

Pall Bearers

Horace Arnold Jr.
Craig Arnold
Kenneth Arnold
Brian Arnold
Richard Hammond Jr
Shawn Arnold

Flower Bearers

Family & Friends

Acknowledgements:

The family wishes to acknowledge with deep appreciation the many expressions of love, concern and kindness shown to them during this hour of bereavement.

A special thank you to Mom's personal care Angels, Diane J., Kelly B., Tanya B., Amber E., Cristal R., Angela C., Steve and Cassandra, and the Crosswords Hospice team, for all your care and kindness.

Thomas Funeral Home, Garden of Faith Church of God and Christ, Omega Baptist Church, family, and friends for assisting our Family through Mom's Homegoing journey.

The Family of Mary L. Arnold



Celebration of Life Mary L. Arnold

September 10, 1947 - February 11, 2022

Friday, February 25th, 2022, 11:00 am

*Thomas Funeral Home
4520 Salem Ave Dayton, Ohio 45416*

Celebration of Life

Musical Selection

Family Viewing/Final Viewing

Scripture Reading

Old Testament -----

New Testament -----

Johnnie R. Maddox
Deborah Leigh Barr

Resolutions & Acknowledgement

Diane Cole

Musical Selection/Read obituary Silently

Kambria Jackson

Eulogy

Horace Arnold Jr.

