



Mrs. Jessie B. Gladden

December 11, 1930 - August 17, 2016

Jessie Benjamin Gladden, the daughter of the late Loue Valia Rawles-Benjamin and George Benjamin, was born December 11, 1930 in New York, NY. From Sinai Hospital, Jessie "walked into Heaven" on Wednesday, August 17, 2016.

Jessie's mother relocated the family to the Occoneechee Neck area of North Carolina, where she was educated in that school system. She earned her high school diploma from North Hampton County Training School. In 1953, she earned her Bachelor's of Science degree in Social Science and English from North Carolina Agriculture and Technical State University.

In order to pursue her professional career, Jessie moved to Baltimore, MD. She began her teaching career in 1956, at George Hamilton Houston Junior High School, #181.

While teaching there, she met Elzee Gladden. In 1957, on April 16, Jessie married Elzee; he was the love of her life. The two of them were an absolute dynamic duo in the pursuit of education and higher learning in the Baltimore City Public Schools System. Jessie and Elzee believed in the pride and dignity of education as a catalyst for power and success. From that union, with great joy, in 1963, Marc was born; and in 1964, Lisa was born. Her family meant the world to her.

In 1968, she taught at Pimlico Middle School until 1970. In 1970, until 1971, Jessie traded in her chalk and eraser for a camera and a microphone at Maryland Public Television. She was the host for "News Lab", a new thought provoking educational program. This was a platform that educated students on current news events in the State of Maryland. In 1973, she also earned her Master's degree in American History from Morgan State University.

Jessie believed in hard work and the pursuit of enlightenment and justice. Her Master's thesis highlighted the medical accomplishments of the Johns Hopkins University of Medicine surgical technician, Vivian Thomas. Jessie highlighted that Thomas, with only a high school education, developed many surgical techniques. He pioneered the surgical procedure for what is known as, the "Blue Baby Syndrome". This innovation had been used world-wide. Jessie's thesis was titled, Vivian Thomas: Black Non-Doctor. The enlightenment of this information was ground breaking in the medical community. She truly believed in working knowledge being power. Her research was used for a televised documentary featuring Mr. Thomas.

For twenty years, she worked as a supervisor for the Baltimore City Schools Social Studies department. She retired from the school system in 1992, and in 1993 she took a position as a teacher supervisor at the Johns Hopkins University until 2001.

Jessie loved the Lord and was deeply devoted to her church. She was a faithful member of the First Baptist Church of Baltimore for over 40 years; where she also taught Sunday School.

It was with great pride and joy that she loved to brag about the accomplishments of her children. She was so proud of Marc when he earned his dual Master's degree of Human Service Administration from the University

of Baltimore and Coppin State University and when Lisa graduated from the University of Maryland Law School, subsequently becoming an attorney. With exuberance and excitement, Jessie boldly campaigned for Lisa's success every step of the way to becoming a Maryland State Senator. Jessie rejoiced that as a family, she, Marc, Lisa and many other family members and friends worked diligently to that end. She praised God for such an awesome accomplishment.

Jessie has been our book of knowledge, our historian and pillar of strength. Her guidance, love and caring has been immeasurable. That sweet giggle, and illuminating smile will never be forgotten.

She leaves to forever cherish her memory: her son, Marc Elzee Gladden; her daughter, Senator Lisa Adrienne Gladden; her grandson, military soldier special forces E-4 Jonathan Marc Gladden; her sister, Estelle Wilkins-Clark; her brother, Ernest Benjamin; and dear cousin, Eula Gray; in addition to a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, church family and many special friends. She was preceded by her husband, Dr. Elzee Charles Gladden, and her sister, Charlotte Williams.

Cemetery Details

Cedar Hill

5829 Ritchie Highway
Brooklyn, MD 21230

Previous Events

Public Viewing

AUG **24**. 8:30 AM - 8:00 PM (ET)

March Funeral Homes - West Baltimore
4300 Wabash Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21215
(410) 542-2400
info@marchfh.com

Family Hour

AUG **24**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

March Funeral Homes - West Baltimore
4300 Wabash Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21215
(410) 542-2400
info@marchfh.com

Wake

AUG 25. 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

First Baptist Church
4200 Liberty Heights Ave
Baltimore, MD

Service

AUG 25. 11:00 AM (ET)

First Baptist Church
4200 Liberty Heights Ave
Baltimore, MD

Tribute Wall



“ *Mrs. Jessie B. Gladden*

October 13, 2022 at 08:33 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mrs. Jessie B. Gladden.*



August 24, 2016 at 11:33 PM



“ *Dear Mark and Lisa, I am sorry to hear of the loss of your Mother Jessie. I will cherish the memories and be grateful for the time i had with such a special person. Christine Diggs*

Christine Diggs - August 24, 2016 at 04:45 PM



“ *Bonnie S. Erickson purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Mrs. Jessie B. Gladden.*



Bonnie S. Erickson - August 24, 2016 at 12:23 AM

EA

“ *Earl & Karen Epps, Gilbert, Arizona purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Mrs. Jessie B. Gladden.*



Earl & Karen Epps, Gilbert, Arizona - August 23, 2016 at 10:05 PM

JP

“*Let your light shine before others that they may see your good works.*” Matthew 5:18

Jessie Benjamin Gladden was a loving cousin whose good works were a guiding light for us all. She was our neighbor when she lived in North Carolina. When she left, she became a talented educator, administrator and mentor. She was a dedicated supporter of the Bell-Ransom Family Reunion. She attended almost yearly and enthusiastically shared her knowledge and wisdom. She encouraged us to research our family history as a way to know and honor our heritage.

Cousin Jessie was a strong believer in the power of prayer and her faith was her source of strength. She treasured friendships and worked to foster life-long relationships by being loyal, understanding and compassionate. Above all, Jessie Benjamin Gladden loved her family - her late husband, Ezzie, her daughter Lisa and her son Mark were at the center of her heart. She was deeply rooted in love for all of us.

Jessie Benjamin Gladden was a 2016 Bell-Ransom Family Honoree. We honored her because her life has been an inspiration for excellence and because she was deeply rooted in a desire to share knowledge, encourage excellence, strengthen faith, build friendships and honor heritage.

Cousin Jessie's good works and love will long be remembered by many.

Sincere condolences,

*The Bell-Ransom Family
Jackson, N.C.*

Jacqueline Pyatt - August 23, 2016 at 04:05 PM

MD

“ Lisa , I can still see your mother, like it was yesterday, getting out of her car coming home from work, asking you if you had done the dishes, while we played cards in the backyard. Mark and Llsa, this news breaks my heart. Thanks Mrs.Gladden for the wonderful memories.

Lonie

Melanie Delaney - August 23, 2016 at 08:02 AM

LL

“ To Lisa and the Gladden family. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Larry Levitan

laurence Levitan - August 22, 2016 at 02:49 PM

EW

“ She always called me her "other daughter" and treated me as one of her own. I will truly miss her love and support. I pray that she will be reunited with her loved ones on the other side and continue to watch over us here.

Elaine Wood - August 21, 2016 at 08:48 PM

BE

“ *Lisa and Mark,*

Your mom was a talented and dedicated educator and a loving, caring wife, mother, grandmother, teacher, friend and a truly gentle lady. As a colleague I valued her wisdom, guidance and friendship. My prayers are with you.

Bonnie S. Erickson



Bonnie S. Erickson - August 21, 2016 at 06:44 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 - August 19, 2016 at 04:02 PM