

Celebrating the Life of
Ms. Gussie Mae Gillis



September 5, 1939 - July 30, 2017

Thursday, August 10, 2017 - 11:00 a.m.

NEWARK CHURCH OF CHRIST

894 S. 14th St. • Newark, NJ

Dr. Eugene Lawton, Officiating

The Magic of a Mother's Touch



*There's magic in mother's touch,
And sunshine in her smile
There's love in everything she does
To make our lives worthwhile
We can find both love and courage
Just by looking in her eyes
Her laughter is a source of joy,
Her words are warm and wise
There is a kindness and compassion
To be found in her embrace
And we see the light of Heaven
Shining from a mother's face.*

-Author unknown

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Processional

Selection

Scripture Reading

Old Testament

New Testament

Prayer of Comfort

Selection

Remarks

(Two minutes each please)

Acknowledgements

Obituary

Selection

Eulogy

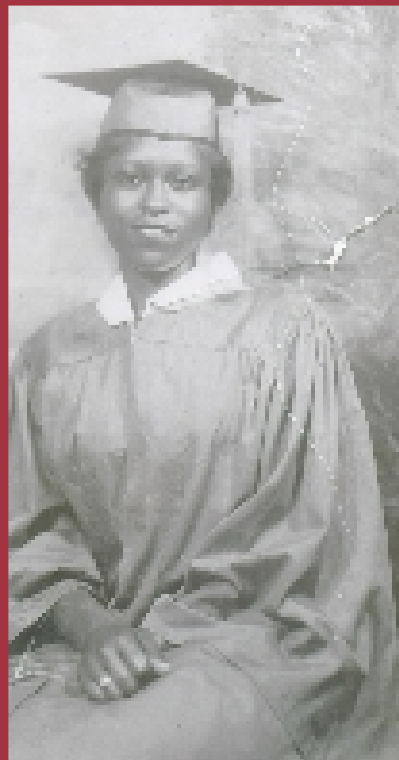
Dr. Eugene Lawton

Recessional

INTERMENT

Fairmount Cemetery

Newark, New Jersey



Gussie M. Gillis Reflections



Gussie Mae Gillis was born September 5, 1939 in Pike County, Troy, Alabama. She was the third daughter of the late L. E Gillis and Hester Hooten Gillis, sister of the late Juliette Gillis, Nellie “Honey” G. Bristow, Robert Gillis, Rev. Henry Gillis, Peter Gillis, Beatrice Gillis, and Anna G. Whitfield.

She received Christ at an early age under the leadership of Rev. George Moody at the Bethlehem Baptist Church, in Orion, Alabama. While living at home, Gussie spent her early years traveling throughout Alabama and Georgia, singing praises unto our Lord Jesus Christ, with her Father/manager and The Dixie Hummingbirds, of Orion, Alabama. She, along with three of her sisters, a cousin, and two friends made up the gospel group, The Dixie Hummingbirds.

Gussie completed her high school education in the Pike County School System, in 1956. Upon graduating from high school, she moved to Montgomery, Alabama for employment; then later to Newark, New Jersey. She continued her education at Essex County College, in Newark, NJ.

Gussie united with the Newark Church of Christ June 10, 1969, under the ministry of Dr. Eugene Lawton. Gussie, along with her twin sister, Jessie, Willie Ben Johnson (brother-in-law), Everleen Wright, Otis Coney, and Diane Lawton, founded a gospel group named The Exciting Enchanters. They traveled all over the East Coast, Texas, Chicago, Florida, Alabama, and many other places singing praises to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Some of the songs Gussie led are: “You Got To Move,” “If a Robin Can Say Thank You, You Can Do It To,” “Hide Me In Thou Bosom,” and “There Will Be Rest For the Weary,” to name a few. Singing was her passion. In addition to singing with The Exciting Enchanters, she directed the Youth Group and The Newark Adult Chorus, at Newark Church of Christ.

Gussie, was a trail blazer. After moving to New Jersey, by herself, she brought some of her family (Jessie, Willie Ben, Lee, and James), from Alabama to New Jersey, where they all currently reside. She was faithful to her family and friends, and especially devoted to serving the Lord and His will. She loved to help others in need and always offered her time and resources to anyone who needed them. She was truly a servant of God and His people. She was known for her great cooking abilities; especially for a “certain kind” of cake.

Gussie passed on Sunday, July 30, 2017, at the Robert Wood Johnson Hospital, New Brunswick, New Jersey, at 6:37 p.m.

She leaves to cherish her loving memories: a caring and devoted son, Robert; (3) granddaughters, Jasmine, Taylor, and Nia; (3) sisters, Jessie (Willie Ben) Johnson of Irvington, NJ, Lee G. Cooper of Orange, NJ, and Ethel R. Gillis of Montgomery, AL; (2) brothers, Nathan (Reneatha) Gillis of Chicago, IL, and Larry (Mary) of Troy, AL; (2) sister-in-law’s, Elizabeth Gillis, and Barbara Gillis; goddaughter Belinda; a host of nieces and nephews; also special friends Joe M Fenn and James Anderson of Troy, AL. She will be deeply missed by all of her friends and the many that knew her.

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Death is not an end
It's a movement from one plane
To the next plane
It is the absence of her
In the physical that is hardest
It doesn't get easier to grasp
Where to place all the love
Waiting for her, pooling in your
heart for her

Your angel has a face
And her spirit in this plane
Can reach deep down in your soul
Hug you where words can't reach
Hug you when your mouth can
speak
Hug you when it all feels heavy

~Velvet Soul



Mama there are no words to describe the pain the loss found so deep inside,
that came the day you had to close your eyes.

But with it comes strength anew because you did what you had to do.

The pain and suffering are no more because you have entered another door.

The door to the kingdom of heaven where God waits inside

You leave with me, your beautiful smile. A smile that never wavered even upon your last days. A smile that made so many friends and family love you this way. You gave me life and strength within, this strength allowed me to stick with you till the end. Your beauty, your wisdom, your grace, momma I will never forget your face. Thank you for the love you gave. In remembrance, of you I must now be brave. You fought long and hard-and fought illness with stride. We must go on now with that same pride. Don't worry momma I know I'll be fine because you prayed for me all the time.

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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

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 on that day.
Whatever you did to console our hearts, We Thank You, Whatever the part.

Professional Services Provided By

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1025 Bergen Street
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