

Homegoing Celebration



Sunrise

September 9, 1952

Sunset

January 24, 2021

Idotha Bootsie Neal

Mt. Enon Missionary Baptist Church

1501 W. Dr. Martin Luther King Way | Dayton | Ohio | 45405

Saturday, January 30, 2021

11:00 am

Officiant: Cory J. Pruitt, Pastor

In Loving Memory Of **Idotha M. Bootsie Neal** Obituary



Idotha M. Neal (affectionately known as “Bootsie”), 68, transitioned peacefully on Sunday, January 24, 2021, at Kettering Medical Center, with her loving daughter Erica valiantly managing her care. Born on September 9, 1952, in Newbern, AL., Bootsie was the youngest of five siblings. She grew up in Buffalo, NY, where she accepted Christ at Humboldt Parkway Baptist Church. Bootsie later moved to Dayton, OH, where she resided for more than 47 years. Bootsie loved her family and friends. She often talked with great pride and fond memories when reflecting about her loved ones. Bootsie was preceded in death by her parents, Willie and Connie Williams, sister Connie Jean Spentz, two brothers Frank and Eddie Robinson, and special companion Darryl C. Jackson, Sr. Left to cherish her memory, Bootsie’s loving and devoted daughter Erica, special sister Kim Trammell, and beloved nieces Kayla, Shayla, and Ms. Bailey! She was a devoted sister to her brother James “Jackie” (Elaine) Robinson and a loving aunt to a host of nieces, nephews, and great-nieces and nephews. She will be sorely missed by her adopted sons Darren “Chris”, Darryle “Mac”, and DeVaughn “Craig”, along with their families. Bootsie was adored by her adopted nieces Marla and Britney, nephews Thailleyon “T” and Preston (Tracel), and a host of very special cousins too numerous to name. The Idotha “Bootsie” Neal legacy will continue forever because of her special nieces and nephews.

A 1970 graduate of East High School in Buffalo, New York, she furthered her education and earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Sociology with a minor in Secondary Education from Howard University in Washington, D.C. She earned a Master’s Degree in Counselor Education in Human Services, from the University of Dayton. Bootsie also completed post-graduate coursework, earning a Master’s Degree in Public Administration, from The University of Dayton. Bootsie was a motivational speaker and owner of Neal and Associates, a training consulting firm. She presented at the United Nations and conducted numerous workshops nationally and internationally. She was a guest lecturer/speaker in South Africa, Brazil, Bosnia, Germany, Japan, and Zambia.

Ms. Neal began her career working for the late C. J. McLin, who encouraged her to run for political office. In 1989, she was appointed by the Governor of the State of Ohio to serve as a Commissioner on the Ohio Lottery. In 1991, Idotha was elected as the first African American female Commissioner for the City of Dayton, where she served for 12 years. For more than a decade, she worked to enhance Dayton’s viability and visibility by creating and retaining jobs. Major redevelopment projects were accomplished, including Day Air (5/3rd Field) Baseball Stadium, Schuster Performing Arts Center, Dayton International Airport expansion, Riverscape Development, Zion Cultural Arts Center, and the demolition of several Brownfield sites.

In Loving Memory Of **Idotha M. Bootsie Neal** Obituary Continued



Bootsie led the development of multimillion-dollar housing and business initiatives to rebuild the long overlooked blighted West Third Street corridor, which later became known as Wright Dunbar. She was also instrumental in the development of housing in South Park, Hooks Estate, and Grand Place. As a Commissioner, she was responsible for the million-dollar renovation of the Bomberger Teen Center, creating the Fire Department Summer Youth Program and allocating millions of dollars for recreational programs and activities supporting youth. She supported legislation to reduce poverty and eliminate predatory lending. Bootsie proposed civil services changes to diversify the police and fire departments.

For eighteen years, she served as Director and Adjunct Instructor for Central State University—West, Dayton campus. She made an impact by setting a standard of excellence. She was instrumental in relocating Central State to the former Reynolds and Reynolds property. Many of her former students have excelled professionally in the Dayton community and the nation.

In 2004, Bootsie became Executive Director and CEO of Wright Dunbar, Inc. She formed partnerships with state and federal agencies and private investors to secure grants and funding for the revitalization of the historic district.

She was a longtime member of Mt. Enon Missionary Baptist Church under the leadership of John F. Cunningham and Pastor Cory J. Pruitt. She served on numerous boards, working tirelessly to secure Cares Act funds through the Mt. Enon Community Development Corporation and gave her time and talent to the Mt. Enon Youth Ministry.

