

A Homegoing Service Honoring The Life and Legacy of A Centenarian

Lessie Beauford was born on March 11, 1907, in Greenville, AL, to the parents of Gardner Goldsmith and Anna Adele Phillips. She was born on a Sunday which seems fitting since she accepted Jesus as her Lord and Savior, at an early age, while attending the family church, New Hope Baptist, in Greenville, AL. Lessie was one of six children and was preceded in death by her five siblings: Terry, Lerex, Leila (Phillips), Robert Lee, and Lige (Feagin). Following the death of her mother, she moved to Detroit, MI, at a young age, where she was raised by her father and step-mother, Ritha Goldsmith. Later, Lessie met and married Emmett Beauford (who preceded her in death) and to this union six children were born; three of which preceded her in death: Charline, Solomon Sr. ("P.D.") and Ronnie Beauford.

Lessie was an extraordinary matriarch of her family. She accomplished so much, with so little. She worked, together with her husband, to build the family home on Robeson Street in St. Clair Shores, MI, with nothing but their bare hands and materials from other homes being built in the area. This home would be, for later generations, the family gathering place. Lessie did not have an easy childhood or young adult life but it never made her bitter. She trusted God and the Lord. She was faithful to Him and he sustained her for more than a century. She was independent and self-sufficient; teaching her children to be the same. The absence of a formal education did not prevent Lessie from growing in God's grace and knowledge and instilling Godly value in her family. She successfully raised her children and she was instrumental and played an active role in the following two generations of children. Lessie was a trailblazer, in an era where many women didn't work outside of the home. She created her own path in life and had a working career. She worked as a day worker (cleaning homes) and for many years she worked at Westinghouse Electric Company as well as The Pottery, where she worked until she retired. Lessie was a true pillar of her community. She made a friend every place she traveled which she loved and she never met a stranger.

Lessie went from labor to reward on Saturday January 14, 2019. Her memory and legacy will live on in her family, her children: Adella "Nell" Wilson, Irvin "Milton" (Vandella "Della") and Beverly Beauford; nephews: Robert Lee Phillips (Gertrude), Will ("Sonny") (Ollie "Jo") and Lewis "Phillip" (Mary Ann) Atkins; 18 grandchildren (three preceded her in death: Dennis Beauford, Keith Bryant-Beauford and Ann Wilson); Deanna Beauford-Holmes, Solomon ("Ricky") Jr. (Shelia), David Sr., Steven ("Yogi") (Alice), Sandra, Jeffrey, Tracy and Kevin Beauford, Kurt Sr. (Teresa) and Lisa Wilson, Carolyn Bryant-Beauford, Halisha Beauford, Cheryl (Bruce) Beauford-Thomas, Tiffany and Tanisha Beauford; 43 great grandchildren (one preceded her in death; David Beauford Jr.); 37 great great grandchildren (one preceded her in death; Lyric Marshall) and two great great great grandchildren in addition to a host of other relatives and friends.