

May I Go

May I go now? Do you think the time is right?

May I say goodbye to pain filled days and endless lonely nights? I've lived my life and done my best, an example tried to be. So can I take the step beyond and set my spirit free? I didn't want to go at first, I fought with all my might. But something seems to draw me now to a warm and living light. I want to go now to a warm and living light. I want to go, I really do! It's difficult to stay, but I will try as best I can to live just one more day. But I will try as best I can to live just one more day.

To give you time to care for me and share your love and fears. I know you're sad and afraid, because I see your tears, I'll not be far, I promise that, and hope you'll always know that my spirit will be close to you wherever you may go. Thank you so for loving me. You know I love you too, that's why it hard to say goodbye and end this life with you. So hold me just one more time and let me hear you say, because you care so much for me, you'll let me go today.

Susan A. Jackson

Clair was an amazing woman, touching all of whom she met with compassion, kindness and respect.

Pro: We've been blessed to know, love and have such a marvelous example.

Con: We've no excuse, not to do the same.

Interment:

Central Texas Veterans Cemetery in a Columbarium Niche with her husband, Charles Naylor located in Fort Hood, Texas

Flower Bearers

Family seated in the Congregation

Acknowledgement:

The family of the late Clair Ree Trotter Naylor acknowledges the generous acts of kindness, consideration, and sympathy expressed during this hour of bereavement.

May God bless you in a very special way, as we move forward in this life. Remember no matter what it looks like, God is always in control.

Arrangements Entrusted To:  
R. A. Prince Funeral Services  
16222 Broadway Avenue  
Maple Heights, OH 44137  
Phone: 216-518-1777 Fax: 216-518-1975  
info@raprince.com

Celebrating The Life

Of

*Clair Ree Trotter Naylor*

Sunrise: May 29, 1935

Sunset: December 26, 2022



*Saturday, January 7, 2023*

Wake: 11:30 AM

Service: 12:00 Noon

Greater Abyssinia Baptist Church

1161 East 105th Street

Cleveland, Ohio 44108-3567

Reverend Dr. E. Theophilus Caviness, Officiant

## Order of Service

Organ Prelude	Mark Thompson
Processional	The Family
Family Visitation	11:30 AM~ 12:00 PM
Selection	“Lord , I Know I’ve Been Changed” Helen Turner Thompson
Prayer	Curtis Uitenham
Scripture	Minister Old Testament Psalm 121 New Testament~ Romans 8:31-39
Reflections	( Limit to two minutes please)
Manuel Trotter Sr. (Our Mother), Stephanie Hunter (Our Family), Alvenia Uitenham & Regina Taylor ( Our Other Mother) and Patricia Aaron (We See You)	
Poem	Sharon Richardson
Selection	Mark Thompson
Acknowledgements/Resolutions	Dana Anderson
Obituary	Read Silently
Eulogy	Rev. Dr. E. Theophilus Caviness
Song	“I’ve Done My Work” Rev. Dr. E. Theophilus Caviness
Recessional	Cortege

### Repast

**Immediately following the Celebration of Life at Greater Abyssinia Baptist Church in the J. R. Plummer Dining Hall.**

## Obituary

*Clair Ree Nunn was born on May 29, 1935 to Laura “Jot” Stewart-Nunn and Fred Nunn in Kemper Springs, Mississippi. The 2nd of 12 children, serving as a second mom to her younger siblings. They didn’t do or say anything around her that wouldn’t have been said around their mother. She had that level of respect.*

*Clair attended Harris High School in Meridian, Mississippi, where she sang in the choir, completing the 11th grade. She attended night school at the Baptist Seminar to complete her education. As a child, she accepted Christ and was a member of Mount Calvary Baptist Church in Meridian, Mississippi. She would go on to be one of the youngest people in Mississippi to purchase a home at the age of 17. She married Robert Johnson (passing 1980) and from that union two daughters were born. Clair later married Irvin Trotter (passing 1997) and 5 more children were born to this union. When asked her how many children she had, she would say, “I had a girl for every day of the week and a boy for Sunday”!*

*She moved her family to Cleveland, Ohio in June of 1967, making the Glenville Community her home. Building on her experience at Imperial Dry Cleaners in Meridian, Clair took over the ownership of Armstead Dry Cleaners in 1969 and later changed the name to Trotters Dry Cleaners. Here she would flourish as an entrepreneur opening the first of five dry cleaning and tailoring locations. She would later consolidate them into one location on 114<sup>th</sup> and St. Clair Ave., where she established Cleveland’s first eco-friendly clothing care service in 2006. There she provided training and employment for fellow residents in the community and later established the Cleveland Economic Recovery Program (CERP) in 1999 for community members to develop clerical and computer skills, located in downtown Cleveland.*