She was very active in the community and served on numerous boards. As a community leader, she was a strong advocate for children and families and supported initiatives that helped to prepare them for the future.

She was a member of Howard University Alumni Association, National Council of Negro Women, Southern Christian Leadership Council, and her beloved Delta Sigma Theta, Inc. Dayton Chapter.

Reflection: First and foremost, Bootsie was a dedicated mother. She loved her some Erica and embraced every moment she had with her. She had a vivacious personality and always made people around her feel special. Bootsie was well known for her entertaining stories. Every time an old school song started playing, she was ready with one of her many stories. Can't you just hear her! Bootsie was a mother, daughter, sister, auntie, "Meme", friend, educator, and "Commissioner".

*She was a special kind of person with a generous and giving spirit. We will never forget her wit and tenacity. She never let the accolades and accomplishments change her. She will be genuinely missed and forever in our hearts. **Rest in Peace, Bootsie...***

Order Of Service

Processional

Final Viewing.....Family

Final Blanket "Wind Beneath My Wings" Erica Neal

Prayer.....Pulpit

Old TestamentProverbs 3:5-6

New TestamentCorinthians 5:1

Musical SelectionPastor Angel Ditto

Resolutions & AcknowledgementsPulpit

Poem.....Shayla Trammell

Silent Reading of the Obituary..... "I Shall Wear A Crown"

Tributes:

Congressman, Michael Turner, United States House of Representatives

Rhine McLin, Former Mayor, City of Dayton

Valerie Lemmie, Former Manager, City of Dayton

Richard Clay Dixon, Former Mayor, City of Dayton

Brandon McClain, Montgomery County Recorder

B. Cato Mayberry, Central State University/Friend

Shenise Turner-Sloss, Mentee

Kayla Trammell – Letters in Absentia, Resolutions from Delta Sigma Theta, Inc.

Mia Wortham Spells, Dayton Municipal Court Judge

Erica Neal, Special Remarks

Order Of Service Continued

Nieces and Nephew Tribute..... "When You've Been Blessed"

The Spirit of David Praise Dance Ministry..... "Glory"

