



Bessie Mae Joyner

February 2, 1916 - May 31, 2003

Bessie Mae Joyner, daughter of the late Emma Wright Joyner and William Joyner, was born on February 2, 1916 in Sharpsburg, North Carolina. On May 31, 2003, Bessie departed this life after a lengthy illness. Bessie attended the public schools of Rocky Mount, N.C. and graduated from Booker T. Washington High School. After graduation she became a licensed cosmetologist and worked in that profession for several years. In 1943 she enlisted in the U.S. Army and served for two years. While in the U.S. Army, she earned three medals, American Theatre Service Medal, Good Conduct Medal, and World War II Victory Medal. After her tour duty in the military, she moved to Maryland and attended Cortez Peters Business School while continuing to work as a cosmetologist. She was later employed by the U.S. Government where she worked for 38 years, retiring in 1990. Bessie was married to the late Herbert Whitaker, Sr. and from this union three children were born: Herbert, Carlston, and Donnell. Bessie accepted Christ at an early age and was a member of St. Johns AME Zion Church of Rocky Mount, N.C. for many years. Bessie became a member of Morning Star Baptist Church. She was a member of many church organizations including the Senior Choir, Gospel Choir, Senior Ushers, Theatron Players, Hospitality Committee, Birthday Circle, and Pearls of Wisdom Ministry. She enrolled in Discipleship Ministry but due to illness she could not continue in that ministry. Bessie loved her family, her church and her pastor. She made numerous friends at church, work and in the community. She leaves to mourn: three son, Hebert Whitaker,

Carlston Whitaker, and Donnell Whitaker; one daughter-in-law, Dara Mills; one sister-in-law, Martha Ann Joyner; two grandsons, Sean Whitaker and Devin Mills; one granddaughter, Terri Love; one grandson-in-law, Dameon Love; two great-granddaughters, Gabrielle and Aaliyah Love; and a host of other relatives and friends.

Tribute Wall



“ *Bessie Mae Joyner*

March 25, 2023 at 10:25 AM



“ *Bessie Mae Joyner*

October 13, 2022 at 08:33 AM



“ *We are sorry to hear of the death of your mother. Our prayers and thoughts are with you during this difficult time. The Dempseys from Raleigh, NC##imported-begin##Rev. Dr. & Mrs. Joseph P. Dempsey##imported-end##*

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM