



Mary (Cook) Stephens

October 6, 1936 - December 12, 2009

Family hour will take place at 10:00 a.m. Saturday, December 19, 2009 at Zion Missionary Baptist Church, 721 Johnson Street, with the funeral commencing at 11:00 a.m. Pastor Rodrick A. Smith will officiate with interment in Forest Lawn Cemetery. Friends may call at Browne's Mortuary, 441 North Jefferson Avenue, on Friday from 2:00 until 8:00 p.m. Mary Catherine (Cook) Stephens was born October 6, 1936. She was born in Seale (Russell County), Alabama to the union of the late Jackson and Lillie Beatrice Scott Cook. She attended and graduated from Spencer High School in Columbus GA in 1955 with her high-school sweetheart. Their courtship began when they were 15 year olds. They would marry shortly after graduation and spend 53 years together. Upon moving to Saginaw, MI, Mary began her career with Saginaw General Hospital as a Practical Nurse, then joining the practice of Dr. Webb, followed by Dr. Heavenrich, and later becoming Officer Manager of Bell Engineering of which she retired in 2001. One of her loves was traveling. She went on to work with Opperman Travel Agency as a consultant and later co-owned Air Plus Travel Agency. During her retirement years, she also worked as a greeter at Browne's Mortuary. Mary loved the fellowship of her family, whether it was traveling on family vacation, playing scrabble, Phase 10, Uno Attack or playing the Wii. She would not be left out no matter what the event. She loved to organize bus trips for shopping, plays, and casino trips. Mary is known for always telling jokes, especially on her bus trips. She had the timing of a professional comic. She will be remembered to

most as mother, sister, grandmother and GG, but to her high school sweetheart, she will forever be remembered as his "Cookie". She had a special gift of making anyone feel they were the only one special at that moment. Mary was active in her church and loved her Sunday school class. Some of her involvement in the church has included: Preschool Sunday School Teacher, Sewing Club, Trustee Board, Youth Fellowship Group, Beautification Ministry, Deaconess and a Charter Member of the Courtesy Board. She had a great concern for her community and contributed to its improvement through volunteering in various organizations. She was a long-term board member and former President of the local chapter of Habitat for Humanity. She was also a charter member and former President of the Tri-City Chapter, The Links, Incorporated. In addition to this, she served as Chairperson for the Ebony Fashion Fair show for over ten years. Mary leaves cherished memories to her husband of 53 years Sylvester Joe Stephens and three daughters, Pamela Linette Monroe (Larry) Saginaw, MI, Kimberly Jo Roberts (Everett) Flint, MI and Traci Yvette Stephens of Saginaw, MI; three granddaughters and four grandsons: Charone Michelle Carter (Joseph) Farmington Hills, MI, Tanisha Nicole Roberts, Charlotte, NC, Chalonda Mary Parker (Samuel), Saginaw, MI, Everett Corey Roberts, Ypsilanti, MI, Jory Allan Stephens, Charlotte, NC, Justice Avery Stephens and Jordan Alexander Stephens, Saginaw, MI and a special adopted granddaughter Lesley Foxx, Greensboro, NC; three great-grandchildren: Breanna Carter, Paris and Autumn Parker whom lovingly called her "GG"; three brothers Jackson Cook Jr. (Rose) of Phenix City, AL, Johnnie Cook, and Arlanza Cook (Alma) and one sister-in-law Mary G. Cook all of Columbus, GA; a special sister-in-law Doris Johnson of Saginaw, MI; a host of nieces and nephews, including two special nieces Cynthia Kindred and Tara Copeland Handberry; many other relatives and friends, including: Ernestine Ford, Juanita Foxx, Isabelle Holmes and Evelyn Wettlin and Lucille Surles. Preceding Mary in the silent halls of death were her parents, her three siblings, Calvin Cook, Lillie Luke and Robert James Cook, Sr.; and her in-laws, Sylvester and Martha Stephens, sister-in-

law Mary Stephens, and a beloved niece, Gwendolyn Speight. The family would like to express special thanks to Christine Fenton, Tanesha Taybron and Tanya Rozier of Visiting Nurses Association and the Luther Hood Sunday School Class. A special acknowledgement to her extended church family of Christ Community Church.