Mt. Enon Youth Ministry Presentation

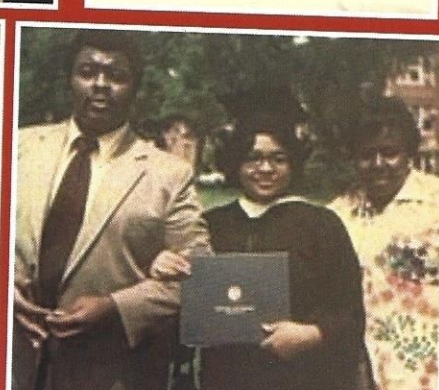
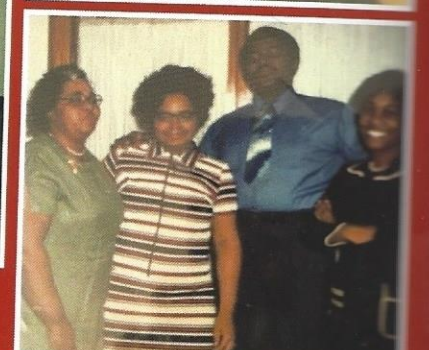
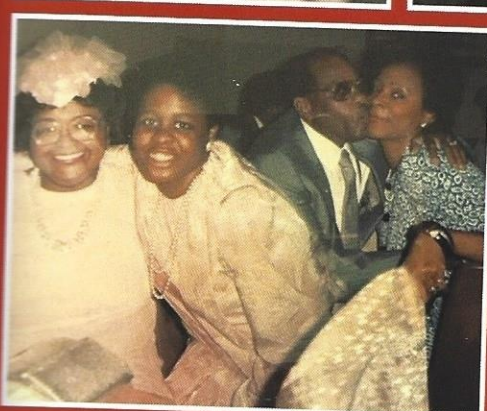
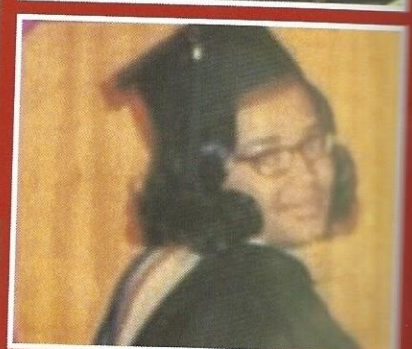
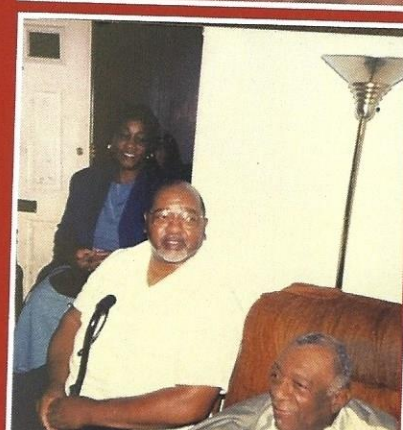
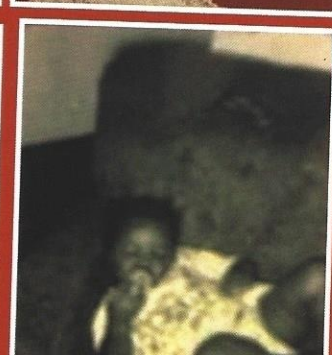
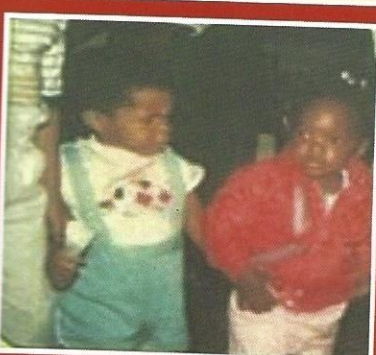
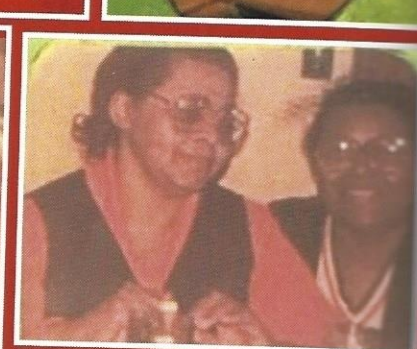
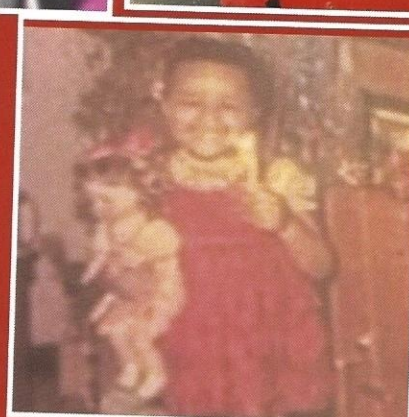
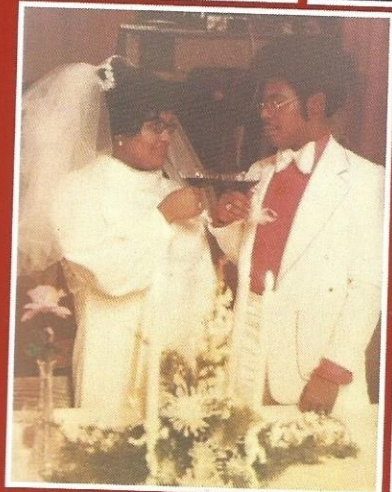
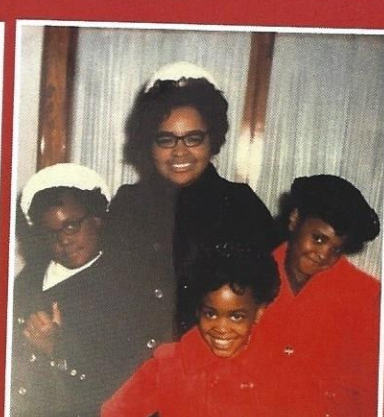
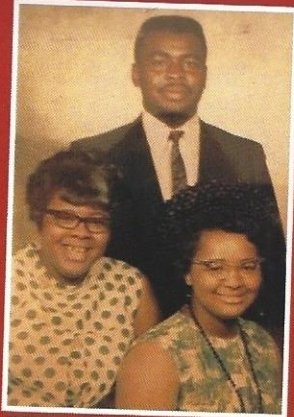
Musical Selection Pastor Cory J. Pruitt

