

*Celebration of Life for*



*Gladys McDuffie*

Sunrise  
December 14, 1929

Sunset  
October 5, 2019

Saturday, October 19, 2019 - 11:00 a.m.

**CHRIST TEMPLE BAPTIST CHURCH**  
36 Hopper Street, Paterson, New Jersey  
Rev. Dr. Weldon McWilliams, IV, Officiating

# *Reflections of Life*

Gladys (Cooper) McDuffie was born on December 14, 1929 in Kingstree, South Carolina. She was the youngest child of the late Sam Cooper and Christie Cooper.

In life, Gladys McDuffie was the devoted mother of Jean and Kevin McDuffie. She raised her children in the Alexander Hamilton Projects “Alabama Projects” in Paterson, New Jersey. Although they lived in the projects, Jean and Kevin never thought of themselves as poor. Their mother went to work every day at the North Jersey Training School, later renamed the North Jersey Developmental Center located in Totowa, New Jersey. She worked there for over 20 years before she retired as a supervisor.

Working at North Jersey, allowed her to take her children Jean and Kevin to many day trips such as to the New York City’s Radio City Music Hall, Palisades Park Amusement Park, Pennsylvania Dutch Country and Circle Line Cruises. Of course, during the summer, Jean and Kevin were shipped off to South Carolina to spend the summer with Uncle Jacob and Aunt Stina or they were dropped off in Newark at either Aunt Lue or Aunt Marie’s house.

While at North Jersey, Gladys McDuffie was also able to meet some lifelong friends such as Joann McRae and Hattie White. These two women along with Vera Wigfall, Helen Bacote and Aunt Shirley were true friends. They were always there to share in the good times and to help her through any problems that arose.

After retiring from North Jersey, Gladys McDuffie moved to the Norman Cotton Senior Citizen Home located at 163 Rosa Parks Blvd. in Paterson. She lived there until a few years ago when her son Kevin finally made the decision that she could no longer live by herself and he moved her in with him, his wife Escha and their children.

Since Kevin was a member of another church, he’d often try to get her to go to church with him on Sundays. She would go sometimes, but most of the time she declined. She reminded him that she had her own church home and that was Christ Temple Baptist Church, located at 38 Hopper Street in Paterson, New Jersey. She would remind him that she had been a member of Christ Temple for well over 50 years and they “treated her royally”. She often bragged about how well the members of Christ Temple treated her. Whether they put money in a card for her, paid for her ticket to an event, drove her home after an event or came by the house to visit or to help clean up or whatever else they did to make her feel loved and appreciated. She was a member of the church’s Pastor’s Aide and Golden Hearts. The McDuffie family would like to express a sincere thank you to the members of the Christ Temple Baptist Church for the love they showed Gladys McDuffie while she was still alive to enjoy it.

Preceding her in death was her husband, John Edward McDuffie, her sisters Marie Mandeville and Lucille Washington of Newark, New Jersey, Stina Tisdale of Greeleyville, South Carolina, Turan Cooper of Kingstree, South Carolina and her brothers, Fred Cooper of Kingstree, South Carolina, Hezekiah Cooper of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and Sam David (S.D.) Cooper of Brooklyn, New York.

On Saturday, October 5, 2019, Gladys McDuffie went home to be with the Lord. She leaves to cherish precious memories her two children, Jean McDuffie of Edmond, Oklahoma and Kevin McDuffie of Paterson, New Jersey, along with her 9 grandchildren, Kevon Hudson, Marquita Paton, Tapria McDuffie, Trenae Nuri, Felicia Feliciano, Isaiah Feliciano, Jacob Feliciano, Jianna McDuffie and Ian McDuffie, 12 great grandchildren, along with a host of nieces, nephews, other family members, friends and her beloved Christ Temple Baptist Church family.

# *Order of Service*

Prelude

Processional

Selection

Scripture Readings

Old Testament

New Testament

Prayer of Comfort

Selection

Acknowledgements & Remarks

Reflections of Life

Selection

Words of Comfort

Pastor Weldon McWilliams IV

Recessional

## **Interment**

George Washington Memorial Park

234 Paramus Road

Paramus, New Jersey

# *I'm Free*

*Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free  
I'm following the path God laid for me  
I took his hand when I heard Him call  
I turned my back and left it all.*

*I could not stay another day.  
To laugh, to love, to work or play.  
Tasks left undone must stay that way,  
I found that peace at the close of day.*

*If my parting has left a void,  
Then fill it up with remembered joy.  
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss,  
Oh, yes these things I too will miss.  
Be not burdened with times of sorrow,  
I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow.  
My life's been full, I savored much.*

*Good friends, good times,  
a loved one's touch.*

*Perhaps my time seemed all too brief,  
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief.  
Lift up your heart and share with me,  
God wanted me now, He set me free!*

**Thank you, Christ Temple  
for treating our  
mother, grandmother, great grandmother,  
aunt and friend  
Royal**

## *Acknowledgement*

The family of the late **Gladys (Cooper) McDuffie** wishes to acknowledge with deep appreciation the many expressions of love, concern and kindness shown to our family during this our time of bereavement. May God Bless and Keep You!

**Professional Services Provided By**

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