



Pearl Gilliam

January 24, 1927 - March 23, 2022

PEARL GILLIAM was born in Greensville County, Virginia, on January 24, 1927, to the late Willie and Lillie Lifsey. Pearl, the ninth of eleven children, was raised in Skippers, VA, and was educated in the Greensville County, Virginia School System. Pearl accepted the Lord as her Savior at an early age. She was baptized and became a member of the Antioch Missionary Baptist Church of Skippers, VA. Pearl married Cecil Lorenzo Gilliam in 1946 and from that union, eight children, Cecil Lomax, Timothy Bernard (deceased), Charles Alvin, Diana, Carolyn, Patricia Maxine, Michael, and Laforest Sr. (deceased) were born. Pearl and Lorenzo started a family in the farming community of Skippers, VA, where they learned the value of demanding work and strong Christian values. In 1947, the couple, along with their first born, Cecil Lomax, relocated to Cleveland, OH, where their second child, Timothy Bernard, was born. After residing in Cleveland for over one year, they returned to residing in Skippers, VA, where Cecil Lorenzo could help his father with farming duties while Pearl assisted with maintaining the household and the raising of their newly born children. Soon, the family relocated to Baltimore, MD, which gave them better opportunities for employment and was not too far from family members who also relocated to Baltimore or remained in Skippers, VA. Additionally, Baltimore provided better provisions for raising a family. The family attended and became members of Community Gospel Mission, in Turner's Station, a suburb of Baltimore (now Community Baptist Church of Walbrook). Pearl and Cecil Lorenzo were founding members of the church

and Cecil Lorenzo was one of the first Deacons of the church while Pearl later became a Deaconess. Years later, Pearl served on the Pastoral Search Committee, following the death of the former Pastor. Pearl became a Stay-at-Home Mother, until their youngest child, Laforest, began to attend school. She then found employment as a Nurse's Assistant at Johns Hopkins Hospital, where she was employed for more than 28 years until her retirement in 1989. While still employed, in 1966, Pearl became a widow as her husband, Cecil Lorenzo, was killed in an automobile accident. Pearl had six of eight children still living at home when her husband's life tragically ended. Through much prayer and determination, Pearl was able to raise the children through their completion of High School, and some of the children remained at home while they attended College. Pearl was named, "Mother of the Church" at Community Baptist Church of Walbrook for being a faithful and dedicated member and mentor to many women in the Church. She was a Missionary, visiting many church members and friends that lived in the local community for many years.

PRESIDING Rev. Nathaniel L. Barr, Jr. Pastor, Community Baptist Church of Walbrook
PROCESSIONAL Minister, Family & Friends
CONGREGATIONAL HYMN Rev. Nathaniel L. Barr, Jr. "The Lord Will Make a Way Somehow"
OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE READING Job 1:21 Keisha Gilliam
NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE READING 1 Corinthians 15:50-58 Bryna C. Forson
PRAYER Rev. Warren B. Zimmerman
MUSICAL SELECTION Cynthia Reneé
WORDS OF REFLECTION AND TRIBUTE Donald Grant Jr. Keisha Gilliam Diana Watson
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND RESOLUTION Ruth H. Milliken
MUSICAL SELECTION Cynthia Reneé
OBITUARY Christina J. Grant
EULOGY Rev. Nathaniel L. Barr, Jr.
BENEDICTION RECESSIONAL 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 place at the close of day. If my parting has left a void, Then fill it with remembered joy. A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss, Ah, 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. Obituary Order of Service She faithfully attended the same church for over 70 years until her health would not allow her to attend on a regular basis. Pearl lived a comfortable life and enjoyed her family members, children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, who visited her often. She loved shopping and was in a habit of preparing meals for visitors to her home. After a lengthy illness, Pearl was quietly called home to her final resting place to be with the Lord. Preceding her in death are her husband, Cecil Lorenzo, Sr.; sons, Laforest, Sr., and Timothy Bernard, Sr.; grandsons, Timothy Gilliam, Jr., and Daniel Smith; great grandsons, Myron Martin, and Trevor Gilliam; and son-in-law, Donald Grant, Sr. Pearl leaves to cherish her memory, three sons, Cecil Lomax Gilliam (Knoxville, TN) (Janice), Charles Alvin Gilliam (York, PA), Michael Gilliam (Bowie, MD); three daughters, Diana Watson (Laurel, MD), Carolyn Grant (Ellicott City, MD), Patricia Gordon (Baltimore, MD) (Garry); 16 grandchildren, 28 great-grandchildren; one presumed adopted son, Ulysses White (Bowie, MD); one sister, (Ella Ruth Hawthorne), three sisters-in-law, (Florence Lifsey, Pauline Wright, and Gladys Gilliam), a host of nephews, nieces and other relatives and friends.

