



## Gloria S. McCleary

June 5, 1937 - June 23, 2017

GLORIA SYLVIA McCLEARY, at age 80, passed away peacefully in her home on June 23, 2017, to be at home with our Lord and Savior in glory. Gloria was born to the late Hyland Railey and Marjorie Hawkins-Railey on June 5, 1937 at University Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland. She was the oldest girl of nine siblings.

She completed high school at Carver Vocational Technical High School and received a diploma in tailoring and designing in June 1956. While at Carver, she loved and played basketball, joined the Vagabonds, and her favorite saying was: "Give me anything eatable," she does confess, does that account for her slight plumpness? Immediately following graduation, she married David George

McCleary, and they moved to San Antonio Texas, where they gave birth to their first child, Byron George (deceased Nov. 2006). Shortly thereafter, the family moved back to Baltimore to continue their life together. She opened a tailoring business at 2119 Pennsylvania Avenue which she managed for over ten years. While working, Gloria and David began to expand their family with the birth of Gisele (Oct. 1958) and Wanda (Dec. 1960); then later moved into their new home at 5442 Lynview Avenue where she resided for over 48 years.

In 1969, Gloria began to work as a Teacher's Aide with the Baltimore City

Public Schools and for her excellent and dedicated service, she was one of a selected few, among hundreds of applicants, to be awarded a full scholarship in 1971 to pursue a Bachelor's degree in education. She worked as an educator in Baltimore City Public School System for over 32 years, retiring from her high school alma mater, in June 2004. She also worked as an evening teacher at Baltimore City Jail, educating and helping many inmates to receive their GED for over ten years. As a home economics teacher, Gloria cooked and catered for many dignitaries and city officials including the first African American Mayor of Baltimore City, Kurt Smoke. While working at Carver, Gloria and her students received many awards (DECA) for their cooking and hospitality. Not only did Gloria teach culinary arts, she taught the art of tailoring and was especially fond of helping her students prepare for their senior prom which she attended each year as a chaperone. Gloria was known as a world traveler visiting various places with her daughters including Europe (Germany, France, Belgium, and Netherlands), South Korea, Alabama, Virginia, Florida, Texas, the Caribbean Islands and New York. She loved wearing hats and was considered the 'Hat Lady'. She especially loved wearing her Stetson from Texas and every hat she wore was from a different country or state. She loved to cook and especially enjoyed large family gatherings in her home or Virginia where she had large holiday meals. She joined Koinonia Baptist Church in March 2001 and served as President of the Elder's Choir in 2007; member of the Women's Choir; and President of the Ushers' Ministry. She also volunteered in the after-school program Project Safe Haven while serving at Koinonia

Gloria was the family matriarch and was preceded in death by her son, Byron G. McCleary, November 2006. Gloria is survived by: her two daughters, Gisele J. Hunter (Brian) and Wanda S.M. Dandridge (Hunter); five grandchildren, Brian Hunter, Jr. (Tenisha), Dominic Hunter (Ashley), Arlene Kesha Conaway, Hunter Dandridge, V and Constance Dandridge. She leaves seven great-

grandchildren, Jonmonatay, Jaivin, Ky'Ann, Chase, Ethan, Colin, Dash, and Izzy-Bea. She was married to David G. McCleary, 23 years. She leaves three siblings, Ronald Hawkins, Elnora Sorrillo (Selwyn), Jerry Railey, and Gregory Railey (Sarah); special cousin and best friend, Sharon Brown; two god-daughters, Yvette Butler and Jennifer Owens; two adopted sons, Domond Thompson and Devin McCleary; and a host of loving nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

# Cemetery Details

## King Memorial Park Cemetery - Grand Heritage Chapel & Mausoleum

8710 Dogwood Rd.  
Baltimore, MD 21244  
(410) 944-8300  
info@kingmemorialpark.com  
<https://www.KingMemorialPark.com>

# Previous Events

## Wake

JUL 1. 10:00 AM - 10:30 AM (ET)

Koinonial Baptist Church  
5738 Belair Rd.  
Baltimore, MD

## Service

JUL 1. 10:30 AM (ET)

Koinonial Baptist Church  
5738 Belair Rd.  
Baltimore, MD

# Tribute Wall



“ *Gloria S. McCleary*

October 13, 2022 at 08:33 AM



“ *Janice Huiett lit a candle in memory of Gloria S. McCleary*



**Janice Huiett** - July 18, 2017 at 10:58 AM



*When I met Mrs. Gloria; it felt as if I had known her for many years by the way we laughed and talked while we ate a delicious Jamaican dinner. A few of us had talked so much with Mrs. Gloria during dinner until after most of the dinner party had left the restaurant, we stayed behind and continued talking. That evening was a fun and memorable. I am so happy that I had the opportunity meeting Mrs. Gloria.*

*May God continue to BLESS and strengthen the family.*

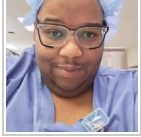
**Janice Huiett** - July 18, 2017 at 11:17 AM



“ *Tanyette Turnage lit a candle in memory of Gloria S. McCleary*



**Tanyette Turnage** - June 30, 2017 at 01:00 AM



“ *Mrs. McCleary was a wonderful woman! Full of spunk n love for her craft! I'll always treasure her wit and hilarious stories she told! I pray the families strength n guidance throughout this grievance! On behalf of the C/O 2004! Rest easy amongst the heavens above!*



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**Christopher Ward** - June 29, 2017 at 07:15 PM



“ *Janice Flowers lit a candle in memory of Gloria S. McCleary*



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**Janice Flowers** - June 29, 2017 at 07:09 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Gloria S. McCleary.*



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June 29, 2017 at 06:48 PM



“ *Vanessa Mercer lit a candle in memory of Gloria S. McCleary*



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**Vanessa Mercer** - June 29, 2017 at 11:48 AM

VM

*So sorry to hear the passing of your Mother, Sister, praying for you all*

**Vanessa Mercer** - June 29, 2017 at 11:53 AM

CC

“ *Sorry for your loss. May God be with you in your time of need.  
God bless the family.  
From the Caldwell Family (neighbors)*

**Cheryl Caldwell** - June 29, 2017 at 07:47 AM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of  
Gloria S. McCleary.*



June 28, 2017 at 08:07 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family  
of Gloria S. McCleary.*



June 28, 2017 at 06:28 AM

MF

“ *Michael, Annvetta (Peb) and family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Gloria S. McCleary.*



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**Michael, Annvetta (Peb) and family** - June 27, 2017 at 12:20 PM

SM

“ *My deepest condolences to the McCleary family for this tremendous loss. May the words found at Isaiah 26:19 bring you comfort in knowing that you will one day see Gloria again.*

*Isaiah 26:19 "Your dead will live. My corpses will rise up. Awake and shout joyfully, You residents in the dust! For your dew is as the dew of the morning, And the earth will let those powerless in death come to life"*

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**Suzy M** - June 26, 2017 at 08:02 PM



“ *We express our deepest sorrow in the loss of your loved one. May you find comfort in knowing God cares for you.(Ps. 55:22).*

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**Harris Family** - June 26, 2017 at 05:03 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.

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**March Funeral Homes** - June 26, 2017 at 07:24 AM