



Sarah Ada Smith-Tiller

April 12, 1932 - December 28, 2017

Obituary

Before our eyes you faded, growing weaker every day. Patiently bearing your suffering until God called you away.

You heard a voice we couldn't hear it say, "You cannot stay." You saw a hand we couldn't see, which beckoned you away.

Sarah Ada Smith Tiller, daughter of the late Charles Ellis Smith and Mary Elizabeth Franklin-Smith, was born on April 12, 1932. She was born at The Johns Hopkins Hospital; the 7th of twelve children. On Thursday, December 28, 2017 while in her daughter's arms, quietly and peacefully, Sarah Ada Smith Tiller went home to be with the Lord.

She resided in the Smith family home for over 74 years even withstanding a tremendous fire on July 31, 2006 that nearly destroyed the residence.

Sarah received her early education in the Public Schools of Baltimore City attending Dunbar Elementary School, Dunbar Junior High School and Dunbar Senior High School. She graduated with the Class of February 1951. Sarah married the late Leroy Tiller, Jr. and from this union two daughters were born, Vanessa Irene Tiller who went home to be with the Lord at the tender age of 10 months and Brenda Joyce Tiller. Both children were nurtured, loved and cherished by both parents especially Sarah, who became overly protective of

Brenda. At an early age, Sarah taught Brenda to appreciate the meaning of prayer, attending Sunday School and Church, the cultural arts, fine dining, cultural music, travel, and of course shopping.

Sarah grew up in a strong faith based family and was baptized as an infant in the “Cradle Roll” at Waters AME Church. She was active as a child in Sunday school. Sarah regularly participated in the Young People Department (YPD). She would return to the youth activities on Sunday evenings as this was an expectation of her parents. Sarah was saved by her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ at an early age and continued to serve him all her life. As a child, she was a member of the Junior Usher Board. She was appointed under the leadership of Reverend John W. Duckett as Stewart and enjoyed visiting the sick and shut-in and serving communion. She was one of the original members of the Waters AME Church Soup Kitchen. Under the leadership of Reverend Ronald E. Braxton, she was appointed leader of the Grieving Committee and Co-Chair of the Merry Makers. Under the direction of Pastor Samuel E. Hayward III, Sarah was Chair of Homecoming Activities participating in the Church fashion show and presiding over “This is Your Life,” a missionary activity. Under the leadership of Reverend Ricky Spain, Sarah was very active in Church fund raising and was an active participant of the Tuesday Senior Bible Study until her health began to fail. Sarah favorite scriptures were Psalms 121, Psalms 139, Isaiah 53.5.

Being the 7th child allowed Sarah to learn flexibility, she was able to join in social activities of her older siblings and learned to nurture and groom her five younger siblings. She was known to enjoy partying with her siblings, cousins and friends. Known for her dance moves, Sarah could “split” until she was 70 years old with the best of them and dance you under the rug.

Sarah was, affectionately known by the MTA bus drivers as “Ms. Hecht Company” because she loved shopping for herself and especially Brenda.

She was family oriented and encouraged, arranged and participated in family weekly functions—every Friday. She loved entertaining and keeping family relations connected and involved. Even with long term friends, Sarah kept in close contact and remained close.

Sarah was an avid sports fan and could tell you the names and jersey numbers of members of the Orioles and the Baltimore Colts. She soon became a fan of the Baltimore Ravens.

Sarah's first job after high school was at Sinai Hospital when it was in East Baltimore. She worked at the Montebello Rehabilitation Center, the University of Maryland Psychiatric Institute Day School for inpatient children where she retired in 1994 as Psychiatric Technician after 35 years. After retiring, Sarah was appointed by Governor Donald William Schaefer to the Foster Care Review Board and Kinship Care Review Board. She volunteered at the Elmer A. Henderson Elementary School as a classroom assistant and was later hired as a receptionist at the Baltimore City Health Department. She later volunteered at the GBMC to mentor to young women with breast cancer. Sarah was a 30-year breast cancer survivor.

The pride and the love of her life was her grandson Leslie, whom she embraced, supported and doted at every opportunity. Another joy in her life was the birth of her great-granddaughter, Nyrie; whom affectionately called her "Grand Ma Beans". Sarah leaves to cherish her memory: devoted daughter, Brenda Tiller Ransom; loving grandson, Leslie Ransom (LaKia); great-granddaughter, Nyrie Ransom; adopted great-granddaughter; Brianna Hall; sister, Phyllis M. Smith; and sister-in-law, Lyllye M. Smith; nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. Sarah was preceded in death by her siblings: Irene Cannady, Dorothy Jones, Alice Smith, Viola Hill, Charles Smith, Robert Smith, Alfred Smith, Wilbert Smith, and William Smith.

Cemetery Details

Arbutus Memorial Park Cemetery

1101 Sulphur Spring Road
Baltimore, MD 21227

Previous Events

Public Viewing

JAN 4. 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM (ET)

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

Family Hour

JAN 4. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Waters African Methodist Episcopal Church
417 N. Aisquith St.
Baltimore, MD 21202

Wake

JAN 5. 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Waters African Methodist Episcopal Church
417 N. Aisquith St.
Baltimore, MD 21202

Service

JAN 5. 11:00 AM (ET)

Waters African Methodist Episcopal Church
417 N. Aisquith St.
Baltimore, MD 21202

Tribute Wall



“ Sarah Ada Smith-Tiller

October 13, 2022 at 08:33 AM



“ Brenda Tiller , I Love Mommy lit a candle in memory of Sarah Ada Smith-Tiller



Brenda Tiller , I love Mommy - June 20, 2020 at 11:18 AM



“ Jean Pierce sent a virtual gift in memory of Sarah Ada Smith-Tiller



Jean Pierce - January 04, 2018 at 09:09 PM



“ Jean Pierce neighbor from, Abbott Street. I send my sympathies and prayers to the family
410-945-8392

Jean Pierce - January 04, 2018 at 09:00 PM

DA

“ The Bee family also lived and grew up on North Washington Street, in the same block, on the same side of the street, as Sarah and the Smith family for many, many years. I did not know that Sarah and I (Delano Bee) was born on the same month and day (April 12th) 13 years apart. I remember Sarah as a soft spoken, kind person. So many wonderful memories of this family, that there is not time to list them all. We are sending out our condolence to the Smith-Tiller families. May Sarah continue to RIP! From: Florence B Ricks and Delano Bee

Delano A.Bee - January 04, 2018 at 09:47 AM

RI

“ In the loss of your love one. These words of deepest sympathy are sent with hope that, as time goes by, cherished memories will help bring your inner peace, and make your love one seem still very close to you. May the memories that mean the most to you live forever in your heart. S. Richardson and family Waters A.M.E church

Richardson - January 02, 2018 at 12:46 PM

SS

“ Aunt Sarah has always had a love for family. She enjoyed seeing all generations coming together and having a good time. I'm so glad we had a lot of good times to share in our family the last 2 years with weddings, birthday parties and a family reunion. Aunt Sarah enjoyed entertaining us as she danced. She will surely be missed but always remembered at every future family gatherings. May God comfort Brenda, Leslie and the rest of the family in the days, weeks, years to come. Brenda, may God bless you for honoring your Mom. Love, Cousin Sharon



Sharon L Smith - January 01, 2018 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.

March Funeral Homes - December 29, 2017 at 05:17 PM