



Mildred Smith Harding

September 15, 1928 - May 27, 2018

Surrounded by her loving family, MILDRED SMITH HARDING died on Sunday afternoon, May 27, 2018 at the Maryview Nursing Facility in Suffolk. She was born September 15, 1928 to parents Octavious and Hattie Powell Smith and was raised and educated in Portsmouth, VA. She was a graduate of I. C. Norcom High School and attended Norfolk Division of Virginia State College. She later enrolled in certification classes for Intrinsic Aircraft Instruments at the Norfolk Vocational Technical Center, becoming the First Woman to hold the position of Aircraft Instrument Mechanic at the Naval Air Station. She was married for 55 years to her childhood sweetheart, Arthur McKinley Harding, Sr. They had 9 children and raised them in a loving and caring home where education was a top priority.

Mrs. Harding was a Life Member and Church Mother of Zion Bethel United Church of Christ where she actively supported and attended church activities until her recent illness.

She was a member of the Sassy Steppers Red Hatters group and the Portsmouth Senior Station activities where she participated daily in aerobics, the choir, line dancing and traveled with the participants to the African American Museum, various musicals and plays and just enjoyed life. She was selected to be the UMOJA Festival Queen in 2014, a cherished moment for her and her family.

Her parents, husband, siblings (Preston, Calvin and Virginia) preceded her in death, as well as her 3 sons (Eric, Randall and Preston). She loved them each

and has now joined them in the Heavenly Choir.

Left to cherish her memory and legacy are her 6 children: Valerie Brown (James); Lena Williams; Arthur Harding, Jr. (Marcella); Vanginette Benton (Michael); Karen Gulley (La Marr) and Crystal Patillo (Charles); 22 grandchildren; 29 great-grandchildren and 3 great-great-grandchildren; Daughters-in-law Annie Harding and Millicent Harding, cousins, nieces and nephews and extended family, neighbors and friends.

Cemetery Details

Greenlawn Memorial Gardens

3920 Airline Blvd
Chesapeake, VA

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 3. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

J.T. Fisher Funeral Services
1248 N. George Washington Hwy.
Chesapeake, VA 23323
(757) 487-3700
info@jtfisherfuneralservices.com
<https://www.jtfisherfuneralservices.com>

Service

JUN 4. 11:00 AM (ET)

Zion Bethel United Church-Christ
1617 Des Moines Ave
Portsmouth, VA 23704
(757) 397-5418

Tribute Wall

DQ

“ Donna Quinerly lit a candle in memory of Mildred Smith Harding



Donna Quinerly - June 03, 2018 at 07:45 PM

CA

“ Heart felt sympathy to the Harding family during your time of sorrow. Our prayers are with you. Be blessed The Hazwoods(Mary,Ann,and Sandra

Cynthia Hazwood Artis - June 03, 2018 at 03:18 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mildred Smith Harding.



June 02, 2018 at 11:31 AM



“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mildred Smith Harding.



June 02, 2018 at 10:27 AM

PS

“ *Peter and Natasha Singleton*



Peter Singleton - June 02, 2018 at 08:52 AM

 Tazz Hicks

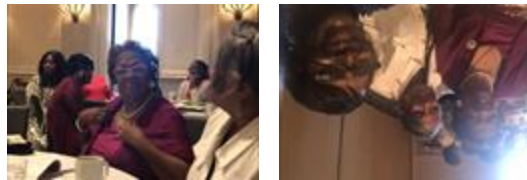
“ *Tazz Hicks lit a candle in memory of Mildred Smith Harding*



Tazz Hicks - June 01, 2018 at 01:43 AM

RW

“ *Mrs. Lena Williams, My Mother and I Truly enjoyed your company @ the Women's Day Conference. As you told us of your Mother's illness and we prayed for her! I cannot tell you how very sorry I am for your loss 😭, A Mother's Love ❤️ Never Dies! God Bless you and your Family and Grant you Peace 🙏 Praying for you all 🙏*



Renee Wicks - May 31, 2018 at 09:46 PM



“ *Pink Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Mildred Smith Harding.*



May 31, 2018 at 09:43 PM



“ *Please Accept Our deepest heartfelt condolences! Mrs.Lena Williams and Family, our thoughts and Prayers are with you during the passing of your Mother. I am so sorry for your loss. 😞 May God Comfort you and give you Peace that Surpasses all understanding! 🙏*
The Wicks Family, TBC



Renee Wicks - May 31, 2018 at 09:39 PM



“ *Kippy Barnes lit a candle in memory of Mildred Smith Harding*



Kippy Barnes - May 31, 2018 at 07:10 PM

EH

“ Our deepest sympathy to the Harding family on the loss of your love one. I know you loved her and hated for her to go but just remember God loved her more. He took her from her earthly home because her mansion in heaven was ready. She hated to leave you but she had to go because God had a new home for her where there was no more pain Look to God for all your strength.



Ethelyn Whitehead Holley

Ethelyn Whitehead Holley - May 31, 2018 at 05:07 PM



“ 34 files added to the album Life Tributes



J. T. Fisher Funeral Services - May 31, 2018 at 03:52 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Mildred Smith Harding.



May 31, 2018 at 12:27 PM

SS

“ Steven Small lit a candle in memory of Mildred Smith Harding



Steven Small - May 31, 2018 at 10:19 AM

LS

“ Leigh Burton, Sr. lit a candle in memory of Mildred Smith Harding



Leigh Burton, Sr. - May 31, 2018 at 08:18 AM

LS

It was a joy in knowing Mrs. Mildred Harding. Once She knew You, She never forgot You. She was well known in the City of Portsmouth, Va. Mayb the Family find comfort in knowing that others are praying for Them at this time.

Leigh Burton, Sr. - May 31, 2018 at 08:25 AM

VL

“ Vernelle E Lewis lit a candle in memory of Mildred Smith Harding



Vernelle E Lewis - May 31, 2018 at 07:04 AM

EM

“ My SINCEREST CONDOLENCES.. TO THE FAMILY.

Ethel L Miller - May 30, 2018 at 08:12 PM

DJ

“ *Wishing you Peace to bring Comfort ,Courage to face the Days ahead, and loving memories to forever hold in your Heart. Those who trust in the Lord will find their strength renewed.Isiah 40:31. Ma Harding will truly be missed at Zion Bethel.*
Daphney L. Jenkins



Daphney L. Jenkins - May 30, 2018 at 03:45 PM

JE

“ *May these words comfort you and your family on the loss of your Mother. I will always remember her sweet smile and beautiful nature. May Good keep you in his embrace at this difficult time.*
Janet Mouran-Eldridge
From Fayette Street

Janet Eldridge - May 30, 2018 at 12:05 PM