

*In Loving Memory of*



*Geneva Perry*

Sunrise  
May 22, 1932

Sunset  
September 14, 2011

*Service*

Thursday, September 22, 2011 - 12:00 Noon

**MT. PILGRIM MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH**

163 Autumn Street  
Passaic, New Jersey

**Rev. W. Louis McDowell, Pastor**



## *Reflections of Life*

**Geneva (Hansford) Perry**, was born in Forsyth, Georgia on May 22, 1932, the third of four children of Katie (Hanson) Hansford and Leo Hansford. Migrating North like so many Southern blacks, Leo, Katie and their four small children settled in Passaic, NJ to a new life. Born in the rural South, during The Great Depression and growing up during WWII on Chestnut Street and later Burgess Place (Passaic). She moved to Middletown, DE twenty-three years ago.

Geneva was shaped by her southern roots and northern experience. She took full advantage of brand new educational and work opportunities previously not available to blacks. Friendly and outgoing Geneva integrated the Passaic High School Yearbook Committee of 1951, making her own quiet statement for equality and civil rights for all. Graduating from PHS in '51 with only a handful of other blacks in the community, Geneva went on to complete business school, training for a career in office administration and management. Landing her first job with General Electric she worked for a number of years before changing to Kearfott Guidance & Navigation where she later retired.

A roller-skating queen, Geneva in her late teens and early twenties spent most of her free time skating at what was billed "the most beautiful rink ever built", Gay Blades in NYC and The New Dream Arena & Lounge in Newark where she met her doting husband of fifty-three years, James Perry, Sr. An active member of Mt. Zion Baptist Church for decades, Geneva worked tirelessly for years, chairing committees, serving on the Usher Boards, Youth Department, and sang on every choir the church ever had, even the Odell Inspirational Singers, led by the late Ms. Odell. In the mid-to-late seventies, they toured area churches in and around the NY/NJ Metro area. The majestic Gospel choir even cut an album, which sold very well at their many area performances.

Geneva (Hansford) Perry was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, sister, aunt, cousin and friend. She was a caring neighbor and dependable, hard working member of the community. She will be missed for her broad smile and her quick laughter.

She was predeceased by her husband, James Perry, Sr. who passed away on August 11, 2011, also her daughter, Yvette Perry; sister, Georgia Mae Axam, brother, Sidney Hansford and brothers-in-law, Willie Axam and Hartley Culp.

She departed this life on Wednesday, September 14, 2011.

Geneva Perry leaves behind: her son, James Perry, Jr.; granddaughter, Christian Perry; sister, Dearest Culp; two brothers-in-law, Precious Perry and Robert Perry; one sister-in-law, Lillie Beverett; and many beloved nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

# *Order of Service*

Prelude ..... Johnetta Bush

Processional

Scripture Readings

Old Testament

New Testament

Prayer of Comfort

Selection

Acknowledgements  
and Reflections

Reflections of Life

Selection

Eulogy ..... Rev. Joseph L. Napier  
New Pointe Baptist Church • Newark, NJ

Recessional



## **Interment**

East Ridgelawn Cemetery  
Clifton, New Jersey

## *A Mother's Love*

*A mother's love is something that no one can explain, it is made of deep devotion and sacrifice and pain, it is endless and unselfish and enduring come what may for nothing can destroy it or take that love away...*

*It is patient and forgiving when all others are forsaking, and it never fails or falters even though the heart is breaking... it believes beyond believing when the world around condemns, and it glows with all the beauty of the rarest, brightest gems ... It is far beyond defining, it defies all explanation, and it still remains a secret like the mysteries of creation ... a many splendor miracle man cannot understand and another wondrous evidence of God's tender guiding hand.*



### *Acknowledgement*

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

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