Closing Prayer

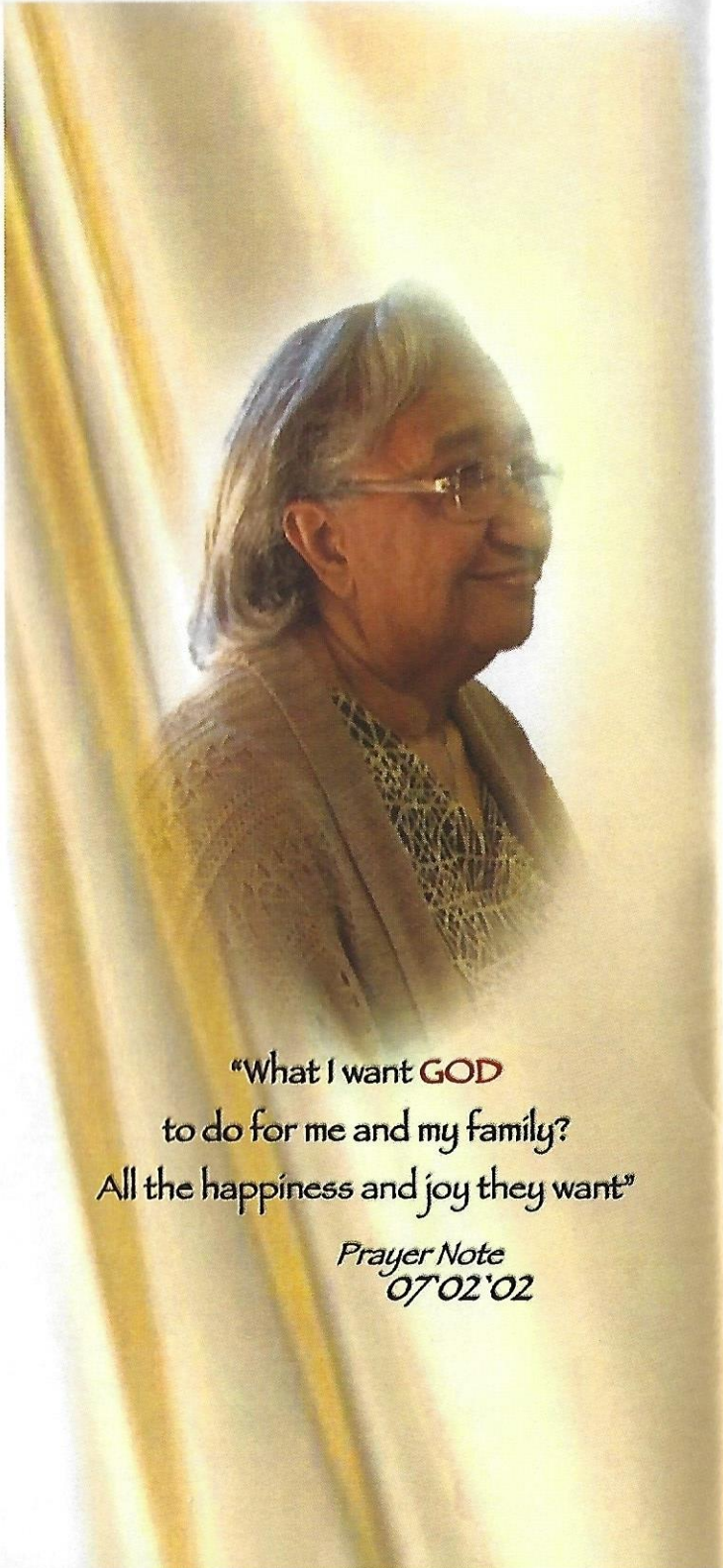
Pastor, Gary Leigh

Musical Selection/Recessional

Ministers, Family & Friends

Interment

West Memory Gardens
6722 Hemple Rd, Moraine, OH 45439



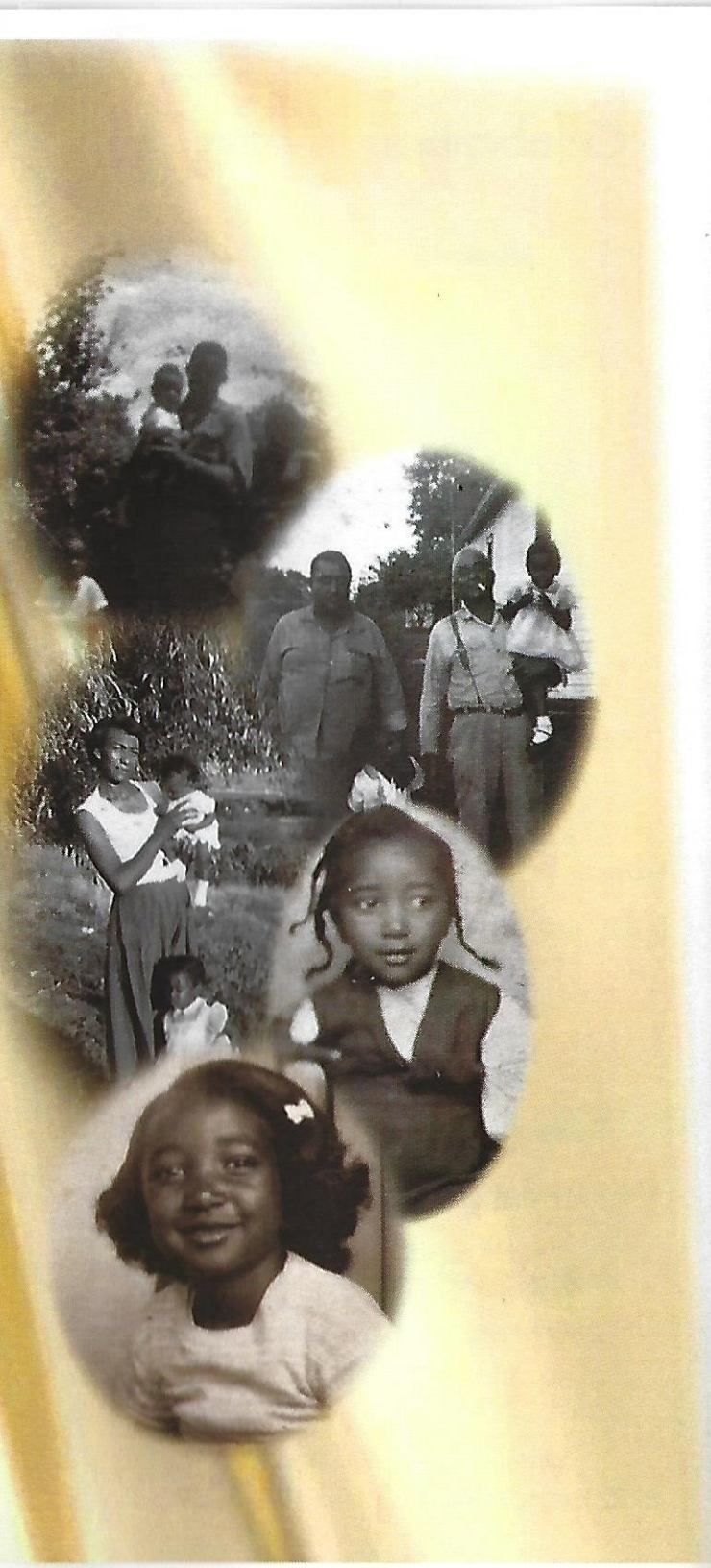
“What I want **GOD**
to do for me and my family?
All the happiness and joy they want”

Prayer Note
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Affectionately known as "Duffy," Mary is a daughter of the Great Migration, moving to Dayton with her Parents in search of a better future, joining her father's brother, Robert Leigh, and his extended family in Ohio. Mary's parents, Alonzo and Estella Ruth, established their new home in Dayton, Ohio, in 1949.

Growing up in the Highview Hills area, Mary met and then married the love of her life, Horace Arnold affectionately known by friends and family as "Chick", in 1965. Mary attended Roosevelt High School leaving early to focus on her new husband, family & the care of their newborn, Rita Marie Arnold.

