



Olivia V. Jennings

December 26, 1927 - November 30, 2018

On Friday, November 30, 2018, at 12:05 a.m. our good and merciful God called our Mother, Sister, Aunt, Grandmother, Great Grandmother, Friend, and servant of the Lord, Olivia Vernell Jennings, home to rest. She was 90 years old. Mrs. Jennings (nee Butts) was born December 26, 1927 in Elizabeth City, North Carolina to the late Jethro Butts and Flossie Beatrice Owens-Butts. She was the oldest daughter of six children. Known for her pleasant and helpful demeanor, "Lil Sis," as she was known by her family, quietly led an extraordinary life. She graduated from P.W. Moore High School in 1945. She dreamed of becoming a dietician, a lofty position for an African American woman at the time. She was accepted to the New York Dietetic Institute in Brooklyn, New York but, delayed attending to help her mother raise her newborn twin siblings, Argie and Otis. The following year she attended the Dietetic Institute in Brooklyn, graduating with her certification in Dietary Science in 1948. It was around this time that she met Mr. Herbert Leonard Jennings from Hertford, North Carolina and on January 3, 1951, they married. Olivia and Herbert were married for 60 years until he passed in 2011. After marrying, Mr. and Mrs. Jennings moved to Portsmouth, VA where it was decided that she would be a stay at home mother for her family. Mrs. Jennings had four sons: Stanley, Kevin, Marvin, and Gary. "Her boys," as she with great love referred to them, were the joy of her life. Despite her round the clock care of her family, she still prioritized time to devote to serving the Lord at Celestial Baptist Church. She served under three pastors, beginning with Reverend H.

G. Hairston. He was followed by Reverend C. L. Robinson and finally Reverend Leon Boone. As a dedicated member of Celestial, Mrs. Jennings was called to serve as Church Mother, Head Deaconess, a Jolly Worker, and as a Missionary. She faithfully served at Celestial until 2012 when she moved to Stafford VA to reside with her youngest son Gary and his wife Youlande and family a year after the death of her husband. Mrs. Jennings talents took her from the household and church as well. In 1971, with a son starting college, she accepted a position as an Alterationist for Rice's Nachman department store located in Tower Mall in Portsmouth, VA, and continued employment with Hess and Hecht's department stores where she remained and gained lead Alterationist status. She worked in this capacity for 20 years before retiring. Earning the respect and admiration of store management, she was asked to help design their Alteration and Tailoring Department, a template used by succeeding department stores long after she retired. Mrs. Jennings was known for the pride she took in her family and their accomplishments, seeing "her boys" become an architect, two doctors, and a special agent for the FBI. She said of them that she was most proud that they grew into strong Christian men. They attribute their success largely to her support, ingenuity, and insistence that they could become anything they wanted to become. Mrs. Jennings had a generous spirit and shared her blessings with the community, volunteering her time and skill to sew for families in the neighborhood. As a cook, Mrs. Jennings was unsurpassed. Her "hot rolls" on Sundays were the stuff of legend, and her home became the family gathering place each holiday. She had a smile that would brighten the darkest room and an infectious laugh that made you laugh even if you didn't know why you were. In the waning weeks of her life, she seemed to give us subtle indications that she would be leaving us soon. She could be heard singing the old spiritual, "I'm On My Way to Canaan Land."

She leaves to cherish her memory her four sons Mr. Stanley Jennings of Atlanta, GA, Dr. Kevin Jennings (Lydia Jennings) of Va. Beach, VA, Dr. Marvin

Jennings (Dr. Loretta Logan-Jennings) of The Bronx, NY, and Mr. Gary Jennings (Youlande Jennings), of Stafford, VA, a loving sister Mrs. Argie Butts- Lamb (Clarence), a loving brother Mr. Otis Butts (Lillian), grandchildren Desmond, Brandis, Rachel, Carlton, Armand, Brianne, Ria, Ryan, Reagan, and Gary Jr, great grandchildren Shawn, Aleah, Joshua, Kaden, Cameron, Lily, Ethan, and Olivia, a host of nephews and nieces, brothers and sisters-in-law, and many family, friends and brothers and sisters in Christ. She will be deeply missed by all who knew her but, we are comforted in knowing her change of address now places her in the bosom of our Father in heaven.

