others continued to deepen, as did her knowledge and understanding of the human condition. She worked for the New York State Department of Corrections Narcotics and Addiction Commission for twenty-seven years before she retired from there in 1991. Grace's professional positions included: Staff Psychiatric Nurse at Children's Village in Dobbs Ferry, NY, as well as Head Nurse and Nurse Administrator at Harlem Hospital School of Nursing.*

*Grace was a Charter Member of Community Baptist Church, located in Yonkers, NY. There, she also served as: Trustee Board Chairperson; Treasurer of the Senior Choir; and she held a number of other church auxiliary membership offices.*

*Grace's commitment to her community was not based on her words, but also manifested by her actions, for which she received a number of plaques, awards and citations, including the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Profile Award from the Yonkers Chapter of the Commission for Non-Violence.*

*Grace was an active member of the Women's Civic Club of Nepperhan, Inc., for over thirty years. She served as both First Vice President and later, as President. Grace was also a Lifelong Member of the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs, the oldest Black women's organization in the United States.*

*Within the civic organizations previously noted, Grace was an active member and held the offices of: Trustee, Vice President, Treasurer and Historian. Additionally, Grace was a member of Terrace City Chapter #26, Order of the Eastern Star, Yonkers, NY and the Magdalene Royal Court No. 12, Prince Hall Order of Cyrenes. Moreover, Grace served as a Board Member for the Yonkers/Rockland Community Advisory Board; Youth Theater Interactions, Inc.; and was an active member of the Yonkers Interfaith Alliance Agency; and an Alumni member of both St. Paul's College and Mercy College.*

*In 1951, Grace was united in Holy Matrimony to Jesse O'Neal Byrd; their union lasted fifty-eight years, at which time Jesse was called home to be with the Lord in November of 2009.*

*GRACE EILEEN BYRD is survived by her sister, Geneva Kelly and her niece and nephew, Joan Kelly and Frederick Kelly, Jr. of Yonkers, NY; nephews, Gary Hines, Jessie Holmes, Carroll Holmes, Nestor Holmes, Clinton Holmes and Hugh Holmes; nieces, Evangelist Grace Boudoir, Shari Smith, Rochelle Toyer and Diane Lindquist; six grand-nieces and six grand-nephews; many great-grand nieces and nephews; and her good friends, caretakers and "adopted" family: Martha and James Jackson. And a host of friends.*

*She is preceded in death by sister, Doris Hines, brother, Ernest W. Turner, Jr., parents, Ernest W. Turner, Sr. and Adeline Leslie Francis; nephews, Edward Hines, Jr., Michael Hines, James Williams, Marshall Williams and Don Holmes.*

Order of Service

Organ Prelude.....Rev. Arthur Price

Processional

Hymn of Faith

Scripture Readings

Old Testament.....Grace Boudoir

New Testament.....Rochelle Toyer

Prayer of Comfort

Solo ... .. "I'll Fly Away".....Lemuel A. Davis

Family Reflections.....Gary Dennis Hines

Acknowledgements.....Carolyn H. Chute

Obituary.....Jesse N. Holmes

Musical Selection.....Rev. Arthur Price

Eulogy.....Rev. Clarence E. Bolling

Benediction

Recessional

Interment

Rose Hill Memorial Park  
Putnam Valley, New York

# *God's Garden*

God looked around His garden  
and He found an empty place  
He then looked down upon the Earth  
And saw your precious face.  
He put His arms around you and lifted you to rest;  
God's garden must be beautiful  
He always takes the best.  
He knew that you were suffering.  
He knew you were in pain  
He knew you'd never ever get well on Earth again.  
So He closed your weary eyelids and whispered  
"Peace be Thine"  
Then He took you up to Heaven with  
Hands so gentle and kind.  
It broke our hearts to lose you, but you did not go alone;  
For part of us went with you  
The day God welcomed you home.

Author Unknown

## *Acknowledgements*

The family wishes to extend our sincere gratitude to each and every one for the love, kindness, and support expressed during this difficult time. Special thanks are extended to the staff of Calvary Hospital. We are grateful for the care you provided our loved one.

**Funeral Arrangements Entrusted to:**  
***Brooks Memorial Home, Inc.***

275 Warburton Ave.

Yonkers, New York 10701

Ph: (914) 965-3781

Website: BrooksMemorialHome.com

Email: BrooksMemorialHome@aol.com