Tribute Wall

PC

“ Pam, Kim, Traci, Mr Stephens, words cannot not express how sorry I'am to hear about the loss of your mother & wife. All I can do is pray for you guys. I always enjoy talking with your Mom when I would talk with her. It became even more special when we found out that it could be possible we shared the same family bloodline. This is a small world and you never know who you will run into or find out things about in your life time. My bloodline is the Cook's of Savannah, Georgia area. Robert & Elizabeth Cook. Who produce Sally Cook Barnes(Henry) who move to Jackson, TN and who had Rev.Johnny Barnes, who had my father mother Celestine I. Barnes Ingram-Hall of Arkansas. Where the Cook, Barnes Hall are all points of the United States. Now I put you all in the hands of a loving God who knows just what to do in times like these. Let time & memories hold your heart together with Cousin Mary, for she not gone. Just across the great river where life continue on in a more peaceful & loving way. Where we all shall me at that great shore, where God promise he would wipe everyone of our tears away. Intill then its not bye , but see you later in the morning. Love Distant, Cousin, Peter Hall-Cooper

Peter & Deniene Cooper - December 12, 2009 at 12:00 AM

BS

“ Dear Joe & Pam, returning home in Jan. from LA I heard of your loss. I want you to know you and your family are and will continue to be in my prayers.
Betty J. Stevenson

Betty Stevenson - December 12, 2009 at 12:00 AM

DS

“ Pam

I am so sorry to hear about the passing of your mother. I will keep you and the rest of your family in my thoughts and prayers. May God bless and comfort you in your time of bereavement.

Debra Steward - December 12, 2009 at 12:00 AM

CC

“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with you in this trying time. Know that she has been completely and perfectly healed and is now at rest in the hands of a just and living God.*

Charles Coleman - December 12, 2009 at 12:00 AM

PK

“ *I am truly sorry for your loss. I loved Aunt M.C. dearly, and I will truly miss her beautiful smile and loving ways. She was a joy to know. You are all in my prayers.
Love you all
Paula Kitchen*

Paula Kitchen - December 12, 2009 at 12:00 AM

JB

“ *Joe and the Stephens Family,*

*On behalf of our Family and your UAW-GM Center for Human Resources Family, know that our prayers and thoughts are with you. We stand prepared to support you in any way possible. Please know that we will be in contact to offer our services.
With much respect and sympathy,*

Jim and Kathy Boles and your CHR Family

Jim and Kathy Boles - December 12, 2009 at 12:00 AM

BT

“ *Mr. Joe and Pam, please accept my heartfelt condolences at this time. Mrs. Stephens was one of a kind, a very intelligent and beautiful person, and I was very blessed to have crossed paths with her--unforgettable. God will bless your family at this very sorrowful time--her memories will be forever.*

With Sincerest Sympathy,

Brenda Bryant-Reynolds and Family

Brenda Bryant-Reynolds, Texas - December 12, 2009 at 12:00 AM

PP

“ *God Bless you Joe and your family, our prayers are with you in your time of precious loss. Remember to keep the faith, Patrick and Family.*

patrick j. phillips - December 12, 2009 at 12:00 AM

GS

“ *It was just so good to be around her for 30 years. Seems like only yesterday.*

Gregory Skipper - December 12, 2009 at 12:00 AM

RH

“ I will always remember Mary's smile and warm personality. She epitomizes the perfect example of a role model as a mother, friend, encourager, strength, humility and a virtuous woman. She loved life and people and was so devoted to her family. She made you feel as family. Our children were drawn together as classmates which is how I was drawn to Mary.

