



## Lenora Ray Oliver

December 7, 1920 - August 4, 2022

“You shall come to your grave in ripe old age  
Like a sheaf gathered up in its season.” (Job 5:26, ESV)

Lenora Ray Oliver  
At Age 101, God Called, . . .”Come”

Born December 7, 1920, in Shannon, North Carolina, Lenora was the 5th child of Friendly Daphney Ray and Mary Kate Ray. Siblings Eartha, Melissa, Ardella, Willa, Walter, Myrtle, Genus, Clidie, Colon, and Mary preceded her in death, leaving Lewis her lone surviving sibling. Lenora departed while receiving hospice care in an assisted living facility.

Throughout life, Lenora was determined to overcome obstacles. After graduating from Oak Ridge High School, she like many other Blacks joined the “Great Northward Migration” in search of a better life. She arrived in Baltimore a young woman. Having accepted Christ at an early age and wanting to hold onto her spiritual grounding, Lenora joined Pennsylvania AME Zion Church, remaining a member over 70 years. Limited to menial jobs due primarily to discriminatory practices, Lenora eventually found job security working in the Baltimore City School System cafeteria for over 30 years.

Lenora’s marriage to Guy Dean Oliver spanned 15 years and left her a

widowed single parent to their two children, Jacquelyn and Ricardo (Jackie and Ricky). Her marriage to Clarence Garner spanned 23 years before his passing. In 2020, death claimed another love one--her son Ricky. Lenora was blessed with grandchildren Jessica Teaster and Drew Stewart and great-grandchildren Layla and Kenny. With the marriage of her daughter and granddaughter, Derek Stewart and Wayne Teaster joined her family.

Lenora took great pride in her life pursuits. In her late 20s, she purchased a house on Fulton Avenue, despite government practices that limited where Blacks could live and disadvantaged them in buying homes. At age 36, when better neighborhoods "opened" to Blacks, with great pride she became one of the first Blacks to purchase a house on Rosedale Street.

As a single parent, Lenora doggedly strategized and sacrificed to retain her house and provide for her children. Through prudent financial management and second jobs, she single-handedly maintained the family home and her children's standard of living. Derek (her son-in-law) remembers her telling him "I did the best I could with what I had. You learn to stretch a dollar."

Over the years Lenora found joy in the simple pleasures of attending church, hosting parties, organizing family reunions, watching Orioles baseball games, and providing day care for her grandson Drew. Lenora and her siblings were renowned for their strong bond and frequently getting together. Remembering all the parties Lenora hosted at her Rosedale residence, her niece Donnie referred to her aunt's house as the "Entertainment Center."

Lenora cared greatly about her "Ray Family." Once when Gwen (Lenora's favorite niece) was praying at the altar of Pennsylvania AME Zion Church, Gwen stood there visibly shaking and moved to tears while waiting to rededicate her life to Christ. Gwen recalls her Aunt Lenora leaving her seat in the pews to come hold her hand. Gwen said in doing that "My aunt made me

feel like a million dollars.”

# Cemetery Details

## MD Nat Memorial Park

Laurel, MD

# Previous Events

## Public Viewing

AUG 16. 11:00 AM - 1:30 PM (ET)

March Funeral Home - West  
4300 Wabash Avenue  
Baltimore, MD 21215

## Wake

AUG 16. 11:00 AM - 1:30 PM (ET)

March Funeral Home - West  
4300 Wabash Avenue  
Baltimore, MD 21215

# Tribute Wall



“ *Lenora Ray Oliver*

October 13, 2022 at 08:33 AM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Lenora Ray Oliver.*



August 15, 2022 at 12:01 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 08, 2022 at 12:52 PM