



Erner Virginia Mason Gilliam

September 29, 1919 - June 25, 2016

The Legacy of Mrs. Erner Virginia Mason Gilliam

“To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven.” Ecclesiastes 3:1

Mrs. Erner Virginia Mason Gilliam went from labor to reward after an extended illness on Saturday, June 25, 2016, at the Hopewell Healthcare Center, Hopewell, VA. The life of a great woman began September 29, 1919, in Chesterfield, Virginia, the youngest of five children entered the world to the late William Thomas and Augusta Boisseau Mason.

Erner attended D. Webster Davis High School, Chesterfield, Virginia. She accepted Christ at an early age and became a faithful member of Union Branch Baptist Church, Chesterfield, Virginia.

She served for many years as treasurer and member of the Missionary Ministry, member of the Senior Choir, Senior Ushers Ministry, Pastor’s Aide Ministry, Senior’s Ministry, and a member of the District Rural Convention. In 2004, Erner was recognized for her perseverance and faithfulness to God and to Union Branch Baptist Church under the pastorate of Rev. David L. Chapman and was the oldest living member of the church. Erner was

presented the 1992 Finer Womenhood Community Pearl Award on March 21, 1992 by the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., The Alpha Omega Zeta Chapter.

On July 24, 1940, Erner married the love of her life, Herbert F. Gilliam, Sr. Together they celebrated 62 years of marriage until Herbert transitioned in 2002. Erner and Herbert's union was blessed with ten children; two daughters and eight sons. She was an immaculate homemaker. You always could find her singing her favorite hymns of the church while preparing meals or doing laundry.

Erner stayed home raising her children until all ten became of school age and later became employed in the housekeeping department of Virginia State College (University) and Petersburg General (Southside Regional Hospital).

In addition to her husband, Erner was preceded in death by her sons, Eugene D. Gilliam, Sr. and Winston B. Gilliam; grandson, Luther Gilliam, great granddaughters, Zariah Harris and Autumn Cook-Robinson; great-grandson, Montel Pugh, Jr.; great-great grandson, Nehemiah Gilliam; brothers, Welton, Lawrence and Vandy B. Mason; and her sister, Goldie Mason-Lewis-Gilliam-Parham.

Erner leaves to cherish her memory and celebrate her legacy, eight children: Herbert F. (Clarissa) Gilliam, Jr. of Newport News, VA; William R. (Joanne) Gilliam, Sr. of North Chesterfield, VA; Erna G. Robinson of Chesterfield VA; Calvin F. (Diane) Gilliam, Sr. of Macon, GA; Lester R. (Pamela) Gilliam of Manassas, VA; Gwendolyn G. Cofield of Dalzell, SC; Melvin L. (Robin) Gilliam of Chester, VA and Marvin L. (Patricia) Gilliam, Sr. of South Chesterfield, VA; two daughters-in-love, Arletha B. Gilliam of South Chesterfield, VA and Julia C. Gilliam of Chesterfield, VA; thirty grandchildren, fifty-nine great-grandchildren, and eight great-great-grandchildren; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives and friends.

Cemetery Details

Union Branch Baptist Church Cemetery

11519 River Road
Chesterfield, VA 23838

Previous Events

viewing

JUL 1. 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

March Funeral Home-Laburnum Chapel
Richmond, VA 23222

viewing

JUL 1. 3:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Union Branch Baptist Church
11519 River Road
Chesterfield, VA 23138

Family Hour

JUL 1. 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Union Branch Baptist Church
11519 River Road
Chesterfield, VA 23138

Service

JUL 2. 1:00 PM (ET)

Union Branch Baptist Church
11519 River Road
Chesterfield, VA 23138

Tribute Wall



“ *Erner Virginia Mason Gilliam*

October 13, 2022 at 08:33 AM



“ *My deepest sympathy is extended to Pastor Marvin Gilliam and his family. Just remember Psalms 30:5. Weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning.*

Lamonte Fields - July 02, 2016 at 11:13 AM



“ *Prayers for you Ericka, Holly and the family. May you remember all the love and wisdom she shared with you and may you take those golden moments and make the world a better place. Continue to make her proud!*

*Love,
Atosha McLean*

Atosha McLean - July 01, 2016 at 08:45 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Erner Virginia Mason Gilliam.*



July 01, 2016 at 08:24 AM

JW

“ Janet Wynn purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Erner Virginia Mason Gilliam.