My heart goes out to the family because no one else will ever be able to replace your loved one but follow her example and you will see her in the hear after. As written in 2nd Timothy 4:7-8; "She fought a good fight, she finished her course, she keep the faith, and now she has a crown of righteousness in heaven which has been reserved especially for her."

Robert & Helen Henley - December 12, 2009 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ I am very sorry for the loss of your mom, Tracie. I will keep you and your family in prayer.
May God give you peace and comfort at this time. I know she is with our Lord and Savior.

With deepest sympathy,

Jan

Jan Hosley - December 12, 2009 at 12:00 AM

RW

“ Ms Stephens the world is now empty from your warmth and compassion for life, i will always remember the glow from your smile, May God continue to bless and hold the Stephens family while they continue to reflect on His greatness that was a reflection of you.

Rodney White - December 12, 2009 at 12:00 AM

MB

“ *Pamela and family,*

my sympathy and prayers go out to you and your family at this time of great sorrow.

May the Lord Bless you all dearly.

Maria O. Banda - December 12, 2009 at 12:00 AM

WS

“ *My deepest condolences to you and all of your family.*

William(Bill) Smith - December 12, 2009 at 12:00 AM

JD

“ *Mama Mary, you will truly be missed but will always live in our hearts. My prayers to Daddy Joe and sisters Pam, Kim and Traci.*

Jessie Cameron & daughter - December 12, 2009 at 12:00 AM

ER

“ *Our Prayers go out to your family*

Exie Robinson - December 12, 2009 at 12:00 AM

ZI

“ *On behalf of the Zeta Amicae Auxiliary of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., we express sincere sympathy at the passing of such a blessed woman!*

Mary graced our city with classiness, style, great ideas, and a genuine love for the arts.

Amica Delores A. McNair, President

Amica Hollistine Bell, Vice-President

Zeta Amicae Auxiliary of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. - December 12, 2009 at 12:00 AM

SH

“ To Joe, Pam and the entire Stephens family, my prayers are with you. There is comfort in knowing that God will sustain you. Mary was a loving and caring person and will be greatly missed. She became a friend and teacher when I joined the HFH board. Pam, I remember how we spoke of your mom many times before I moved. Rest in the protective arms of Christ and He will carry you through. Love to all.

Sharon Howell - December 12, 2009 at 12:00 AM

BP

“ To the family of Mrs. Stephens

I met Mrs. Stephens at the BV Community Center when I was employed there. She always had that beautiful smile when she would come in to work-out. As always well spoken and kind. She will be missed, God has called one of his special angels home, work well done on earth. God Bless the family and you all are in my prayers.

Barbara Payton - December 12, 2009 at 12:00 AM

JP

“ To the family: Mary was a very sweet person. Always there to help you with a smile on her face. She will be truly missed, but we know she is in a better place, walking with Jesus and smiling on us. We are praying with you during this time of grief, but we know Jesus is with us and joy comes in the morning.

Julia Morris Price - December 12, 2009 at 12:00 AM

TH

“ *My Prayers are with the Stephens and other members of the family. May God Bless and Keep you in his arms during your time of mourning.*

Tee-Ar Hines - December 12, 2009 at 12:00 AM

CW

“ *To the Family: You all are in my thoughts and prayers during your time of loss. I enjoy talking to your mother and her smile always made my day. She will be missed in Saginaw.*

Ceylon Wms-Bettis - December 12, 2009 at 12:00 AM

MM

“ *S.Joe Stephens and Family,
Please know that you are in my thoughts and prayers during your time of bereavement. I will remember Mary as a wonderful lady; I will miss her. I am thankful to have known her as a friend. We shared many conversations about her wonderful grandchildren of whom she was so proud. I'm sure Mary's "quiet presence" will be missed around Zion. Continue to look to the hills....
Mary McDonald*

Mary McDonald - December 12, 2009 at 12:00 AM