



Eddie Mae Fentress

February 29, 1928 - March 3, 2015

EDDIE MAE FENTRESS, a native of Birmingham, Alabama, was born February 29, 1928, to the late Lessie Mae Scott and Mack Scott. She began her education in Birmingham and continued it in Baltimore, Maryland. A studious individual even early in her life, she sought out learning and enrichment throughout her years.

She accepted Christ at an early age and was first baptized at the Ebenezer Baptist Church in East Baltimore, by the late Reverend Jordan, and attended the church for many years. In 1957, she embraced her faith anew and became a member of St. Ann's Catholic Church where she served faithfully until she received the call to her reward.

Eddie Mae was united in holy matrimony to Melvin Randolph Fentress for 50 years. They were blessed by God with five birth children, Elaine, Theresa, Yvonne, Deborah, and Melvin. She and Melvin were also foster parents for 31 years and welcomed into their home over 30 foster children. As a full-time mother and homemaker, she was an intensely active community volunteer.

As a committed foster parent, she volunteered her time to the Department of Human Resources to recruit other foster parents; assisting the Department of Social Services, she also trained current and new foster parents.

Always an advocate for children and a champion for education, she initially served as a parent volunteer in her children's neighborhood elementary school and shortly after was elected as P.T.A. President. Rallying the support of other parents and community colleagues, she played a pivotal role in petitioning for solutions for their overcrowded school. Her passion was recognized by others, including Maryland State Educators. She was tapped to be a part of early local leadership in the Chapter 1 national program that mandated greater collaboration and interaction among educators in the schools, parents and the entire community, eventually serving as the Chapter 1 Parent Liaison Representative for School #39. She also became a member of the Maryland State Advisory Council and was a Region III Representative, working with other community leaders from the Maryland, Washington, D.C., Virginia, West Virginia, Delaware and the Pittsburgh areas.

Hers was a life of service to children and education, to her church and to her community. A born leader, a woman of strong inner courage and conviction, and a grassroots organizer unintimidated by position or power -- throughout her life, she was sought for her natural wisdom, her empathy, her compassion, and her generosity. She approached every new task by rolling up her sleeves and tackling it first at the hands-on level. However, she always looked for ways to reach beyond the immediate and seek improvement, always to help someone else. While she enjoyed the personal experiences of tutoring children with reading and mathematics difficulties, she would eventually rise to administer the Summer School tutorial programs. She also supported her own children's growth and participation in the Girl Scouts of America, and continued her involvement for 25 years. Committed to her community, she served as a Baltimore City Board of Elections precinct judge for 20 years, and was a member of the East Baltimore Midway Association. She also served on the

Cardinal Sheen Scholarship Board for the Archdiocese of Maryland. She saw herself as a teacher, a doer, even as a disciplinarian, but always a lover of people.

For her untiring efforts, she was recognized by many of the organizations she served. Two awards of which she was particularly proud were being named as Foster Parents of the Year by Mayor William Donald Schaefer; and in 2008, the People's Homesteading Group, Inc., Civic Works, and the East Baltimore Midway Community, dedicated a special green space in her East Baltimore neighborhood, across the street from her home of over 60 years, as the Eddie Mae Fentress' Garden.

She departed this life on March 3, 2015, after a gallant four-year battle with dementia.

She leaves to mourn: her daughters, Elaine Cousin, Theresa Bryant, Yvonne Fentress, and Deborah Fentress; two sons-in-law, Joshua Cousin and Max Bryant; two grandsons, Geoffrey Bryant and Brian Cousin; a granddaughter-in-law, Julie Conason; a great-grandson Alexander; many of her foster children, a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends. Her husband, Melvin, died in 1998; her son, also Melvin, died in 2012.

She was loved and will be remembered by so many.

I'm Free

Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free,

I'm following the path God laid for me.

I took His hand when I heard Him call,

I turned my back and left it all.

I could not stay another day,

To laugh, to love, to work or play;

Tasks left undone must stay that way,
I found that place at the close of day.
If my parting has left a void,
Then fill it with remembered joy.
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss,
Ah, yes, these things I too will miss.
Be not burdened with times of sorrow,
I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow.
My life's been full, I savored much,
Good friends, good times, a loved one's touch.
Perhaps my time seemed all too brief,
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief.
Lift up your heart and share with me,
God wanted me now, He set me free

Previous Events

Public Viewing

MAR 12. 8:30 AM - 8:00 PM (ET)

March Funeral Homes - East Baltimore
1101 East North Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21202
(410) 727-3300
info@marchfh.com

Family Hour

MAR 12. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

March Funeral Homes - East Baltimore
1101 East North Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21202
(410) 727-3300
info@marchfh.com

Wake

MAR 13. 10:00 AM - 10:30 AM (ET)

St. Ann's Catholic Church
528 E. 22nd St.
Baltimore, MD 21218

Service

MAR 13. 10:30 AM (ET)

St. Ann's Catholic Church
528 E. 22nd St.
Baltimore, MD 21218

Tribute Wall



“ *Eddie Mae Fentress*

October 13, 2022 at 08:33 AM



“ *Mommy i thank you and daddy for opening your heart and allowing me to be apart of your family, thank u for your kindness ,i have and will always hold you dear to my heart...R.i.p.Mommy and daddy. .. (Christine)..*



christine - November 04, 2015 at 10:03 AM



Thank You and daddy fentress for being a foster parent..

christine - November 04, 2015 at 10:05 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Eddie Mae Fentress.*



March 09, 2015 at 10:19 PM



“ *Karen Stakem Hornig purchased the Blooming Garden Basket for the family of Eddie Mae Fentress.*



Karen Stakem Hornig - March 09, 2015 at 11:29 AM

SB

“ I am extremely sorry for your loss. I can not imagine the pain you have had to endure. May the God of comfort be with you now and in times to come. God's Word the bible promises the hope of seeing our dead loved ones again. That promise is at John 28,29 and also at Revelations 21: 3,4

Shane Briscoe - March 07, 2015 at 11:59 AM

AN

“ My condolences to The Family of Eddie Mae Fentress....The Bible states "Do not be amazed at this, for the hour is coming in which all those in the memorial tombs will hear his voice and come out." I hope the scripture bring your family comfort.

Annitta - March 06, 2015 at 03:54 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Eddie Mae Fentress.



March 06, 2015 at 08:26 AM

BN

“ A Blessed Woman My deepest sympathy

Brenda Nichols - March 05, 2015 at 07:40 AM

DA

“ I am so sorry for your loss . May the fond memories shared be a source of comfort doing this time of grief and pain . John 5 : 21,28,29

Delores Allen - March 05, 2015 at 07:01 AM

MI

“ I'm sorry for your loss. May the family find comfort knowing that God promises to "wipe away tears from our eyes and death will be no more, neither mourning nor outcry nor pain be anymore." Rev. 21:3,4
Please accept my condolences.

Michael - March 05, 2015 at 06:40 AM

MF

“ Our condolences to The Fentress Family. May you find peace and comfort from Jehovah God's Word The Bible where He assures us that "death will be brought to nothing". Our prayers are with your family.

MJ & Family - March 04, 2015 at 06:24 PM



“ 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 - March 04, 2015 at 01:57 PM