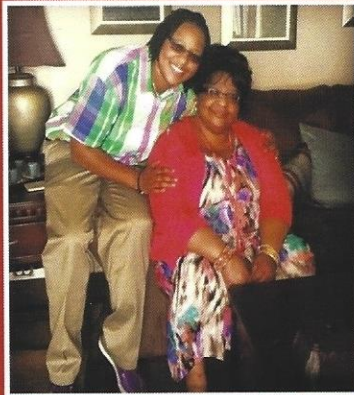
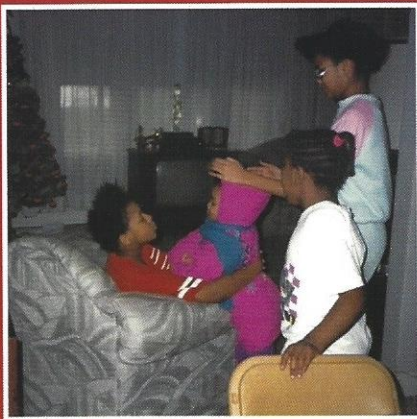
Eulogy Pastor Cory J. Pruitt

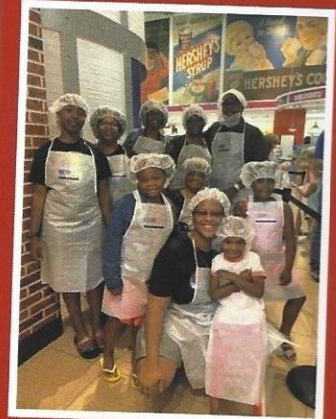
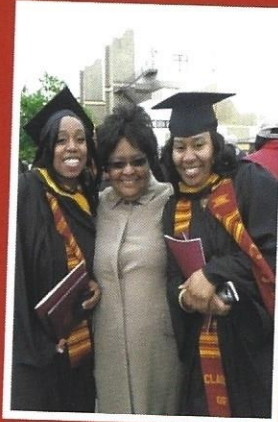
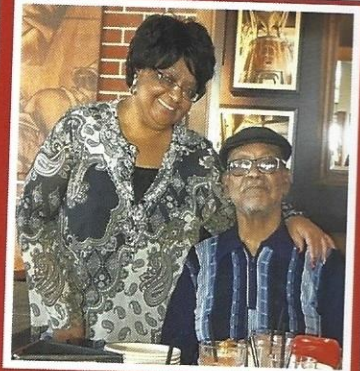
Recessional "Take Me To The King"

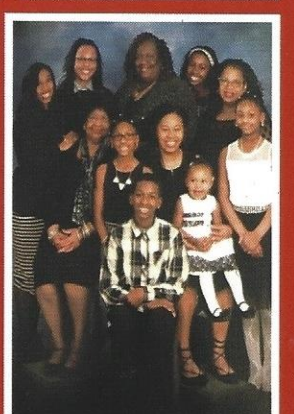
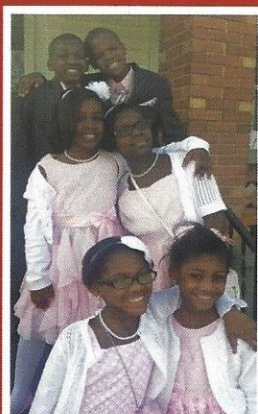