Cemetery Details

King Memorial Park Cemetery- Grand Heritage Chapel & Mausoleum

8710 Dogwood Rd.
Baltimore, MD 21244
(410) 944-8300
info@kingmemorialpark.com
<https://www.KingMemorialPark.com>

Previous Events

Viewing

APR 4. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

March Life Tribute Center - Randallstown
5616 Old Court Road
Windsor Mill, MD

Wake

APR 5. 10:00 AM - 10:30 AM (ET)

March Life Tribute Center - Randallstown
5616 Old Court Road
Windsor Mill, MD

Service

APR 5. 10:30 AM (ET)

March Life Tribute Center - Randallstown
5616 Old Court Road
Windsor Mill, MD

Tribute Wall



“ *View and Download the Funeral Program*

March Life Tribute Centers - April 13, 2022 at 11:07 AM



“ *To View the Webcast of the Funeral for Pearl Gilliam, Please Click the Link below.*



March Life Tribute Centers - April 04, 2022 at 10:27 AM

MJ

Beautiful service. Rest Well Cousin Pearl

Melanie L. Jackson - April 05, 2022 at 01:21 PM

RH

“ *Memory of my sister Pearl through my children.*

Pearl, you know I would have been there today however, there is a time and season for everything in life. I can't remember a lot of things today. But, my children will tell you how we had a wonderful time together. The long days and nights that we would talk on the phone.

It wasn't nothing for us to drive or take the train from Newark, NJ to Baltimore, MD 2126 KoKo

Lane here we come. I remember how you cooked for us fried chicken, potato salad

, collard greens and rolls with ice cold cans of pop and desert sweet potato pie! After lunch we would sit and talk as our children reunited with their first cousins and developed their lasting relationships.

That night we would be talking and children thought we were fussing. We wasn't fussing that's just how we as siblings entertained and enjoyed each others company time together.

Pearl, I love you tell mom, dad, Marshall, Buddy, John, India, Eve, Mollie, Queen, Rosa and Gladys tell them all hello for me. Take your rest my sister I will see you again. Because to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord. This is the memory of my sister Pearl from your sister Ella Ruth Hawthorne.

Robert Vincent Hawthorne - April 05, 2022 at 07:28 AM

CE

“ *Charlene Easter lit a candle in memory of Pearl Gilliam*



Charlene Easter - April 04, 2022 at 08:46 PM

CE

Praying for the family. So Sorry for the transition of your mother.

Charlene Easter - April 04, 2022 at 08:48 PM

GG

“ *Geneva Grant lit a candle in memory of Pearl Gilliam*



Geneva Grant - April 04, 2022 at 06:54 PM

LW

“ *Lauren Williams lit a candle in memory of Pearl Gilliam*



Lauren Williams - April 04, 2022 at 04:42 PM



“ *Chanelle Williams lit a candle in memory of Pearl Gilliam*



Chanelle Williams - March 30, 2022 at 10:20 AM



“ *Heavenly Grace Spray was purchased for the family of Pearl Gilliam.*



March 28, 2022 at 11:45 AM



“ *We the March Family and Marshall-March Staff wish to extend our deepest and heartfelt sympathy in the passing of your loved one. Our prayers go out to you and your family in your time of loss. We know and understand that you have received many expressions of love and we will continue to lift you up in prayer. May the memories you cherish of brighter and happier days help to ease your sorrow and comfort you always.*

March Life Tribute Center (Randallstown) - March 28, 2022 at 11:09 AM



“ *Tammie Riddick lit a candle in memory of Pearl Gilliam*



Tammie Riddick - March 27, 2022 at 03:20 PM



“ *Ms Gilliam was a true PEARL. She was definitely blessed and highly favored of THE LORD....Her gentle but strong spirit will live on*
Tammie Riddick

Tammie Riddick - March 27, 2022 at 03:18 PM

PM

“*Pearl Gilliam was my ex-mother in-law. I still feel like a member of the family. Diane, Carolyn and Patricia will always be my sisters. My goddaughters Shayna loved her grandmother deeply. Michael was my first love and one of my dearest friends still today. I always thought she was an amazing woman and I respected her strength and wisdom. So to the rest of the family I send my love and deepest sympathy. Pam*

Pamela Minor - March 27, 2022 at 12:27 AM