*Clair could create magic with needle and thread. Beginning her career at the tender age of 7, she would sneak into her mom’s sewing area, in her bedroom and work on her mom’s projects – sometimes completing them. When her mom realized what she was doing, she formally began to teach Clair the art of sewing. Clair perfected her craft and became a marvelous seamstress and master tailor – creating, repairing, and altering clothes. Although her skills were unparalleled she was always excited to learn something new. These skills enabled her to earn a living in Meridian, as well as Cleveland -- garnering her a well-deserved and loyal following.*

*She became a community activist at a young age, when she and Irvin attended a covert voting registration meetings in Meridian, Mississippi. These covert meetings reviewed information and conducted training sessions, where she studied for the poll tests and saved money to pay the poll taxes. This courageous and dangerous behavior was met with escalating violence, which ultimately resulted in the infamous murders of three civil rights workers in Meridian. In Cleveland, she encouraged others to be active in their communities, supported by local schools and endorsing youth entrepreneurship. She joined the Police Auxiliary League in her 60’s, patrolling the community and working community events. She was the “people’s champion” and always cheered and celebrated the accomplishments of others. She believed in the power of speaking positive words and positive actions. “Let your actions speak for you, when your words can not.” Use words like “can’t”, “tired”, or “too hard” and you were in for a “good talkin’ to”.*

*Clair had a vibrant social life, becoming one of the early supporting members of the National Council of Meridianites in the late 1960s, a national reunion organization for African American transplants from Meridian, Mississippi for the City of Cleveland. She attended numerous balls, galas, and parties across the country – meeting all with charm, fashionable outfits, and a genuine interest.*

*She joined the Greater Abyssinia Baptist Church in 1971, supporting the church’s missionary and organizational efforts. She was a member of the Martha Circle and the Sanctuary Choir. Her heart was singing in The Sanctuary Choir and during one of their concerts, she performed an amazing solo. It blew the minds of her daughters (who were seated in one of the front rows) and had no idea there Mom could “get down like that”! She was a woman of faith, who started each day with her bible and prayer, sharing “The Word”, her experience and wisdom with all she met. Her preaching had a unique perspective – ask anyone who has heard her speak about “The Garden of Eden” or the 5 Types of love.*

*Clair reunited with her childhood sweetheart, Charles Naylor and married him in 2009, gaining 3 more children. They traveled the country before settling in Killeen, Texas and remained a loving couple until his death in 2015. She maintained an active Christian lifestyle in Texas, taking music lessons, line dance classes, and attending luncheons and dinners with friends and her church family.*

*She permanently returned to Cleveland in the early fall of 2021. Resuming her Cleveland life, she remained on the go – attending church, working out at the YMCA gym, attending award ceremonies, parties, political functions for Wards 9, 10, and the City of Cleveland. After 87 years of an amazing life, Clair passed peacefully in her home on December 26, 2022, with her children by her side.*

*Clair Naylor is survived by her children: Patricia (Herbert) Aaron (Cleveland, Ohio), Robert Johnson (Decatur, Georgia), Laura Trotter, Cynthia Trotter, Pamela Beavers (Cleveland, Ohio), Manuel (Vnita) Trotter (North Randall, Ohio), Antonio, Carlos and Tracy Naylor (Texas).*

*Her Siblings: Essie Ree Parker (Indianapolis, Indiana) Freddie Lee (Cullen) Curlee (Cleveland Hts., Ohio), Bettie (Jesse) Adams (East Palo Alto, California), Annie Catherine Ramsey (Maple Hts., Ohio), Henry Lee Dungy (Meridian, Miss.), Eugene Dungy (Maple Hts, Ohio), Fannie Mae Cook (Maple Hts., Ohio), Nathaniel (Shelia) Dungy (University Hts., Ohio), Gregory (Lucy) Dungy (Chandler, Arizona) and sister-in-law Doris Dungy (Maple Hts., Ohio).*

*Her grandchildren: David Johnson Jr., Darnell Johnson, Aja Aaron, Demetrius Johnson, Rasa (Greg) Drane, Daniell Johnson, Dori’Ann Johnson, Shanise Beavers, Kevin Beavers Jr., Lanise Beavers, Tenise Beavers, Lateaya (Adrian) Lewis, Manuel Trotter Jr. and Marvin Trotter, 15 great-grandchildren and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, great-nieces, great-nephews and her unbiologicals (her children of the heart).*

*Meeting her at the heavenly gates will be: Her parents, her sisters: Annette Hunter-Baker and Georgia Nell Dungy; daughters: C. Lynnette Johnson and Gwendolyn Johnson; Godfather, William Kelly and her beloved husband, Charles Naylor.*

Lovingly Submitted, The Family