

Homegoing Service For



Lula M. Gilyard

December 13, 1924 - December 1, 2021

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2021 - 11:00 AM

Cotton Funeral Service

1025 Bergen Street • Newark, New Jersey

Denise Davis, Officiant

William A. Pleasant, Eulogist

Emory Lee, Organist

Obituary

Lula M. Workman Gilyard was born in Lugoff, South Carolina on December 13, 1924. She was the youngest of 12 children. Her parents, Ella and Charles Workman were sharecroppers there. She attended school in South Carolina and was a close classmate and friend of the rhythm and blues singer Brook Benton, who made the song: "Rainy Night in Georgia", popular back in the 1960s. She moved to New York, dated and married Frank Gilyard Sr., were married for 51 years until his death in 1997, and they had three children: Sandra Louise, Rochelle, and Frank Jr.

Affectionately known as "Candy" she worked at clothing factories in New York and later with the Glengyle Fabric Company, in Newark, N.J., along with Joe Katz Clothing Factory in Elizabeth, N.J. as a seamstress. She had a strong work ethic and loved her job.

Her other love was caring for family members whether they were nieces, nephews, or people unrelated to the family. She cared for others like she cared for her children. She was a strong woman. She had wisdom and mother wit.

Many years ago, Lula and other women on her street started a women's club that raised money used to take many of the children on bus rides during the summer, to places like Great Adventure and Dorney Park.

Gardening was a hobby she enjoyed immensely. Though not professionally trained, she was considered a master gardener, and taught classes at The Greater Newark Conservancy for many years, and won awards for her gardening ability, recycling ordinary items into gardening works of art. Lula and her neighbor, Bernadine Edmonds, her neighbor, provided healthy gardening competition and most of all friendship ..

In addition to her children left to mourn are her grandchildren: Jamil Davis/Alex, Rana Thompson, Prentiss Thompson, Justin Thompson/Erica. Her great grandchildren: Wesley Thompson, James Geathers/Edoualdine, Brandon Davis, Nayanah Thompson, Kayla Davis, Prentiss Thompson III, Autumn Thompson, Lolade Thompson, Asantewaa Thompson.

Her great great grandchildren: Noble Geathers and Alexandra Grace Geathers. Special nephews: Pastor Damon F. Gilyard, Thomas Workman and Roosevelt Dixon along with a host of friends and other relatives.

Order of Service

Officiant Denise Davis
(First Lady of Calvary Gospel Church)

Opening Prayer Denise Davis
(Family Friend)

Old Testament Scripture..Psalm 61:1-3 Wesley Thompson
(Grandson)

New Testament Scripture..2 Corinthians 1:2-4 Frank Gilyard Jr.
(Son)

Musical Selection..... “Tis So Sweet” Margaret Donna Soaries
(Family Member)

Obituary Please read silently

Reflections (2 or 3 Family Members) 2 minutes please

* Rochelle Gilyard Pleasant (Daughter)

* Justin Thompson (Grandson)

* Nayanah Thompson (Great Grand daughter)

Slide Show

Presentation of Lula “What a Difference A Day Makes”

Musical Selection..... “No Need To Fear”Whitley Phipps

Eulogy William A. Pleasant

Closing Prayer..... Denise Davis

Song “Mother Beautiful” Sly and the Family Stone



*There will be no repast at this time, the family of the late Lula M.
Gilyard will acknowledge each and every one at a later date thank you.*

The Dash Poem

By Linda Ellis

I read of a man who stood to speak At the funeral of a friend,
He referred to the dates on the tombstone From the beginning...to the end
He noted that first came the date of birth And spoke the following date
with tears,

But he said what mattered most of all
Was the dash between those years

For that dash represents all the time that they spent alive on the earth.

And now only those who loved them
Know what the little line is worth

For it matters not how much we own, the cars, the house, the cash
What matters is how we lived and loved and how we spend our dash.
So, think about the long and hard: are there things you'd like to change?
For you never know how much time is left that still can be rearranged.

To be less quick to anger and show appreciation more and love the people
in our live like we've never love before

If we treat each other with respect and more often wear a smile.
Remembering this special dash, might only last a little while
So, when your eulogy is being read with your life's actions to rehash...
Would you be proud of the things they say,
About how you spent YOUR dash?

Acknowledgement

The family wishes to thank everyone for the various acts of kindness during our time of bereavement. We appreciate your care and support and love you all.

A very special "thank you" to Jamil Davis, the granddaughter of Lula Gilyard, her main caregiver in recent months. Jamil cared for Lula with dignity, grace, and love which was beyond measure. An additional thank you to Sandra Thompson, (daughter) who never left her mother's side during her illness. Frank (son) who visited daily and brought joy to her. Rochelle (daughter) who offered support, love, and encouragement from a distance. We will be forever grateful to all of you.

Professional Services Provided By

COTTON FUNERAL SERVICE
130 Main Street
Orange, NJ
973-675-6400

1025 Bergen Street
Newark, NJ
973-926-6400

COTTON-PARKER FUNERAL HOME
37 Clinton Avenue
Jersey City, NJ
201-433-1000