*"You can shed tears that she is gone
or
you can smile because she has lived."*



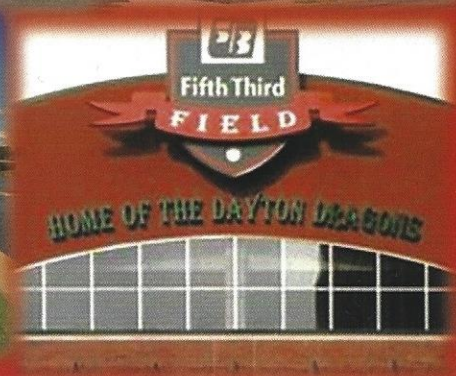
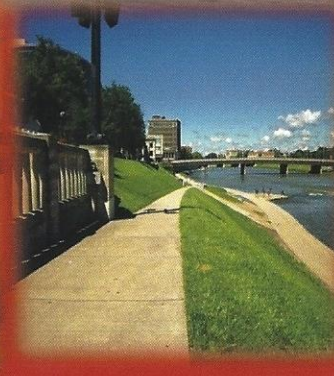
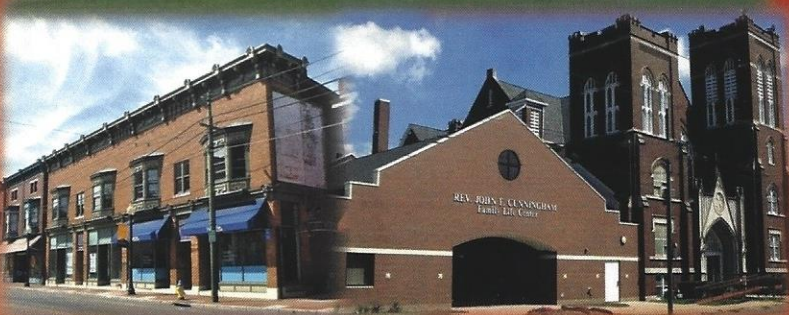
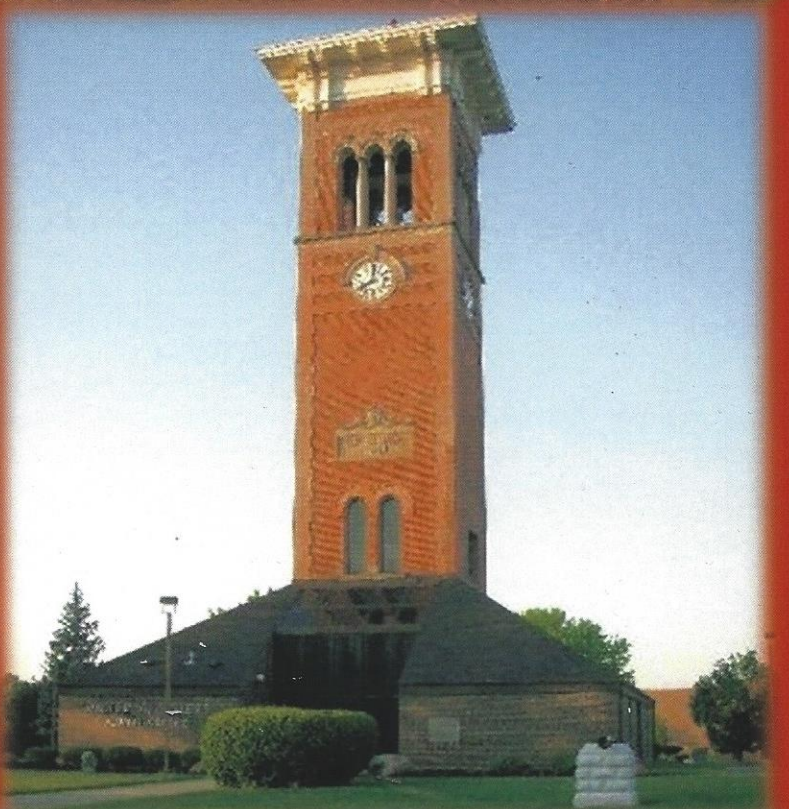
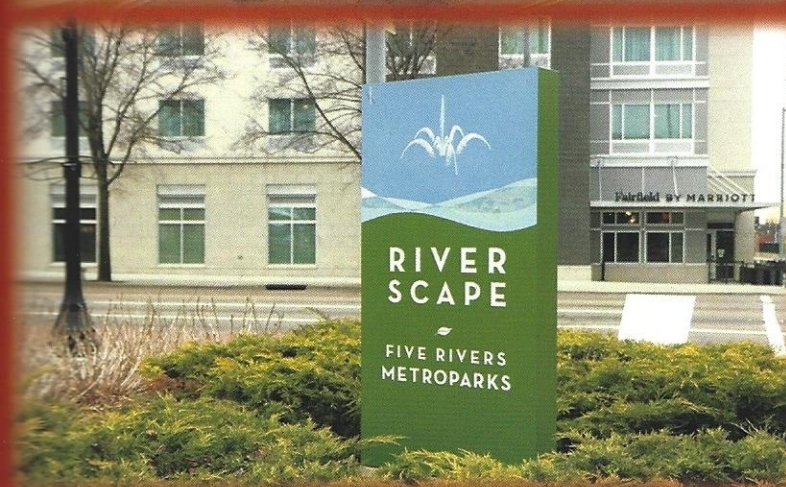


