



A Celebration of Life for

Sylvia Y. Turner

OCTOBER 24, 1937 - SEPTEMBER 13, 2025



MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2025

VIEWING 10:00 A.M. | SERVICE 11:00 A.M.

FROM THE HEART CHURCH MINISTRIES®

4949 ALLENTOWN ROAD | SUITLAND, MD 20746

BISHOP JOHN A. CHERRY, II - PASTOR

Obituary

Sylvia Y. Turner was born on October 24, 1937, in Clifton Forge, Virginia, to the late John and Madge Brown. She entered eternal rest on September 13, 2025.

Sylvia, the eldest of five children, graduated from Jefferson High School in 1955, where she excelled as a guard on the women's basketball team.

On August 21, 1959, she married the late William D. Turner, Sr., an airman with the U.S. Air Force. The couple was blessed with three children: William Jr., Rhonda, and Dianne. Sylvia worked in the banking industry for several years until she became a devoted housewife. She loved to travel and as a military wife, she was able to do so internationally and domestically, residing in a number of different states.

Over the years, Sylvia created a home that was open to family, friends, and young people. She loved caring for others as her own and welcomed the young and the old alike to experience her unconditional love and discipline.

Sylvia gave her life to Jesus Christ as a teenager at First Baptist Church in Clifton Forge. As an adult, she attended several churches, including New Creation in San Antonio, Texas, and Light of the World in Indianapolis, Indiana.

She was dedicated to her Christian faith and often shared Jesus Christ with family, friends, and strangers. She loved the Lord with all her heart and tarried in prayer for her family, friends, and even strangers. Moreover, she loved sharing the Gospel with anyone she could. In fact, others have openly expressed how she poured her life and the Word of God into their lives, and many have shared their heartfelt gratitude for her unconditional love and how she changed their lives for the better. Sylvia, the matriarch, was an influencer, a comforter, a provider, a mother, a grandmother, a great-grandmother, a wife, a friend, a teacher, an aunt, and most importantly, a virtuous Woman of God.

One of her passions was serving in the House of God. In 1999, she joined From the Heart Church Ministries (FTH), where she grew spiritually from the revelational teachings of the late Dr. John A. Cherry and Bishop John A. Cherry, II. There she established lifelong friendships, unconditional support and love, and received God's Word. Over the years, she was actively involved in the life of the church through the Activities, Seniors, and Usher Ministries. She especially loved serving as an usher. Sylvia had recently moved back to Maryland from Indiana, where she could be closer to FTH, the church she loved the most.

Sylvia's hobbies included making and selling jewelry to her friends, family, and others; dancing (especially with her grandchildren during the holidays); playing tennis; walking; exercising; ceramics; and sewing. She also had a natural talent for interior design—her ability to see an empty room or space and envision wall colors, trim, architectural placement of furniture, spacing, and accessories was exceptional. It would rival any photograph in *Architectural Digest*.

Sylvia will be remembered for her selfless acts, incredible strength, resilience, her giving spirit, and her unconditional love for her family, friends, and everyone she encountered. Most of all, she will be remembered for showing and demonstrating the love of Jesus to everyone she touched along her life and for being a true light in this world.

Sylvia leaves to cherish her memories; her son, William (Laurie, favorite daughter-in-law) Donald Turner, Jr.; daughters, Rhonda Michele Turner and Dianne (Michael, favorite son-in-law) Rene Forrest; brother, John Henry Brown, II; sister, Henrietta Brown; grandchildren: Chandler Turner, Ashley Turner, and Lauren Turner; great-granddaughter, Zenna McCray; niece, Angela Jones; great-niece, LeJeinez Cooper; great-nephew, Reginald Nash; cousin, Cynthia Brown; and a host of other cousins and friends.

Sylvia was preceded in death by her sisters, Jean Jones and Lena Mae Brown.

