

THE HOMEGOING CELEBRATION FOR

A central portrait of Marie T. Donerson, an elderly Black woman with short grey hair, wearing glasses and a pearl necklace. She is smiling and holding a large bouquet of pink roses. The background is a soft, light purple gradient with faint, circular images of her in the past.

Marie

T. DONERSON

SUNRISE : APRIL 20, 1937 | SUNSET: DECEMBER 23, 2024

Tuesday, January 7, 2025

Viewing: 10:00 AM | Service: 11:00 AM

From the Heart Church Ministries®
5055 Allentown Road
Suitland, Maryland 20746

Bishop John A. Cherry, II — Pastor

THE *Life* AND LEGACY

Marie Thelma Donerson passed away peacefully on December 23, 2024, at Virginia Hospital Center in Arlington, Virginia. She was 87 years old. Although her family and friends miss her, we know that she is no longer in pain and is at peace, resting in the arms of the Lord.

Marie was born on April 20, 1937, in Slab Fork, West Virginia, to the late Joe J. Hill and Virginia Dolsey Matthews. She was the eldest of three children. In her early years, her family relocated to Washington, D.C. where she remained until her sophomore year of high school. She completed her last three years of education at Stratton High School in West Virginia, but ultimately returned to the Washington, D.C., area after graduating from high school. Upon her return to the D.C. area, she was briefly married to the late Theodore Clark. She was blessed with seven amazing children of her own—six girls: Darlene, Pamela, Adrienne, Stacey, Cassandra, and Shelia; and one son, Michael. In her 40s, she reunited with her childhood friend, Roy Donerson, a Navy man who served in the Korean War. They were married 27 years until his death in 1993.

Marie was never a stranger to hard work. She held several jobs to support her family, including working for the Government Printing Office, the Department of Defense, and Veterans' Hospital—but her favorite job, by far, was working as a crossing guard for Prince George's County Public Schools. It was one of the greatest joys of her life. Hundreds of students and parents affectionately referred to her as "Miss D" and thought of her as a surrogate mother. She went the extra mile to care for children along her route—whether it was a morning hug, an extra scarf, or a pair of gloves from the trunk of her car on a cold day, or applying a smear of Vaseline from a tube she whipped out of her pocket at a moment's notice. She was always prepared. If a child was locked out after returning home from a long day at school, Miss D was there to help by letting them stay warm in her car, or having to use the extra set of spare keys their parents had already given to her in the event something should happen, and they could not make it there in time. She understood the positive effect of having a "Miss D" in the community because she was once a young, single mother working long hours to care for her own family. In her own way, it allowed her to pay forward all the kindness she had received. She was also a natural leader who earned the respect and trust of her colleagues in the crossing guards. Before retiring in 1992, she served two terms as President of the crossing guards in the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees' Union (AFSCME).

Marie was a born-again, spirit-filled, and yielded vessel for Jesus Christ her Savior. She joined From the Heart Church Ministries in 1990 and served faithfully in the Helps Repast, Missions, Seniors and Parking and Grounds ministries under the leadership of Bishop John A. Cherry, II. She was also involved in the Women of God Lifegivers. She spread God's love by giving of herself. She knew how to deliver a perfectly-timed joke when you needed it and she blessed us with countless words of encouragement through cards and phone calls.

In Marie's final days, she spread love and joy despite her circumstances. On November 24, 2024, she gathered with family and friends for what would be their final Thanksgiving meal with her. Though in pain, she prepared her famous corn pudding for her loved ones. She held our hands in prayer and gave thanks for family and another year of life. She did not complain and lifted our spirits once more. We will always carry her memory in our hearts.

Marie leaves a host of family and friends to cherish her memory, including her children: Darlene Walker (Albert), Pamela Addie, Adrienne Myles, Michael Clark (Loretta), Stacey Banks (Don), Cassandra Clark, Sheila Booker, and Derek Matthews (Kenita); nieces and nephews: Marcia, Mia, Mark, and Lamont Dozier; sister-in-love, Betty Dozier; twenty-seven grandchildren, fifty-two great grandchildren, and three great-great grandchildren; her "Buddy" of over sixty years, Clementine Hawkins and family; special friends, John Chase and Kathy Moseley; adopted children: Casey Wong, Luther Thompson, Joseph and Shelia Foster, Ray and Kathy Leslie, Mondre Kornegay, Pamela Craig, Shailaja Ford, Frances Love, and Natalie Huddleston; and a legion of other family and friends.

Marie was preceded in death by her sister, Maxine Young; brother, Chester Dozier; stepmom, Mary Hill; stepfather, Moses Matthews; stepson, Darryl Donerson; granddaughter, Tameka Walker; grandson, Shawn Hill; great granddaughters, Beautiful Mu'min-Walker and Dylan Taylor; and nephew, Orlando Dozier.

ORDER *of* SERVICE



Invocation

Congregational Hymn "Blessed Assurance"

Scripture Reading

Old Testament: Psalm 23
New Testament: I Thessalonians 4:13-18

Prayer of Comfort

Selection.....Mrs. Dana Yates

Acknowledgements

Remarks

Reverend Diana P. Cherry, Founding Mother
Reverend Willette O. Wright, Friend
Ms. Shanel Clark, Granddaughter

PoemMs. Cassandra Clark

Obituary (Read Silently)

Song of PreparationMrs. Dana Yates

Message of HopeBishop John A. Cherry, II

Call to Christ

Committal

Benediction

Recessional

Interment

Cheltenham Veterans Cemetery
11301 Crain Highway | Cheltenham, Maryland 20623
Date is to be determined

Family Sentiments

"Hey Grandbaby"

Skin-so-soft, court TV, a notepad and day planner with a pen. A warm heart.

Pictures everywhere, posted in an unexpected place--like the inside of a dish cabinet. A grandmother who listens and doesn't judge and makes the best five-flavor pound cake. A grateful heart. It will be a while, but I hope not too long before I see you again. You'll open the door, I'm sure, and say, "Hey Grandbaby." Until then, I'll live, and live, and live--hoping I can become as interesting as you.

I'll remember you forever.

Angela Walker



Hey Poo,

Ma, I just want to thank God for you and all that you taught me. You were my first friend. Our memories will keep me strong. One thing for certain is that I know for sure I will see you again.

I love you Ma,

Stacey

The Best Mommy!

I've loved you longer than anyone on earth. I always thought, I've got the prettiest Momma. I watched you get ready for work. You worked the night shift when we were little. You wore your hair in a French roll then. I would imitate you pushing it forward perfectly (I could never quite do it). I watched your pleasure after cleaning the house for hours and finally sitting down and looking around at how clean everything was. I've seen you make a meal for all of us without much at all. You taught us how to be safe. How to cross at the corners and watch for the cars. You played games with us, laughed and danced. We had the best Mama. You demanded that we use the good manners and good grammar that you'd taught us. Thank you for having us say a Bible verse before our meals, our favorite was, Jesus wept! I've watched God heal you while the Word of God poured out of your mouth! Thank you for loving us more than anyone. Thank you Mama for praying for us all as only a mother can. Thank you for showing us how even when you were in great pain, we could go home to the Father with joy and singing and with an assurance that only the Lord could have given you. We love you and will miss your love and hugs, and beautiful smile, but we know without a doubt where you are; in your "happy home." We know because of your words, "I'm going to heaven today!!! We're thankful that God gave you to us to be our Mama!!! We indeed had the Best Mama of All!

Darlene

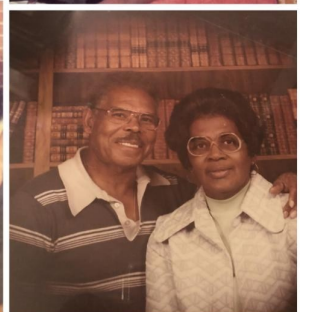
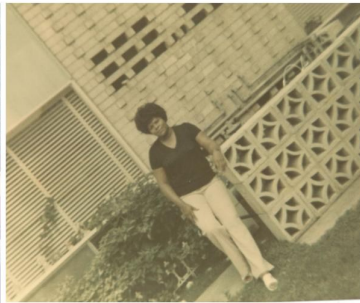
Family Sentiments

Miss Me, But I Must Go

When I come to the end of this life
and the Lord has set me free,
I want no nights in a gloom filled room .
Why cry for a soul set free.
Miss me lots but not too long
and not with your head bowed low.
Remember all the love and caring we shared.
Miss me, but let me go .
For this is the journey we all must take,
and each must go alone.
It's the reason why the Savior came
to make sure we could make it home.
When you are lonely and don't know what to do.
Just talk to Jesus our Savior
He has made the way for you too.
You'll see me again if you trust in Him.
Just ask, He will come into your heart
and I promise you He'll stay by your side,
I know Him He'll never depart.
Remember I love you all.
My love for my four generations is deeper than a river.



Miss me, but let me go.





Congregational Hymn

Blessed Assurance

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! O what a foretaste of glory divine! Heir of salvation,
purchase of God, born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.

Perfect submission, perfect delight, visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
angels descending, bring from above, echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

Perfect submission, all is at rest, I in my Savior am happy and blest, watching and
waiting, looking above, filled with His goodness, lost in His love

CHORUS

**This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long,
this is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.**

Acknowledgements

The Donerson family would like to sincerely thank our From the Heart family for all the love, support, and care they have shown throughout the years.

A special thank you to Bishop John A. Cherry, II and family. Words cannot express our sincere gratitude for all that you have done over the years. It was truly a special relationship filled with love from the heart. And thank you to the nursing staff at Virginia Hospital Center, 6th floor, and the doctors who assisted them for their care of our Mother during her last days. A very special thank you to Valerie Queen, the cardiac nurse who followed her care closely over the years. Lastly, we would like to thank Linda Pettaway, Valentin Amaro, and Vernetta Countee from the Racquet Club Condominium who looked out for our Mother and became like our family.

Palbearers

Don Banks, Michael Clark
Derek Matthews, Albert Walker

Flower Bearers

Family and Friends

Services Entrusted to:

Hodges and Edwards Funeral Home
3910 Silver Hill Road
Suitland, Maryland 20746