Cemetery Details

Greenlawn Memorial Gardens

3920 Airline Blvd
Chesapeake, VA

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 5. 1:00 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

DEC 6. 11:00 AM (ET)

Celestial Baptist Church
1439 Mount Vernon Avenue
Portsmouth, VA

Tribute Wall



“ J.T. Fisher Funeral Services created a Tribute Video in memory of Olivia V. Jennings



J. T. Fisher Funeral Services - December 06, 2018 at 03:15 PM

SE

“ Family,
I send my heartfelt condolences on the passing of your loved one and my cousin. The photo here is a gorgeous as I remember, her mom was my grandmother, Sula. Prayers of comfort surely will bless you, and the memories of her will keep her forever alive in your hearts. Be especially blessed now and always.

Sandra Gibson Sutton, Ed.D.

Sandra Sutton, Ed.D. - December 05, 2018 at 08:26 PM

ST

“ I extend my deepest sympathies to the Jennings family. May the soul of your mother be at peace with our Heavenly Father.

Stacy Talley - Spotsylvania, VA



Stacy Talley - December 05, 2018 at 04:31 PM

JJ

“ *My prayers to You Argie and your family.*



Jacqueline Jacobs - December 04, 2018 at 08:42 PM

AJ

“ *Heartfelt Sympathy and Prayer to the Jennings and Butts Family: May the God of comfort bring you the peace that passes all understanding and the assurance of his loving presence during this time. May God comfort you in his loving arms and fill you with his peace during this difficult time and in the days to come, From, Emma Lou and Antoinette Johnson*



Antoinette Johnson - December 04, 2018 at 06:00 PM



“ *39 files added to the album LifeTributes*



J. T. Fisher Funeral Services - December 04, 2018 at 04:48 PM

CF

“ CVA Family purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Olivia V. Jennings.



CVA Family - December 04, 2018 at 04:34 PM

MB

“ My deepest condolences to the Jennings family, especially to Stanley, Kevin, Marvin and Gary. May God continue to comfort you in these difficult times.

Morris Bracy - December 04, 2018 at 04:00 PM

MN

“ Mr.Louis Levine, Joel, Mike and all your friends NYCPM purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Olivia V. Jennings.



Mr.Louis Levine, Joel, Mike and all your friends NYCPM -
December 04, 2018 at 09:49 AM



Sebrena Daughtry

“ My prayers are with the family of Ms. Olivia Jennings she was a very sweet God fearing lady that I knew all of my life since I was a little girl growing up in Celestial Baptist Church. U will truly be missed. Luv Sebrena Daughtry and Mother Elsie G. Murphy & Grant family



Sebrena Daughtry - December 04, 2018 at 06:08 AM

CP

“ *Concepcion Perez purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Olivia V. Jennings.*



Concepcion Perez - December 03, 2018 at 06:47 PM

CP

“ *Jenny family. My deepest sympathies in your time of loss - I had the opportunity to be in the same room with her twice when Gary brought her to work with him. Each time, she made me smile she was a force of nature and a shining light filled with love! May she rest in peace. C Perez*

Concepcion Perez - December 03, 2018 at 06:32 PM

LC

“ *To the Jennings Family,*

So sorry to hear about your lost. My condolences to you and your family.

May God's peace comfort you during this time.

Linda Clay and Family



Linda Clay - December 03, 2018 at 11:20 AM

SE

“ *Family,*

It is with caring thoughts and prayer that I offer you sincere condolences on the passing of our loved one. Cousin Olivia was the niece of my grandmother, Sula, the oldest sister of Aunt Flossie. I was truly saddened to hear the news from Argie. Praying that God will comfort you always and remind you often of the joy she brought to you and the family.



*With Deepest Sympathy,
Saundra Gibson Sutton and family
Dover, Delaware*

Saundra Sutton, Ed.D. - December 01, 2018 at 03:11 PM