



## Bernice R Byrd

November 14, 1931 - November 15, 2020

Bernice Rebecca (Diggs) Byrd was born at 1112 North Carey Street, Baltimore, Maryland to her parents Joseph and Alice Diggs in the years 1931. She was educated in the Baltimore public school system. As a little girl, she had suffered from rheumatic fever that affected her heart. However, for about a year, under the loving care of her dad (who would always carry her back and forth to the bathroom, and up and down the stairs to her mom before heading off to work) and her mom (who attended to her every need) helped her to overcome that disease. She was known by her parents and siblings as a mature minded and reliable person for her young age. She was recognized by her family as a dependable person that gets things done. As a teenager, she had occasionally gone with her older sisters to dances at the neighborhood YMCA. Bernice met her future husband Joseph Isaac Byrd Sr there at a dance. He saw her from across the room and became infatuated by her charm and beauty. Eventually, he approached her and ask her for a dance. Bernice was shocked that Joseph phoned her the very next day, considering she never gives out her actual address and phone number to people she barely knew. However, after speaking with him, she had a change of heart. After an extended courtship, he had asked for her hand in marriage, to which she had consented. From their union of 56 years, came seven children: Joseph Jr., Barbara (who had passed away months into her infancy), Lawrence, Quonzeles, Lenora, Karl, and Sondra; and a host of grand-and great grandchildren. Bernice and Joseph were among the first black families to have moved into the Jewish community of Forest Park/Liberty Heights area.

Bernice, who out lived many of her siblings, stood her her parents (whose union lasted for 56 years). Bernice's nature is that of comforter, caregiver and nurturer. She was with her dad during his battle with cancer until age 83, and her mother, who later passed quietly in her sleep at 96. She deeply loved and cared for both her mother Alice Diggs and mother-in-law, "Mama" Ellen Byrd. Mama Byrd lived with Bernice and Joseph for many years and helped them raise their children. When Mama Byrd had a stroke at the kitchen table, Bernice immediately flew into action to help Mama Byrd fully recover. This care giving continued for many years until Mama Byrd peacefully passed away in her sleep after a hardy breakfast at the age of 97.

Bernice's nurturing extended beyond her family. For years, she provided comfort and support for two of her best friends, Barbara Thomas, who lived down the street from her, and Gloria Grandison, who lived up the street from her. When Barbara was diagnosed twice with cancer, Bernice helped her to fight through it. She always offered Barbara encouragement, support and prepared her meals. Bernice and Gloria were members of the same church, Manna Bible Baptist Church, and became close friends. Bernice drove Gloria to church every Sunday and to other church activities. Again, Bernice found herself in a supportive role standing by another friend, who was dying from the same horrible disease, Cancer.

Bernice was a volunteer at the church's community outreach center and food pantry and was adored by her church and everyone-else, who had met her. Bernice served God with all her heart and lived for her family. She enjoyed gardening, sewing, painting, drawing and cooking. Her mind was sharp and creative. Her hands were very skillful and productive. She was a strong, beautiful, compassionate and loving child of God. Words of the heart would never be enough to describe her.

# Events

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**DEC**   **Viewing**      02:00PM - 04:00PM

**1**

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March Funeral Homes - West Baltimore  
4300 Wabash Avenue, Baltimore, MD, US, 21215

**DEC**   **Wake**      11:00AM - 11:30AM

**2**

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March Funeral Homes - West Baltimore  
4300 Wabash Avenue, Baltimore, MD, US, 21215

**DEC**   **Service**      11:30AM

**2**

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March Funeral Homes - West Baltimore  
4300 Wabash Avenue, Baltimore, MD, US, 21215

# Comments

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“ To View the Webcast of the Funeral for Bernice R Byrd, Please Click the Link below.



March Funeral Homes - November 24, 2020 at 09:41 AM

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“ DEAR FAMILY,

YOU HAVE OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY.

MAY GOD BE WITH YOU AND HOLD YOU NEAR.

IN HIS LOVE THAT SURROUNDS YOU, MAY YOU FIND STRENGTH.

IN THE MEMORIES YOU CHERISH, MAY YOU FIND PEACE.

AND MAY YOU FIND COMFORT IN KNOWING YOUR KIND AND GENTLE MOM  
NOW RESTS IN THE BOSOM OF THE LORD.

AS OUR LIVES' JOURNEY FINDS US IN UNFAMILIAR PLACES, MAY WE NEVER  
LOSE FAITH IN GOD'S GOODNESS AND GRACE.

BOBBY & BARBARA BYRD

RJ Byrd - November 30, 2020 at 11:49 AM

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“ We the March Family and Staff wish to extend our deepest and heartfelt sympathy in the passing of your loved one. Our prayers go out to you and your family in your time of loss. We know and understand that you have received many expressions of love and we will continue to lift you up in prayer. May the memories you cherish of brighter and happier days help to ease your sorrow and comfort you always.

March Funeral Homes - November 21, 2020 at 09:55 AM