



Ertie Preston

May 1, 1942 - August 18, 2007

Funeral service will take place at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, August 25, 2007 at Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church, 810 Cathay Street. Pastor T. J. London will officiate with entombment in Oakwood Mausoleum. Friends may call at the Browne's Mortuary, 441 N. Jefferson Avenue on Friday from 2:00 until 8:00 p.m. The family will be present from 6:00 until 8:00 p.m. "The Lord is my shepherd....yeah though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death; I will fear no evil, for Thou art with me." (Psalms 23) Wife, mother, grandmother, sister, aunt, friend, educator, entrepreneur; Ertie Washington entered into eternal rest, Saturday, August 18, 2007. She was born May 1, 1942 in Magnolia, AR to the union of the late Obie Washington and Gertis (Holmes) Washington. She was baptized at an early age at Ninth Street Mennonite Church and later became a member of Tabernacle Baptist Church. Ertie was currently attending Christ Deliverance Center. She attended Carrollton Elementary School, Saginaw Public Schools and graduated from Saginaw High in 1960. After graduation she moved to Newark, NJ where she met the "Love of her Life," Mr. Gilbert Preston, Sr. They were married on March 30, 1962. Ertie attended Lyons Medical School and received a degree in nursing, specializing in geriatrics and also attended Scott's Beauty School where she became a licensed beautician. She later attended Newark State (Kean) University and received her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Education. In 1981, Ertie earned a Masters Degree in Education Administration K-12 from Saginaw Valley State University graduating Magna Cum Laude, all within a

one-year period. That same year, she participated in other extended studies at Central Michigan University. Mrs. Preston was a retiree of the Saginaw School System with more than 34 years of service, and six years with Newark Public Schools. Ertie was affiliated with numerous cultural, civic and social organizations. She received the "Dr. Marie Wright Tolliver Woman of the Year Award" in 2000. She was a member of the Saginaw Education Association, the Michigan Education Association, the National Education Association, the Dr. Marie Wright Tolliver Cultural and Civic Club of the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs, Inc., Saginaw, Michigan. She was very gifted in arts and music; doing portraits on canvas in pencil, in K, charcoal and oils. Ertie also produced a slide production entitled "The Autobiography of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr." Circa 1981 for her students. She formed many children singing groups, the first being the "Sunbeam Choir". Ertie also managed and occasionally sang with her sisters, the legendary "Pearls of Blackness." For a number of years Ertie played baseball along with her sisters and was coached by the late Al Robertson on teams which included, Philmore East, Chets Bar, Golden Slipper, Shelby Insurance, Pitt's Banditos, and Vargas Bakery. While searching her family's genealogy, Ertie discovered that her great-grandfather, Eli Holmes (1840-1948), who was born a slave, spoke with them and stated that he had "high expectations for them" and she never forgot it! He accumulated over 200 acres of land in Magnolia, AR which was inherited by his children. Ertie was the oldest living great-grandchild of her father's roots, thru his mother, Eva Sykes-Hayes which goes back to the Hebrew family in Israel. Since Ertie's transition, her brother Obie is now the oldest living great-grandchild of Eli Holmes. Mrs. Ertie Preston leaves to cherish her memory, her loving husband of 45 years, Gilbert John Preston, Sr.; two daughters, Tracy (Carl) Horton of Leesburg, VA and Chrystal (Love) Derrick Bandy of Leesburg, VA; seven grandchildren, Cortney Horton of Leesburg, VA, Brandy Bandy of Mt. Pleasant, MI, James Bandy, Jr. of Leesburg, VA, Nicole Horton of Tallahassee, FL, Obie Bandy of Saginaw, MI, Carl Horton, Jr. of Leesburg, VA, Gilbert Bandy II of Saginaw, MI; beloved granddog, Leo Horton; her first great-