Order of Service

Invocation

Congregational Hymn "Lift Him Up"

Scripture Reading

*Old Testament: Psalm 91:1-7
New Testament: Colossians 3:12-15*

Prayer of Comfort

Selection Mrs. Dana Yates

Acknowledgements

Remarks

*Mrs. Ollie Whitted - Friend
Ms. Angela Jones - Niece
Mr. William Turner, Ms. Rhonda Turner, and Mrs. Dianne Forrest - Children
Mr. Michael R. Forrest, Jr. - Son-in-Law*

Poem Ms. Lauren, Ms. Ashley, and Ms. Chandler Turner

Obituary (Read Silently)

Song of Preparation Mrs. Dana Yates

Message of Hope Bishop John A. Cherry, II

Call to Christ

Recessional

Interment
Arlington National Cemetery
1 Memorial Drive | Fort Myers, VA 22211
Date is forthcoming



Love Notes

I'm going to miss you terribly, Mom, my first call every morning was to you and 4 more in the same day LOL. I know I was that ONE child and you prayed for me and turned me over to the Lord. I am so grateful to God that you were able to see those prayers be fulfilled. You were able to see me graduate from the Ministers Training Institute, receive my B.S in Arts and Theology, and my journey to fulfill my calling that God has given to me. I know I will bring many souls to Him. The best thing you ever did for me was not clothing or feeding me, it was introducing me to Jesus.

Love you so much Mom. Until we meet again in heaven.

- Rhonda

I am going to miss you more than words can say I have lost my mommy, shopping buddy, and confidant. I know that you are with Jesus and probably back to telling daddy what to do. I love you and will always keep you in my heart and mind.

- Dianne

Thank you, "GD" Momma Turner, for your wisdom, patience, kindness and love. I'm going to miss our daily conversations with each other.

- Love, Michael R. Forrest, Jr. (your favorite son-in-law)

Mother...

Thank you for all of the loving motherly energy you've extended to me over the past 25 years of my friendship with Dee. I will always be grateful for the countless meals, life lessons, funny stories about You and Pop Turner, chastisement, chastisement, chastisement!!!

Did I mention ALL of the chastisement? You've been my Mother, Sister-in-Christ, shopping buddy, Official Girlfriend of The Crew and teller of financial truths to Nerissa when Dee-Dee and I were supposed to be watching our finances but shopped anyway. No one will ever be able to tap that foot and wiggle that finger at me when I'm in trouble like You Mother.

Although you didn't have to do it much in your latter days, I hope I've made you proud enough to not have to do it in glory!!!! Kisses, hugs and gratitude for helping to raise me as a woman of God and for giving me my Best Friend Dianne (along with my siblings Rhonda, Donald, Laurie and Mark).

- Your Other Daughter, Yolanda

Sylvia has always been a part of my life from the day I was born. She told me that she would dress me like a doll baby. She was my designated family historian regarding my paternal side of the family. She told me stories regarding my Dad (one of her favorite uncles), grandparents, aunts/uncles. One of her favorite stories about my dad was he would let her drive his car but very few people had that privilege. My Dad had brothers/sisters that he would not allow to touch his car nor drive it. She told me also that being around him always made her feel safe. These stories and memories I have are etched in my heart forever.

Sylvia was one of the few people that my parents allowed her to take care of me. She was my babysitter and if my Mom could not take me to birthday parties or any other events, Sylvia gladly took me. Trust me for my parents to put my brother and me in her hands without hesitation, she had to be trustworthy, dependable, and consistent. I will miss your laugh, your cooking, and the talks we had, especially me asking a lot of questions about the past.

Rest easy my family. Whenever I hear a little chatty, happy bird, I will definitely know it is you.

- Love, Cyn

Love Notes

Mother Turner was small in stature, but mighty in spirit. A beacon of energy, joy, and unwavering faith that illuminated the lives of everyone she met.

She carried a spirit that thrived on movement; sitting still was never easy. It was a true challenge for her to be confined to a hospital bed, yet even in that stillness, God's grace shone through our time together. He gave me the gift of over two uninterrupted hours with her in the hospital, just the two of us, talking, laughing, remembering, and praying. I felt the gentle hand of the Lord guiding our conversation, a sacred gift and a divine appointment that I will cherish forever. Over the years, she blessed both my husband and me with her warmth, resilience, and unshakeable faith. Though her earthly journey has ended, I take comfort in knowing her spirit has been welcomed into the everlasting arms of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, where there is peace beyond understanding.

