

FINAL ARRANGEMENTS ENTRUSTED TO
Arrington Funeral Home
520 Cotton Avenue S.W.
Birmingham, Alabama 35211
202.786.6288

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

May God bless each of you richly for the constant prayers, the many expressions of love, and the selfless gestures that were extended. They all have brought light to this dark time in our lives. We would like to give a special thanks to Halimah Abdullah and John Irons for keeping us upright when we were at our lowest point. We would also like to thank Beverly Marable for helping us tread unfamiliar waters, when we felt like we were drowning. May God bless and keep you.

~Rachel & Ken



A Homegoing Celebration

Lucy Mae Hayes

June 19, 1940 March 8, 2015

Friday, March 13, 2015, 1:00 p.m.
New Pilgrim Baptist Church
708 Goldwire Place SW – Birmingham, Alabama 35211
Rev. Dr. James H. Brooks, Senior Pastor

A portrait of an elderly African American woman with short grey hair and glasses, wearing a plaid shirt. The background is a gradient of orange and white. The text is in various fonts, including a large cursive font for the name and a smaller sans-serif font for the dates and details.

Lucy Mae Hayes spent her last day doing her favorite thing with her favorite person: chatting with her daughter Rachel in the kitchen as the two of them whipped up a big fancy meal that they had seen on one of their favorite cooking shows. They spent hours together talking about old times and new dreams, Lucy offering her customary advice along the way. After the meal was prepared and the table was set, she sat quietly by herself proudly basking in what they had accomplished. The Lord decided that in this moment her work here was done and he called her home. She died on March 8, 2015.

She was born on June 19, 1940 in Hale County, Alabama, the daughter of the late Ossie Williams and Rosetta Jones. She was a lifelong member of New Pilgrim Baptist Church and sang in the choir. She attended Immaculata High School and went to work "over the mountain" for the Smyer family, caring for their home and three children. She lavished love and affection on the kids and the family came to care about her very deeply.

It was a time of unrest in Birmingham as the Civil Rights Movement hit its peak and forces resistant to change made life difficult for African Americans seeking equality. So the Smyers bought Lucy a car so that she didn't have to ride a segregated bus. And years later, they paid off her mortgage so that her life would be a bit easier.

Lucy loved her home and she loved the children that she raised there: Sylvester and Rachel. Sylvester was tall with a personality very much like his mother's. It made for passionate conversations. But they both loved fishing. Mother and son would often head over to the banks of the Tennessee River in Guntersville, Alabama and sit quietly side by side in the predawn chill, holding poles and looking out at the gently lapping waves. Lucy's own waters ran deep--she was married three times. But nothing ran deeper than the love she felt for her children. She took special pride in her daughter, Rachel, whose easy smile and friendly and outgoing spirit won her friends wherever she went. When Rachel came home and proudly announced that she had made the Ramsay High School basketball team, Lucy went out to the fabric store and altered the uniform to make sure that it looked just right. When Rachel wanted to go on a class trip to Europe, Lucy sold candy to raise the money to send her there. When Rachel got married, Lucy smiled the entire day -- even as she wiped away a few happy tears.

Lucy worked for more than three decades in retail, most of that time at Parisian Department Store. Loyal customers came to rely on her advice over the years on the best cut of suit or tie color to complement their complexions. Every cent she earned went back to support her family and she retired from Parisian in 2002.

Lucy enjoyed reunions, barbecues and card games with her large extended family. She was a die-hard Atlanta Braves fan and loved watching the games on television. She loved cooking huge meals and lavishing gifts on her children and their friends at Christmas. She loved these things because, at her core, Lucy was a generous woman who gave of herself and shared what she had: her friendship, her fellowship, her table, and her love.

She is preceded in death by her parents; her son, Sylvester; and her granddaughter Kairi Mollins.

She is survived by her daughter Rachel and son-in-law Kenneth Mollins; granddaughter, Nekeyah Williams; great grandchildren Kamron and Khylen Williams; and a large and loving extended family.

ORDER OF SERVICE

Friday, March 13, 2015

1:00 p.m.

Rev. Dr. James H. Brooks, Officiating

Organ Prelude

Music.....New Pilgrim Music Ministry

Scripture.....Rev. Lamar D Johnson
Associate Pastor
New Pilgrim Baptist Church

Prayer.....Rev. Jerry C. Cunningham
Associate Pastor
New Pilgrim Baptist Church

Poem.....Mr. John Irons

Music.....New Pilgrim Music Ministry

Remembrance.....Mrs. Halimah Abdullah

Eulogy.....Rev. Dr. James H. Brooks
Senior Pastor

Music.....New Pilgrim Music Ministry

Recessional