



Geraldine Perry

January 25, 1934 - October 2, 2020

On October 2nd, 2020, Geraldine completed her earthly journey and passed at her home surrounded by her family.

Geraldine was born on January 25th, 1934, in Brownsville, Tennessee, to Fred and Geneva Tyus, she was the third of 11 brothers and sisters and was the first sibling to move from the farms of Tennessee to the factories and corn fields of Decatur, Illinois. Having a love for adventure, "Geraldine loved to travel!" After leaving Tennessee at 19, she traveled to Topeka, KS, Chicago, Illinois and eventually to Wichita Falls, Texas.

At Shepard Air Force Base, Wichita Falls, Texas, Geraldine met Ernest Perry and they married on July 22nd, 1959. She continued her travels, this time traveling overseas to the Philippine Islands and Hong Kong.

Geraldine learned to bowl in the Philippines and joined the Air Force Wive's bowling league and quickly became a very good bowler and began winning individual and team trophies.

Geraldine and Ernest returned to the United States and were stationed at Lackland, AFB in San Antonio, Texas where she became one of the first African American waitresses at the Lackland AFB, Non-Commissioned Officers Club. It was also during this time that she and Ernest decided to adopt children. On a league bowling night, while bowling a perfect game, she received a call that a baby boy was needing a family. Geraldine would share with her sons later in life, that she was so excited that she never did finish the Perfect Game. On January 16th, 1965, Geraldine became "Mama," to a baby boy that she named Darius. On February 4th, 1966, Geraldine became," Mama," to a second baby boy and named him Terence. Geraldine Perry will forever be, Mama! We could not have asked God for a better mother, our mama mean's the world to us and we are forever grateful to her and all of our uncles, aunts and cousins. Mama, often said, "Love and Family go together, you cannot have one, without the other."

Geraldine returned to Decatur, Illinois in 1969 where she was employed by Caterpillar Tractor Company for nearly 30 years. Over the years, she was a strong advocate for her community and was recognized by the Coalition of Neighborhood Organizations, as an Outstanding Volunteer in 2000. Geraldine was also a dedicated and faithful member of Trinity CME for over 45 years.

Geraldine was diagnosed with Pancreatic Cancer in December 2019 and shared with her friends and family that she was on her final journey and that she lived a good life for 86 years. As the illness progressed, she continued to share that she is content with however many days the Lord allows her to walk on this earth.

Geraldine is survived by her sons, Darius and Terence Perry, granddaughter's Darice Perry, Leticia Santiago, Whitney Perry, grandson's D'Anthony Lardge, Darius M. Perry, and Raul Ontiveros, great granddaughters Amari Santiago, Serina Delgado, Aliayah Perry, great grandson's Jayden Perry, Zayen Perry, Isaiah Santiago, Kayden Perry, and Carter Lardge. Also surviving Geraldine are; Fred Tyus (Virginia Tyus), Ardelia Jelks (Deceased Paul Jelks), John Tyus, Hildred Tyus (Jessie Tyus), Jerome Tyus (Gloria Tyus), Celeste Rucker, and Edna Mae Wilder (Gene Autry Wilder). Geraldine also has 32 nieces and nephews their children. Her father (Fred Tyus) and Mother (Geneva Evans), brothers, (William Tyus) and (Curt Tyus), preceded her in death.

Homegoing services to celebrate Geraldine's life will be held at 12noon on Thursday, October 8, 2020 at Graceland/Fairlawn Funeral Home, Decatur. Visitation will be one hour prior to her homegoing services at the funeral home. Geraldine's Earthly remains will be entombed at Star of Hope Mausoleum, Graceland Cemetery. CDC guidelines will be followed, and masks will be required for those in attendance. To view a live stream of the service, please copy and paste the following link into your web browser: <http://webcast.funeralvue.com/events/viewer/38114>.

