

In Loving Memory Of
Bulah Lee Brinkley

November 17, 1925 - November 26, 2019



Wednesday, December 4, 2019

Visitation: 9A.M - 10A.M.

Service: 10A.M.

David Lane – Floyd W. Gilmore Funeral Services

2200 Clarendon Road

Brooklyn, N.Y. 11226

(718) 771 – 2800

Obituary

Bulah Lee Brinkley, the wife of William (Bill) Brinkley, went home to be with the Lord on November 26, 2019 after achieving her 94th birthday. Bulah enjoyed a long and blessed life and finally succumbed to natural causes in the early morning hours of November 26th, departing from this world peacefully in her sleep while in the loving care of her niece in Elmont, NY.

The fifth daughter of Arthur and Selena Jackson, Bulah Lee was born on November 17, 1925 in Fitzhugh, Arkansas. She is preceded in death by her parents Arthur and Selena; (7) sisters - Rosie Lee, Virba Lee, Emma Lee, Gertie Lee, Annie Lee, Erma Ruth, and Forestine; (6) brothers – Willie J. (WJ), Creo, Robert (RL), DeOtis, Johnny James, and James L.; a stepmother - Mary Jackson; and (2) stepbrothers - Arthur Jr. and Sterling.

Born, raised, and educated under the simplistic norms of farm life in 1930's Arkansas, Bulah at an early age realized that she required more from life. Following her sister Annie Lee, Bulah migrated to New York City in 1955 where as a young woman she established herself in Brooklyn, N.Y., which she adopted as her new home. In her heyday, Bulah was somewhat of a social butterfly who loved to go to dances and party with her family and friends. A fairly decent seamstress, Bulah, determined to be the belle of the ball, was forever altering outfits to form fit her voluptuous body. She loved basketball, wrestling, and woman's tennis with a passion. It was no surprise to hear her yelling at the television set, "Boy oh boy he made that basket!" or, "Come on, man, get up off that mat!" or, "They can't beat them Williams sisters; they can forget it!"

Having borne no children of her own, Bulah for years lived alone with her dog Bullet. She showered that dog with love and affection, arguing that he didn't even know that he was a dog. She actually trained Bullet to dance and sing on command. To further fill that void, Bulah forged a great bond with her sister Annie Lee's children. A regular at their house, she enjoyed playing Pitty-Pat and Poker with them, a festive activity that remains a family tradition to this day. Among the younger children, Aunt Bulah (or Auntie Bulee as they lovingly called her) was known for her non-magic magic tricks of which the funniest part of the trick was her believing that she was really tricking somebody. After her sister Annie Lee passed in 1976, Bulah became surrogate mom to her nine children.

Given her limited formal education, Bulah was forced to work an array of menial jobs (ranging from live-in nanny to factory worker) in order to provide for herself. Despite her wage restrictions, Bulah managed to amass a reasonable savings account in addition to maintaining her own room and board. She was known for saying, "I'm always gonna have me a dollar. If I earn a dollar I'm gonna put ten cents in the bank."

Forever aspiring to do better, Bulah engaged in a regiment of self enhancement activities and applied for municipal positions that offered skilled training in an effort to make her more marketable in the workforce. As a result, she achieved a number of clerical positions. And, in 1976 while working as an administrative aide in Harlem, N.Y., Bulah encountered William Brinkley, who became the love of her life. Actually, from the way she told the story, she decided from the first time she saw Bill that she was going to marry him. She sized him up, she chased him down and on June 24, 1977, she married him. This union remained strong until the day she died.

Bulah retired from her position as a home health aide in the mid 1990's and devoted the remainder of her life to family and church. Bulah, a loyal follower of the Baptist faith from childhood, found a home at the Christ Fellowship Baptist Church in Brooklyn, N.Y. where she served diligently as an active member. Despite her age, Bulah remained deeply engaged in church activities and committees until 2017 when her health prohibited her from doing so.

Through family reunions, weddings, and funerals, Bulah sustained close ties to her family roots and by doing so, stood proudly as matriarch to a host of nieces, nephews and other extended family members throughout the country who adored her and will surely mourn her.

REST IN PEACE AUNTIE.

Order of Service

Prelude

Processional

Prayer of Comfort

Selection

Scripture Reading

Old Testament Pastor David Kelly
Christ Fellowship Baptist Church • Brooklyn, N.Y.

New Testament

Solo Ms. Arella Wallace

Poem Great Grandniece Briana L. Davis

Acknowledgement of Condolences

Obituary Mr. Donald Wingate

Brief Remarks Friends & Family (Please 2 minutes or less)

Musical Selection

Eulogy

Prayer

Parting View

Recessional

Interment

*Calverton National Cemetery
Wading River, NY 11792
(631) 727-5410*

*Repast
(Immediately following the Interment)
94 Wellington Road
Elmont, New York 11003*

Do Not Grieve For Me

Don't grieve for me; for I'm free,
I'm following paths God made for me.
I took his hand, I heard his call,
then turned and bid farewell to all.

I could not stay another day
to laugh, to love, to sing, or to play;
tasks left undone must stay that way.
I found my peace at the close of play.

And if my parting left a void,
then fill it with remembered joys.

A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss;
ah yes, these things I too will miss.
Be not burdened; deep with sorrow,
I wish you sunshine of tomorrow.

My life's been full. I've savored much,
good friends, good times,
and a loved one's touch.

Perhaps my time seemed all too brief.
Don't lengthen it now with grief.
Lift up your head and share with me;
God wants me now; he set me free.

Acknowledgements

Maybe you sent a lovely card or maybe you were here but sat quietly in a chair. Maybe you sent a floral arrangement; if so, we saw it there. Maybe you spoke the kindest of words any friend could say. Maybe you were not here at all, just sent us your love and thoughts through prayer. Whatever you did this day to comfort us is deeply appreciated and we the family of Bulah Brinkley sincerely thank you for any act of kindness you shared.

Funeral Arrangements Entrusted To
David Lane-Floyd W. Gilmore Funeral Service
2200 Clarendon Road
Brooklyn, NY 11226
Floyd W. Gilmore, President

