

Celebration of Life



Shirley E. Byrd

Sunrise
November 18, 1932



Sunset
March 29, 2022

Mt. Enon Missionary Baptist Church
J. F. Cunningham Family Life Center
1501 W. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Way
Dayton, Ohio 45402

Friday, April 15, 2022

Obituary



BYRD, Shirley Elizabeth, age 89, departed life on earth on Tuesday, March 29, 2022. She was born in Dayton, Ohio and attended Dunbar High School. As a housewife, she loved to spend time with children, their friends, and neighbors in Edgemont. She also had a passion for painting around the house and feeding stray cats. Civic engagement in the West Dayton community was important to her and she volunteered in many ways. Known to many as Evangelist Shirley Byrd for her dedication to missionary work, she loved to spread the Gospel through prayer, service, and singing. She was a member of St. Mary's Spiritual Church in Dayton, and later changed to Church on the Rock Ministries, Inc. in Dayton. Singing and traveling with the Hallelujah Choir brought joy to her heart. For a few years, she served as one of the faithful volunteers with First Fruits Community Outreach at Mt. Enon Missionary Baptist Church. She is preceded in death by her father, Otis G. Byrd; mother, Lula May Byrd, former husband Morton Branham, Sr., brothers Alonzo Foster and Raymond Brown; and granddaughter, Michelle Byrdsong. She leaves to cherish her memory: daughter, Marcella Byrd; sons Morton (LaTonya) Branham Jr., and Otis Branham (Brenda); grandchildren: Marcie (Carl) McCoy, Melody Byrd (Dale), Cortney Branham, Otis Branham, Jr., and Stephanie Monie; special great-grandson James Perkins; great-grandchildren; great-great grandchildren; devoted friends, Edna Jones, Min. Renee Shepherd; Bishop Lillian Tyner, and Bishop Emma Curtis White; and numerous extended family members and friends.



I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

2 Timothy 4:7-8 NKJV

The Order of Service

<i>Musical Prelude</i>	<i>Rev. Richard Hopson</i> <i>Mt. Moriah Missionary Baptist Church</i> <i>Dayton, OH</i>
<i>Officiant</i>	<i>Pastor Cory J. Pruitt</i> <i>Mt. Enon Missionary Baptist Church</i>
<i>Processional</i>	<i>Clergy and other Members</i>
<i>Invocation</i>	<i>Pulpit Associate</i>
<i>Ministry of Music</i>	<i>Jacqueline-Hall Moore</i>
<i>Scriptures</i>	<i>Pulpit Associate</i> <i>Old Testament: Psalm 23</i> <i>New Testament: Romans 8:35-39</i>
<i>Prayer of Comfort</i>	<i>Pulpit Associate</i>
<i>Ministry of Music</i>	<i>Greg Jackson</i>
<i>Silent Reading of Obituary</i>	
<i>Special Remarks</i>	<i>Bishop Emma Curtis White</i> <i>Church on the Rock Ministries, Inc.</i> <i>Dayton, OH</i>
<i>Acknowledgements and Resolutions</i>	<i>Rev. Tammy McGhee</i>
<i>Words of Comfort/Reflections</i>	<i>Family and Friends</i> <i>(Less than two minutes each please)</i>
<i>Eulogy</i>	<i>Bishop Lillian Tyner</i> <i>Rockhill Missionary Baptist Church</i> <i>Dayton, OH</i>
<i>Benediction</i>	<i>Pastor Cory J. Pruitt</i>
<i>Musical Postlude</i>	<i>Rev. Richard Hopson</i>
<i>Recessional</i>	<i>Clergy, Family, and Friends</i>



Interment: West Memory Gardens
~ Repast ~
Mt. Enon Missionary Baptist Church
J. F. Cunningham Family Life Center



God Called You Home

*God looked around His garden
And found an empty place,
He then looked down upon the earth
And saw your tired face.
He put his arms around you
And lifted you to rest.
God's garden must be beautiful
He always takes the best.
He knew that you were suffering
He knew you were in pain.
He knew that you would never
Get well on earth again.
He saw the road was getting rough
And the hills were hard to climb.
So he closed your weary eyelids
And whispered, 'Peace be Thine'.
It broke our hearts to lose you
But you didn't go alone,
For part of us went with you
the day God called you home.*

Loving Legacy



Forever In Our Hearts



Forever In Our Hearts



Pallbearers

Courtney Branham
Otis Braham, Jr.
Jimmy Jones, Sr.

Carl McCoy, Sr.
Carl D. McCoy, Jr.
James Perkins

Honorary Pallbearers

Morton J. Hunt, Sr.

Chris Allen

Flowers Bearers

Family & Friends



Acknowledgments

The family of Shirley E. Byrd acknowledges with sincere gratitude the prayers, many acts of kindness, heartfelt sympathy, and support extended during our time of bereavement. Special thanks to Sis. Teresa Willoughby and Deacon Robert Turner from the visitation team at Mt. Enon; Mrs. Annie Heard, Tyrone Heard, the Mitchell family, Cousin Karen Hunt; Friendship Village, and Hospice of Dayton, Inc.

*Respectfully submitted,
The Family*

Arrangements entrusted to
Thomas Funeral Home
4520 Salem Avenue, Dayton, OH 45416
937.274.8777