Janet Wynn - July 01, 2016 at 07:01 AM

EJ

“ Eva Jackson lit a candle in memory of Erner Virginia Mason Gilliam



Eva Jackson - July 01, 2016 at 01:36 AM

BL

“ The greatest sense of peace is in The Father's arms. May God comfort and keep you in the days to come. What a great family Mrs. Gilliam helped to create! The epitome of matriarch. God has truly shined on her, and the Gilliam family. Love you all



Brandi Lancaster & Family

Brandi Lancaster - June 30, 2016 at 09:17 PM

KC

To be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord! She is safe in the arms of Jesus and resting in heaven. Prayers and sympathy to my uncle Jim and Aunt Claire and the entire Gilliam family ! Evangelist Kim Chapman and Edward Chapman and family

kim chapman - July 01, 2016 at 09:08 AM

KT

Marvin and Patricia, we are continuing to pray for you and your family. May you know overwhelming joy as the Lord gives you dreams and visions of Mrs. Gilliam in the presence of our Lord Jesus. We are rejoicing with you and we are mourning your loss. God is your Helper and your ever present comfort - may you experience Him tangibly in the quiet moments when her loss is poignant. Her legacy is clear...we have great honor for you and your family. Keith and your FamilyLife brothers and sisters

Keith Tully - July 07, 2016 at 04:44 PM

BL

“ *The greatest sense of peace is in The Father's arms. May you all rest in his care, as he comforts and leads you. What a great family tree Mrs. Gilliam helped to create. The epitome of a Matriarch! God has truly shined on her, and the Gilliam family. Love you all! God bless*



Brandi Lancaster & Family

Brandi Lancaster - June 30, 2016 at 09:12 PM

SC

“ *Staff of Oak Grove Baptist Church. purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Erner Virginia Mason Gilliam.*



Staff of Oak Grove Baptist Church. - June 30, 2016 at 10:13 AM

TK

“ *Teddy Sauls, Damian, Dylan, Theda, Norman & Katie purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Erner Virginia Mason Gilliam.*



Teddy Sauls, Damian, Dylan, Theda, Norman & Katie - June 30, 2016 at 09:59 AM

AA

“ *I wish to express my sincere condolences to Marvin and the entire Gilliam family at this difficult time. May God offer you comfort and peace, for He shall wipe away all tears. Alvin M. Adams,CFSP*



Alvin M Adams,CFSP - June 29, 2016 at 09:38 AM

TW

On behalf of my husband and myself, I extend our heartfelt sympathy to the Mason/Gilliam families. We are praying for your strength and perseverance today and in the days ahead. Know that we care and are here if we can help in any way. God bless you all.

Thomas & Patricia Williams - June 29, 2016 at 11:18 AM

JF

To Herbert "Uncle Jim" Gilliam and Family

We were sorry to hear of the passing of your beloved mother. We would like to express our sympathy to you, Aunt Clarissa and all that grieve her passing.

Mrs. Gilliam is resting in the hands of our Lord and Savior. She has finished her course and undoubtedly her legacy will live on through each of you.

Your family was blessed with the longevity of her lifespan. We sincerely hope that your faith and loving members of your mom moves each of you through this difficult time.

The Gilliam family remain in our thoughts and prayers.

We extend our love to each of you.

Bubba, Shirley, your nieces, nephews and the entire Usher Family

James Usher & Family - June 29, 2016 at 04:32 PM

CJ

May God bless and keep each of doing this difficult time. Clifton Jefferson Macon Ga

Clifton Jefferson - July 04, 2016 at 07:07 AM

TG

“ I remember when grandma was cooking in the kitchen. The night before she had a serious spread on the table. She had it set up buffet style. There were so many of us there. From daddy, mama, sister, brothers, aunts, uncles, cousins and friends. On the table there was so much food. I piled my plate high. There was this small pot of meat on the table with tomatoes, onions and potatoes arranged around it. I remember licking my fingers after eating it. Needless to say the meat was great and we had a ball. The next morning grandma was in the kitchen cooking again. I said morning grandma, how you feeling? She responded like she always did, "I'm feelin fine suga, how you"? I told her I was fine. I asked what she was doing. She told me "cooking dinner." I was excited. I asked if she was cooking "that meat" she had the night before. She told me "yes". I said where is it grandma? I asked this because she had so much food around. On the table, stove, etc.. She said it's over there, suga. I started looking in the oven, on the table, etc., Then I looked in a pot that was on the stove, and there it was. Some type of "meat" in the pot. I asked, with a startled look, Grandma what's that? She said with a chuckle, the meat you was eating yesterday. I almost had a fit. To this day I don't know what I was eating. If I don't ever remember anything, I will always remember my grandma and that one particular day. I love you grandma. Miss you lots.

Pebbles

Therissa Gilliam-Ward - June 28, 2016 at 10:52 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 - June 28, 2016 at 01:36 PM