



Deaconess Gertrude Althea Tanner

September 18, 1926 - April 2, 2020

A Life Well-Lived

Deaconess Gertrude Althea Tanner, 93, of Richmond, peacefully departed this life on April 2, 2020. She was born in Mecklenburg County, South Hill, Virginia on September 18, 1926, the fourth of eleven children, to the late Sandy Harris and Lula Mise Harris. She was preceded in death by her husband, Herman Tanner, eight of her siblings, and one great-grand daughter.

Gertrude offered lifelong gestures of love and devotion to her family. As a young woman she was always there to help her parents with her younger siblings until 1946; she then met her husband Herman, as they soon after moved to Richmond, where they always welcomed any family member into their home with their two young daughters. Gertrude truly knew the meaning of family commitment; assuming the care of her mother, father and some of her siblings in their later years until their death.

As a young woman, Gertrude tirelessly worked to take care of her family by working at Lee Medical Building, as an elevator operator during the day, and at Reynolds Metal Company at night, where she retired after 26 years of service. After retirement she joyfully began to volunteer, first at the Hanover Adult Daycare in Mechanicsville, and later at Henrico Doctor's Hospital. She always gave her time and resources wherever and whenever she could. She

never stopped helping and doing for others, a trait she innately passed on to her daughters.

Gertrude was a beloved grandmother that thoroughly enjoyed time with her grandchildren. The sight of any one of them would light up her life and make her smile. She also enjoyed traveling with her family and friends, always enjoying new experiences in different places.

Gertrude gave her life to the Lord at an early age at the Bethel Grove, A.M.E Church in La Crosse, Virginia. Later in life, she and her husband joined Madison Temple A.M.E. Zion Church in Richmond, Virginia, where she became a life council member of the A.M. E. Zion Church. She served as a deaconess and choir member. In 2000, she joined Standing on the Promises of God, Non-denominational Church, in Louisa County, Virginia under the pastoring of her son-in-law, Reverend Larry Holt Sr., serving as a Deaconess until her passing.

She leaves to cherish her memory, sister, Verbena Harris and brother, Thomas Harris, both of Baltimore, Maryland; two daughters, LaVerna Massey (Tony) of Baltimore, MD and Shanor Holt (Larry Sr.), of Mechanicsville, Virginia; ten grandchildren, Antoni Boston (Natasha), Tamie Williamson, Alecia Dixon-Bey, Mark Hunter (Jodi), Brian Hunter, Eric Hunter (Erika), Gary Coles (Jackie), Larry Jr., Cher Dobson and Shuntece Mugo; twenty-one great-grandchildren, ten great-great grandchildren and a host of loving nieces, nephews, family members, church members and caretakers, among them the 4th Wing Nursing staff of Westport Rehabilitation and InnovAge PACE.

Gertrude, our Mother, Grandmother, Sister, Aunt, Cousin, Friend, you have left us with many memories to be cherished. We are so grateful for the time we have had with you. Until we meet again!

Obituary

Cemetery Details

Glendale National Cemetery

8301 Willis Church Road
Henrico, VA 23231

Tribute Wall



“ *To View the Webcast of the Funeral for Gertrude Althea Tanner, Please Click the Link below.*



March Funeral Homes - April 04, 2020 at 06:21 PM



“ *Deaconess Gertrude Althea Tanner*

October 13, 2022 at 08:33 AM



“ *A Journey Remembered: As some journey through life, they leave footprints of Kindness and love, courage and compassion, humor and inspiration. joy and faith. That's what I thought about your Mom Love you all. Adelaide Snider*

Adelaide Snider - April 08, 2020 at 11:45 AM

GJ

“ *Shanor, LaVerna and family*
We thank God for the life of your mother. We always loved seeing her with the family at the home of my brother and sister-in-law whom we called Brother (Elbert) and Cat (Arnetta) Those many times are still happy memories. Thank God for her long enjoyable life and the impact that she had on all who knew her. In the days to come know that God will comfort you and ease the grief or distress you may experience; however, know that weeping may endure for the night but joy comes in the morning. By the LOVE of God and Prayers he will see you through,

God LOVES YOU, we LOVE you and we always will
Sincerely
Elders George & Gloria Thomas, Jr.

George/Gloria Thomas, Jr. - April 07, 2020 at 08:01 PM

JW

“ *It's sad to think you've lost your mom. Though we can't know all you are going through we want to let you know we care and hope that loving memories of all you shared will help to comfort you.*

Jan & Woody Woodson
AHS, "64" classmates
Silver Spring, Maryland

Jannifer Woodson - April 07, 2020 at 11:11 AM

SP

“ *We wish to extend our deepest and heartfelt sympathy in the passing of your Mother. Our prayers go out to you and your family in your time of loss. Praying with you, praying for you that the God of all comfort will surround with His strength and fill you with joy.*
William and Shelia Price and family, Madison Temple AME Zion Church.

Shelia Price - April 06, 2020 at 05:19 PM

SP

“ *Shelia Price lit a candle in memory of Deaconess Gertrude Althea Tanner*



Shelia Price - April 06, 2020 at 05:14 PM

LH

“ *She love her coffee in the morning kept those nails, make-up done. Shanor loved her mom, she went everyday to see her . Lurl*

Lurlene Hicks - April 06, 2020 at 08:04 AM

LU

“ *Lurlene purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Deaconess Gertrude Althea Tanner.*



Lurlene - April 05, 2020 at 08:34 PM

VB

“ *A joy and blessing to have known Mrs. Tanner. A beautiful lady inside and outside, always a radiant smile and a kind word to say. A heavenly star to shine eternally. May God continue to bless your family with fond memories of Mrs. Tanner.*

Vickie L Bullock - April 05, 2020 at 07:05 PM

DT

“ Mrs. Tanner was my Mother's roommate at Westport Nursing Home, she was such a wonderful women, always a smile full of cheer , such a blessing for my Mom...We are saddened by her passing.

Debra Kannard Taylor - April 04, 2020 at 04:53 PM

DD

“ I will always remember her sweet Spirit, and her welcoming smile. Sending my condolences to my life long friends and cousins. God is Love and I love you too. Thanking God for the journey of so many good memories!

Doris Dungee - April 04, 2020 at 01:17 PM

PE

“ I keep thinking of the times we spent together traveling and when I picked her up from daycare. She was a joy. Kept me laughing especially with that red lipstick. Love you Ms. Tanner!

Peggy - April 04, 2020 at 11:57 AM



“ 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 - April 03, 2020 at 05:19 PM

JJ

Have beautiful memories working at Reynolds with Gertrude have my sympathy Jean Jackson

Jean Jackson - April 08, 2020 at 10:00 AM