The family of Geraldine Perry has entrusted Graceland/Fairlawn Funeral Home, Decatur, IL with her funeral arrangements. Please view her obituary, and share memories and condolences at <http://www.gracelandfairlawn.com>

Cemetery

Graceland Cemetery Star of Hope Mausoleum

2091 N. Oakland Ave.

Decatur, IL, 62526

Events

OCT 8 Homegoing Celebration Service 12:00AM

Graceland/Fairlawn Funeral Home
2091 N. Oakland Ave., Decatur, IL, US,
62526

OCT 8 Visitation 11:00AM - 12:00PM

Graceland/Fairlawn Funeral Home
2091 N. Oakland Ave., Decatur, IL, US,
62526

Comments



“ Will miss her smile

Charlie - October 08, 2020 at 09:36 AM



“ Fun Lady! Always had a smile! It was always a pleasure to be around Geraldine, whether at work or seeing her shopping after our retirements. From my perspective, Geraldine's life exuded the joy of the Lord.

Don Hood - October 07, 2020 at 02:08 PM



“ I really got to know Geraldine Perry in 1985 with the start of SIA, Southside Improvement Association. She attended the first meeting and established as one of our founding members. She was affectionately known to us "Mother Geraldine Perry". She was faithful member of SIA. She attended and participated in all our events. If you needed flyers distributed, you could depend on Mother Perry. She got her church, Trinity CME involved in SIA as well as her neighbors. She was an advocate for community involvement. Mother Perry walked the neighborhood with other members to fight crime. Many yard or porch sits were held on her property. She was bold and fearless. Mother Perry has a SIA trash barrel in her yard yo keep the neighborhood clean for over 30 years.

These are just a few words about Mother Perry. She will be missed dearly.

On behalf of Southside Improvement Association, we extend out deepest sympathy to Mother Geraldine Perry's family. We love her but God loves her more.

Kathy Williams
Founder SIA

Kathy Williams - October 07, 2020 at 01:34 PM



“ Geraldine was a wonderful lady, always had a smile on her face. Was a pleasure to know her. God Bless

Karen Davis - October 06, 2020 at 09:03 PM



“ Terence and Family,

I am truly sorry for the loss of your beloved mother. Please accept my condolences and heartfelt prayers for you and your family during this difficult time. May God give her eternal rest and the family the strength to bear the great pain.

As per Matthew 5:4 - "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted"

Michaela Millan

Michaela A. Millan - October 06, 2020 at 12:26 PM



“ Mama P,

I never had the opportunity to meet you in person but I have been blessed to witness the positive upbringings of Terence over the years from the life lessons you have instilled in him to make him the man he is today. May you now be at ease and rest in peace.

-Johnny

Johnny Simon - October 06, 2020 at 08:43 AM



“ Mrs Perry was always joyful. When you greeted her, she always had a smile. She enjoyed giving the little kids treats and my grandson enjoyed them each and every time. I will miss looking across the church and seeing her face and the conversations that we shared. She was loved. May God bless and keep her family.

Priscilla Palmer



Priscilla Palmer - October 06, 2020 at 08:16 AM



“ Thank you for always loving me, and treating me like your daughter. You'll forever be in my heart, until we meet again Mama.

Laura Stickle - October 05, 2020 at 08:02 PM



“ Our FROG WARS may have ended...but will NEVER be forgotten. From Childhood to Adulthood...you have ALWAYS been there for me...and sometimes BEFORE ME...even though it was MY appointment. LOL!! I LOVE YOU AUNT GERALD!!! You will be with me ALWAYS!!!!

Eric Wilder - October 05, 2020 at 10:45 AM



“ A beautiful person got her wings. we will always remember her smile and laughter. praying for strength. grace. and mercy to the family. we all love. Feel.

Claudell Todd - October 06, 2020 at 04:39 PM



“ Oh! How we loved you. God Bless your soul.



Sherley Tyus - October 04, 2020 at 02:17 PM