grandchild, Talik Wilkerson(to be adopted). Also surviving her are five sisters, three brothers, Obie Washington, Jr., Gloria Wilson, Mary (Randy) Thomas, Atlanta, GA, Priscilla (Percy) Curry, Eugene Washington, Jerry Washington, Lois Washington, Debra (Charles) McKenzie all of Saginaw, MI; an aunt, Zoredie Hicks of Saginaw, MI ; father-in-law, Gilbert Preston, Sr. of Olive Branch, MS; sisters-in-law, Mary Washington, Judy Preston and Sarah Way both of Newark, NJ and Kathleen (Dr. Arthur)Tyehimba of Olive Branch, MS; brother-in-law, Lacy(Zelda) Preston of New Jersey City, NJ; aunts-in-law, Jean Preston, Sue Preston and Evelyn Preston and uncle-in-law, Frank Preston, all of New Jersey; special god-daughters, Terri (Curry) Baskfield, La'Nae McKnight and Jackie (Tammie) Thomas; special niece and nephew, Brian Curry and Toni Curry Carroll; many other relatives and friends including many special friends, Patricia Whitson, Dorris Jones, Loddree McMurren, Connie Middlebrook, Laura Laury, Tony Guest, Emma Atwater, Dr. Marie W. Tolliver, Rachel Times, Mattie Calhoun and Wlimer Jones Ham-McZee. Mrs. Preston was preceded in death by her parents, Obie and Gertis Washington; sisters, Gertie (Fletcher) Diggs, and Gloria George; three nephews, Steven Times, Shawn Washington and Obie Timothy-Timothy Wilson. Special thanks is extended to Heartland Home Care Nursing Staff, Yellow Cab Services, St. Mary's of Michigan 3rd, 5th and 6th Floor Nursing Staff, Dr. Cherukuri and many relatives and friends.

Tribute Wall

LB

“ To the family I wanted you all to know that my prayers are with you always. Remember that God is the best comforter while dealing with the lost of a loved one. Love you

LaToya Babers - August 18, 2007 at 12:00 AM

AG

“ Although I did not know Mrs. Preston well, I know that she left a lasting legacy. Whenever I saw her, she was surrounded by family. Family was so important to her. Knowing her daughter, Crystol, as well as I do, I know that Mrs. Preston's memory will live for generations to come.

Alycia Giles - August 18, 2007 at 12:00 AM

FN

“ I was so very sorry to hear of the loss of your wife, Ertie. May God bless you and your family.

Freddie "Freida" Nowell - August 18, 2007 at 12:00 AM

M(

“ To the family we have shared so many good memories with. You all are like family to us. Let not your heart be troubled for she has gone home to a better place. A secret place with God. We will all miss her but God saw fit to take her home with him quietly. She was our hero and a real inspiration in our lives. We Love you all and pray God's blessings on your family. We thank God that we had the opportunity to know such a strong woman of God.

Mary E. Williams (Wicker) - August 18, 2007 at 12:00 AM

VB

“ To the family, I am so sorry for the lost of your love one. I can not begin to say I know how you feel, because I don't, but I know Ms. Preston is in a better place looking down with that beautiful smile that she and all of her sisters have. Crystal/Tracey be strong, because she stated "that the Lord has been good to her" always remember that. May God give your entire family the strength that you will need to get through, and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. Terry Curry be strong and remember our talk at Walmart, everything will be ok...

Velissa "Brownie" Batts - August 18, 2007 at 12:00 AM

LH

“ Crystal and Tracy:
My Love and deepest sympathy surrounds you and your family. Your mother was a special spirit that will live with us forever. She has left her mark here on earth forever in the hearts and minds of many. I will always remember all of the talks that she gave on life and its valuable lessons. God will Bless and keep you during these trying times. I love you both.
Please call me when time permits.
Doo
(248)-217-2920

Lynda (Cooper) Harvey - August 18, 2007 at 12:00 AM

SB

“ to the family of ms preston. She was one of my favorite teacher way back in elementary. God took her to a better place. God bless the family

susan blank - August 18, 2007 at 12:00 AM

SW

“ *My sincere condolence to you all. Chrystal/Tracy your mom was loved and highly respected. She imparted spiritual wisdom and inspired many us growing up at Ninth St. Know that my prayers and hugs are with you. May the Holy Spirit comfort, strengthen and provide peace.*

Sherrie Williams-Kilpatrick - August 18, 2007 at 12:00 AM

SM

“ *I'm sorry to hear about the loss. I hope that everyone is doing well and making it through. Just know that she is in a better place and our LORD AND SAVIOR has a better plan for her. She was a very nice woman, I will keep the family in my prayers.*

Love, Sharmere Nicole Miller

Sharmere Miller - August 18, 2007 at 12:00 AM