

I'll Live On

Don't cry for me in sadness, don't weep for me in sorrow, For I will be beside you,
As sure as comes tomorrow. My body has gone but my spirit lives on, as does my love
for you. Just as in life, I'll watch over you, I always will be true. My blood lives on in my
children, how I've watched them grow up with pride. I'll live on within them, always be
their side. I know my jokes weren't always funny and jobs weren't always done. Just try
and always remember the good times, the days when we had fun. Reach out if you need
me for I will always be near. Just talk to me, as if I am there, I promise I will hear. For I'll
live on within your mind, we'll never be apart, As long as you keep my memory deep
within your heart. So lift up your hearts, don't be sad, my spirit hasn't gone

While you're still there, so am I, I really will live on.

Author Unknown

Pallbearers

Kyle Williams Dominic Alford Lee Townsley
Theodore Jackson Tesmen Fluker Tysmen Fluker

Honorary Pallbearers

Raphael Gisstand Brandon Herbert

Repast:

The family will receive guest at the funeral home after the interment.

Acknowledgements

With sincere appreciation, the family of Bessie Lee Herbert, wishes to
acknowledge their gratitude for the great outpouring of kindness and assistance
we have received. We thank you for your presence, your genuine concern, and
your prayers. A special thanks to the Heartland Home Health & Hospice Care.

May God bless you and keep your in His perfect peace.

Arrangements Entrusted To:
R. A. Prince Funeral Services
16222 Broadway avenue
Maple Heights, Ohio 44137

Celebrating the Life

of

Bessie Lee Herbert



Sunrise
May 27, 1924

Sunset
August 16, 2019

Saturday, August 31, 2019

Wake: 9:30 AM Funeral 10:00 AM

Rev. Raimon A. Prince, Pastor
Pastor, Greater Assembly Baptist Church
4015 East 141 St ,
Cleveland, OH 44128

Order of Service

Organ Prelude.....Rev. Hicks

Processional.....The Family

Scripture.....Jacqueline Herbert

Prayers.....Rev. Raimon Prince

Solo.....I Won't Complain.....Maria Daniels

Tribute.....Rev. Cynthia Smith

Acknowledgements/Resolutions.....Alysha Herbert

Scripture.....Veronica L. Herbert

Obituary.....Read Silently

Reflections.....Selected Family and Friends

Solo.....Amazing Grace.....Maria Daniels.

Remarks.....Laura A. Williams

Eulogy.....Rev. Raimon Prince

Benediction.....

Recessional.....Going Up Yonder

Interment:
Whitehaven Cemetery
Mayfield Heights, OH

Obituary

Bessie Lee Bradley Herbert, was born on May 27, 1924 in Greenville, Alabama to the union of the late, Henry Bradley and the late Lillie Belle Graham Bradley. She was the second eldest of four daughters. Her sisters, Gertude Cummings, Lillie Mae Jones and Daisy Mae Cropper all preceded her in death.

Bessie professed Christ as an early age and was baptized at the Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church in Greenville, Alabama. She left school as a pre-teen to assist her mother in the rearing of her two cousins. She worked extremely hard to help generate income for the family; oftentimes, picking cotton and working as a maid for meager wages of fifty cents a week.

In July, 1945, Bessie married Jimmie Herbert, a World War II Veteran, in Georgiana, Alabama. She was twenty-one years old. They had nine children. The three oldest, Bessie Mae Herbert Gisstand, Jimmie Herbert Jr., and Delores Ann Herbert predeceased her.

In 1953, Jimmie and Bessie made the challenging decision to migrate to north to Cleveland, Ohio. Jimmie went ahead to obtain housing and employment. Bessie left her two oldest children, Bessie and Delores, in the care of her mothers and sister in New Orleans, Louisiana and courageously travelled via train to Cleveland, Ohio with her two youngest, Laura and Barbara. They settled into their new life off of Cedar Avenue. Shortly afterwards, when Bessie and Delores rejoined the family, they moved into the Glenville Neighborhood.

Bessie was a responsible and caring parent. Affectionately known as M'Dear by her children, she was wise, considerate, supportive and understanding and compassionate. She taught them to greet everyone, to show appreciation, to be respectful and kind. She raised her children in the church and made sure every summer they participated in the summer reading club at the Cleveland Public Library. She stayed involved and interested in all of their activities, never missing a school open house. Even though she had a limited education, all of her children completed high school, several attended college, one became an air traffic controller, one a legal secretary and another a lawyer. Her children were also very athletic. Most of her daughters were cheerleaders and Mark, her only son, was exceptional in a variety of sports, baseball, football, basketball and wrestling. Jimmie worked every day and was unable to attend Mark's sporting events so Bessie and all of her daughters would go to show support. As a result she and her daughters became avid sport fans and could do play by play calling of most sports. Jimmie, however, made a point every Sunday evening to take the children on a special outing. Bessie would ready the children for their adventure, but always stayed home to get some "me" time.

She was a homemaker until her youngest started school. After volunteering for the Cleveland Neighborhood Centers Association and receiving honorable mention for Volunteer of the year, she was offered a position as a food service worker with the Council for economic opportunities. She gave 23 years of dedicated service with their child development program and received several certificates for outstanding job performances.

In 1967, Bessie and Jimmie bought a home on Baldwin Avenue in East Cleveland, Ohio. There she, and her family became involved in the original East Cleveland, Chiefs Sports Program. It was a family affair. In 1971, Bessie served as Vice President of the organization. Her daughters were cheerleaders and part of the coaching staff. The team competed as far away as California. Mark excelled, receiving MVP awards and earned a full high school football scholarship to Cathedral Latin High School. Rosalind and Veronica became Shaw High School Cheerleaders.

After thirty years of marriage, Bessie and Jimmie divorced in 1975. Their parting was an amicable one. They remained close friends and continued to co-parent until Jimmie passed in 1988. Bessie regularly read the local newspaper, stayed abreast of current events and always exercised her right to vote. She loved attending music concerts, with her daughters, enjoying the sweet gospel sounds of the Winans, as well as the sultry rhythms of Prince. She had a flare for clothing and would wear heels to the neighborhood store. She was a cooking sensation. She prepared a delectable meal for family and neighborhood friends every Sunday. Blessed with beautiful skin and a youthful appearance, Bessie took great pride in the fact that she never looked her age. She also enjoyed watching soap operas and had an affinity for WWF wrestling.

Sometimes in the 1990's Bessie had a lingering cold which developed into Empyema. Although her initial diagnosis was dismal she championed the illness and lived some twenty-five years longer. She finished her course after attaining the age of ninety-nine and passed away peacefully in her Baldwin Avenue home where she resided for over fifty years. Her oldest and youngest daughters were holding her hands when she was called home on Friday, August 16, 2019.

Bessie leaves to cherish her memory 6 children, Laura A. Williams (Gary), Barbara Jean Herbert, Jacqueline Herbert, Mark Anthony Herbert, Rosalind Nannette Benford (Sam) and Veronica Lynn Herbert; 11 grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren; 4 great-grandchildren; a host of nieces, nephews and other relatives and friends.