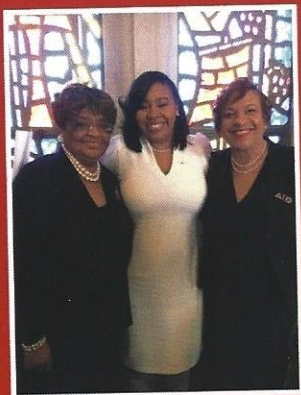




Idotha “Bootsie” Neal Accolades and Awards

African American Chamber of Commerce Developer of the Year Award, 2011
Award of Recognition—Gamma Phi Delta Sorority, 1999
Better Business Bureau Integrity Award for Nonprofits, 2011
Black Achievers Award, WROU, 1993
Broadcasters Hall of Fame Inductee—Dayton, Ohio, 2009
Business Journal—Business Woman Leadership of the Year Award, 2012
Central State University “Unsung Shero” Award, 2000
Central State University Dedicated Service Award, 2005
Community Service Award—All Praise Productions, 1998
Dayton Area Broadcaster Hall of Fame
Dayton Daily News Top Ten Women Award, 1994
Dayton Image Award, 1992
Dayton Skyscrapers Award, 2009
Howard University Alumni of Greater Dayton Black History Maker Award, 2000
I.B.P.O.E. of W(ELKS) Black History Award, 1992
Izzey Award, 2001
John Ellis Volunteer of the Year
Martin Luther King Image Award, 1995
Mary Scott Legacy Award Honoree, 2009
National Association of Social Workers, Public Official of the Year, 1997
National Delta Sigma Theta Legacy Award, 1995
Omega Psi Phi, Inc. Citizen of the Year, 1995
Paul Laurence Dunbar Humanitarian Award, 1997
Phenomenal Woman Award, 2014
Progressive Southern Dayton View Presidents Award for Notable Achievement, 1992
Public Official of the Year Award, 2003
Public Service Television Communicator Award, 2001
SCLC Rosa Parks Award, 2004
SCLC Strong Women in Leadership, 2006
Top Ten African American Women Award, 2002
Trailblazers’ Award, 2015
U.S. Postal Service Black History Award, 2000
YWCA Women of Influence, 2007





*A friendly smile,
a casual touch,
These are the things
that mean so much.*

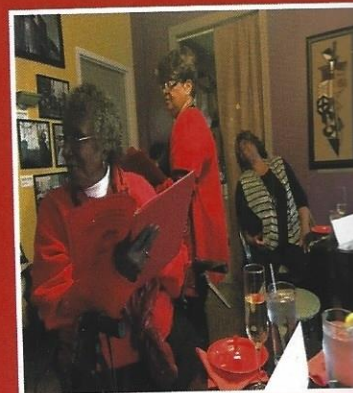


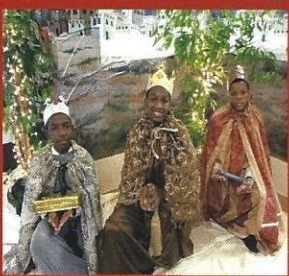
*To know you are with us
in our time of sorrow,
Sharing our prayers,
today and tomorrow.*

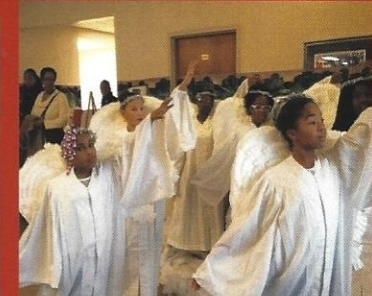


*God gives us the comfort
in the form of good friends.
May His peace be with you,
His love never ends.*

*Her life motto was to "Keep God first; respect
yourself and others. Love life and laugh. Grow
from your challenges, seize opportunities, and
always believe the best is yet to come."*







PALLBEARERS

Nicholas Frazier

Cameron Jackson

Malik Oakes

Daniel Spentz

Josh Huertas

Preston Leavelle

Keevin Smith

Chad Wortham

HONORARY PALLBEARERS

Willie Porter

Marvin Merritt

Robert Turner

Dorian Harris

Damon Murphy

Anthony Trammell

FLOWER BEARERS

Family Members

Special Friends

Mt. Enon Youth Ministry

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The family of Idotha Bootsie Neal would like to express their sincere gratitude for all of the prayers, cards, food, and support shown to our family during our time of bereavement. A heartfelt thank you to Pastor Cory J. Pruitt and the entire Mt. Enon Missionary Baptist Church. A special thank you to the doctors and medical staff at Kettering Medical Center.



Interment: Woodland Cemetery and Arboretum

Repast: Dinner will be served for family and special friends
in the JF Cunningham Family Life Center Room 411/412

THOMAS
FUNERAL HOME
4520 Salem Avenue
Trotwood, OH 45416