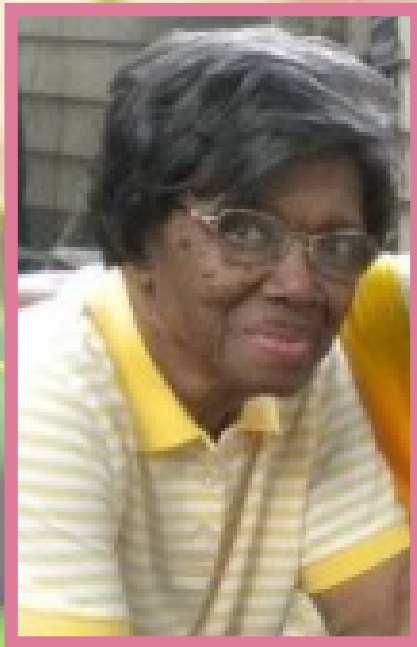


*Celebrating The Life  
of  
Mary Elizabeth Shorter Clark*

**Sunrise**  
*December 27, 1924*

**Sunset**  
*April 6, 2015*



*Saturday, April 11, 2015 - 10:00 a.m.*

**WOODY “HOME FOR SERVICES”**

163 Oakwood Avenue  
Orange, New Jersey 07050

***Rev. Dr. Verenander Hughes, Officiating***

# Obituary

**Mary Elizabeth Shorter-Clark** was born on December 27, 1924 to Classie Mae Mourning and Will Shorter. She was named after her grandmother, Lizzie Mourning. It was not long after Liz was born that Classie Mae and Will separated and her mother married Marion Flowers. This union extended the family of additional siblings, Henrietta, Frank, Douglas, Ernest, Mary Lee and later Robbie, James and Mildred.

Like many families of their generation who grew up in the Deep South, Liz in her formative years lived the harsh “Jim Crow” segregation laws, the system of sharecropping and the Great Depression.

In 1940, Liz arrived in Newark and worked throughout World War II. In 1947, she met Harvey Clark an Army veteran of the War and they were married in Newark, New Jersey the following year. They immediately started their family: Mary LaVerne (“Bunny”) was born in February 1949, Harvey Jr. in January 1950 and Regina Ann in August 1951.

Harvey Sr. found work in Newark at a foundry and Liz found work as a Nurse’s Aide at Greystone Hospital and then in 1953 at Kessler Institute in West Orange, New Jersey. It was at Kessler where she learned skills in Physical Therapy.

After Liz and Harvey separated in 1957, she continued to raise her children with the help of her sister, Robbie. Liz continued working at Kessler until about 1958 and after leaving Kessler she became a private duty nurse until the early 1980’s.

In 1960, she became a member of Messiah Baptist Church in East Orange, New Jersey and she immediately joined the Gospel Chorus because she loved to sing. She also served as a nurse in the church giving assistance whenever needed.

In late August and early October 1969, Harvey Jr. and Regina died leaving Bunny as her only surviving child. In 1981, she experienced another loss, the death of her husband. Her strong faith in God and the support of many family members and friends especially from Messiah Baptist Church gave her spiritual support during those times.

Liz became a grandmother in 1972 and in 1982. Liz returned to Dothan in 1985 to take care of her ailing mother until her death in 1996 at the age of 87. She was a very active church and choir member of New Bethel Baptist Church from 1985 to 2007. She became a great grandmother in 1992, 1995, and 2003.

In 2007, Liz moved back to New Jersey to live with her daughter and rejoined Messiah Baptist Church. In 2008, she was diagnosed with the early stages of Alzheimer’s Disease. She stayed under her daughter’s care until 2013, when Liz was placed in Alaris Long Term Health Facility in West Orange, New Jersey where she remained until her death on April 6, 2015 at the age of 90.

Liz is survived by: her daughter, Mary LaVerne Clark; sisters, Robbie Gilmore, Rosie Hurt and Mildred Evans; a brother, James Flowers; grandsons, Clifford and Justin; three great grandchildren and one great-great grandson as well as many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

# Order of Service

Seating of The Family.....The Funeral Director

Hymn of Comfort.....Deacon James Davis  
*Messiah Baptist Church*

Prayer of Comfort.....Keith Kirkland (Nephew)

Scripture Readings  
Old Testament - Psalm 23.....Denise Monroe (Niece)  
New Testament - John 14:1-4.....Aziz Green (Great Grandson)

Solo.....Deacon James Davis

Remarks.....Family and Friends (Two Minutes Please)

Acknowledgements and Resolutions.....Mildred Evans (Sister)

Obituary.....To Be Read Silently

Solo.....Tyrone Dunlap

Eulogy.....Rev. Dr. Verenander Hughes  
*Beth Baptist Church*  
*Orange, NJ*

Committal

Poem Reading.....To Those I Love and To Those Who Loved Me  
Clifford Clark (Grandson)

Recessional.....Clergy and Family

**Cremation (Private)**  
*Rosedale Crematory*  
*Orange, New Jersey*



*The family of **Mary Elizabeth Shorter Clark** is grateful to God for her life, your friendship and for your kindness and prayers.*

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Professional Services Provided By

*Woody "Home For Services"*

163 Oakwood Ave. • Orange, NJ 07050  
ph (973) 674-0814 • fax (973) 674-2055

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