Sadly, during this time, her precious baby girl Rita Marie was called home in 1967, followed by her own father (Alonzo) in 1969 and her brother (Alonzo C.) in 1970. Despite the devastating season, Mary continued to take care of her sons, Horace Jr., born in 1966 and Craig, born in 1967. Horace and Mary family continued to grow with the birth of Kenneth in 1969, Brian in 1974, Michelle in 1975 and Shawn in 1977.

Her journey with her soulmate came to an unexpected end in the summer of 1988 when Horace Sr. passed away at home. Now thrust into single motherhood she faced many challenges ahead. For instance, the passing of her "Granny" Mattie Lou Arnold and "Mama" Estella Ruth Leigh less than four months apart in 1995.

Strong-willed and determined, with the help of her family and in-laws, Mary entered the workforce to provide for her children. Supported by her three adult sons, she raised her remaining younger children (two sons and daughter), and even

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completed her high school education at Sinclair Community College, a personal goal of hers in 1996!

Throughout the years Mary held various positions including nurses aid at Miami Valley Hospital, housekeeper at local hotels, manager for WPAFB cleaning contractor to office supply store clerk. Medically retired in 2016 to enjoy the rest of her precious time with her family, friends, and her beloved dog Pepper.

A true believer, she came together with her brothers and sisters to support the God-given ministry of her younger brother, Elder Gary Leigh, in establishing the Garden of Faith Church of God In Christ, in May of 1999. Where she served to ensure its stable foundation.

Mary loved spending time with her brothers and sisters, in-laws, & the friends she grew up with "On the Hill". Mary found enjoyment in Fishing trips, garage sale hopping, playing BINGO, or just plain having fun "Chewing the fat with her people" as they say from her proud southern roots. Mary loved family gatherings, listening to records, crafting, growing flowers and vegetable gardening. Believe it or not she loved drag racing!

She especially loved dressing classy & attending social events with her husband. Also loved traveling with her kids, taking family road trips, attending reunions, visiting historic places, even taking cruise ship excursions! Mary always relaxed by reading books and magazines and drinking her Pepsi!!!

Mary supported her family in all aspects of their lives. Most of all, she loved watching and spending time with her grandchildren and stepchildren looking forward to the possibilities for the next generations to come. She cherished them, always keeping them in her thoughts and prayers. As a daughter, sister, and mother, she has filled our lives with love and joy, *her prayer answered by God.*





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Obituary

ARNOLD, Mary L., age 74, of Dayton, Ohio, passed away surrounded by her loving family on Friday, February 11, 2022.

Mary is survived by her daughter, Michelle (Richard) Hammond, Sons, Horace (Lena) Arnold; Craig (Tracee) Arnold, Kenneth (Diane James) Arnold; Brian (Kimberly) Arnold; Shawn (Sherry) Arnold and her grandchildren, Breanna Arnold (Lesa Young), Ivory Hammond, Eva, Jonathan and Hayden Arnold, Donovan, Cameron, Braelyn Arnold, Taylor Cortner (Spiritual), Parker and Ashton Arnold, Tanisha James (Spiritual), great-grandchildren Kanaan and Amaal (Spiritual).

Mary was preceded in death by Husband, Horace "Harvie/Harry", Arnold, (Chick) beloved Daughter, Rita Marie Arnold, her parents, Alonzo, Estella Ruth Leigh and brothers Alonzo C. Leigh, Winifred Anthony Leigh. She leaves to cherish in her memory two brothers, Rodney (Patricia) Leigh, Gary (Angela) Leigh and three sisters, Johnnie R, Leigh-Maddox, Deborah Leigh-Barr (Richard) and Diane L. (Lyle) Cole, including a host of cousins, nieces, nephews and close friends.

Celebration of Life, Friday, February 25, 2022, at Thomas Funeral Home (4520 Salem Ave, Dayton, OH 45416). Visitation will begin at 10:00 am with service to follow at 11:00 pm. Interment West Memory Gardens.

Family will receive guest at 1823 Keturah Drive, Dayton Ohio, from 2:30 pm and 5:00 pm following committal services.



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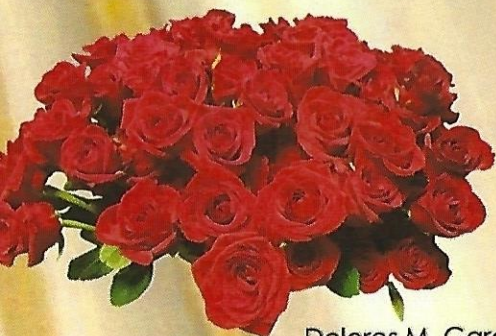
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If Roses Grow in Heaven

If roses grow in heaven,
Lord please pick a bunch for me,
Place them in my Mother's arms
and tell her they're from me.

Tell her I love her and miss her,
and when she turns to smile,
place a kiss upon her cheek
and hold her for a while.

Because remembering her is easy,
I do it every day, but there's an
ache within my heart that will never
go away.



Dolores M. Garcia



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