As Ecclesiastes reminds us: "To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die..."
Ecclesiastes 3:1-2

May the Lord surround Dianne, Michael and the entire family with His comfort, strength, and abiding peace.

- With Love, Ken & Stephanie Walton

Woman of God thank you for your unconditional love and prayers. You were instrumental in me learning about the Lord. Aunt Sylvia, your life was a beacon of light to our family and everyone else you came in contact with. I can't be sad because I know you're with the Father where there is no pain and sorrow. Your life lessons will forever be cherished and remembered until we meet again.

- Love you eternally, Angela

Sylvia and I were good friends. It began at Light of the World on 38th St., when she and Bill moved to San Antonio, TX. They joined Dr. Claudette Copeland's church, who I knew. She and Bill served on the Usher Board, and they invited me down twice to preach for their Usher's Annual Day. When she came back to Indy and was at Robin Run and came back to Light of the World, I introduced her to Pastor Janae and every Sunday she would greet Pastor and speak with me. I have lost a wonderful friend.

- Love, Minister Maudine Wordlaw

Sylvia was a faithful person, and I am sorry to hear she has made her transition.

- Bishop Tom Garrett Benjamin, Jr.

I would love to take the opportunity to honor a lady who I consider my second mother. I have known her my whole life and since my mother didn't have any sisters, she considered her a sister. She was loving and giving and truly one of the kindest persons I have ever known. I would be remiss if I didn't mention she made the best homemade waffles I've ever eaten. She will be missed, rest in peace my love until we meet again.

- Reverend Guyton Daniels

I was so sad to hear that my sister from another mister had gone on to glory and yet I celebrate a life well lived! We were friends for well over 60 years and I am so grateful to God to have allowed you to be an amazing part of this journey called life! Rest well my friend, looking forward to seeing you again!

- Love, Mrs. Ruby Wallace

Dearest Mother Turner,

I truly thank my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ for allowing me the opportunity of having you in my life. Very shortly after meeting you, it was abundantly clear why you were called Mother. I was aware that you had three children, but I found out that you were a mother to many. I am honored to say that I am one of your many sons. Thank you so much for your love, wisdom, encouragement, and correction. We would often laugh at how you would gesture and pull me to the side when you needed to tell me something. Whenever I visited you, I rarely ever left without you giving me either some food to take home or something you thought that I could use, and you never took no for an answer. During the time that I would come over to do something for you, really, I benefited more. I will miss our long phone conversations that were really me listening more than talking. Proverbs 31:25-26 says, "Strength and honour are her clothing; and she shall rejoice in time to come. She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of Kindness." Thank God that you are now rejoicing in the presence of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I will truly miss you.

- Your son, Minister La Vern Finks

Mother Turner was a steadfast presence in the lives of those who knew her, always offering unwavering support while never hesitating to provide correction when needed. Her directness, honesty, openness, and abundant love defined her interactions with everyone. I'm known for promoting financial responsibility, I could always rely on Mother Turner to be my enforcer with my friends, Dianne and Yolanda. She once said to them, "I'm going to tell Nerissa. She told you not to do that." Her absence will be deeply felt, but she leaves behind a legacy of love, guidance, and integrity.

- Love, Nerissa Dixon

Mother Turner was a gracious, caring, and deeply thoughtful woman whose love touched everyone around her. Though small in stature, she carried a presence that was both respected and cherished. Always on the move, she was rarely still. I often teased that she moved in "stealth mode," quietly appearing in the midst of a conversation to share a perfectly timed word of wisdom. I will always treasure moments together—Sunday brunches, Lifegivers Retreats, and family cookouts—each one filled with laughter and insight. Although gone, she will not be forgotten. Her influence and wisdom will continue to echo through countless conversations. As I said to my mother nine months ago, I now say to Mother Turner: Take your rest. I love you.

- Norina "Faye" Dixon

Mom Turner,

It has been said that people come into your life for a SEASON. We thank God for the season that we had with you. Your laughter, smile, jokes and your wisdom of God's Word will live with us forever. Your season is finished, and God has called you back to the place that he has prepared for you. We will miss you, but we know that you are resting in peace with Jesus.

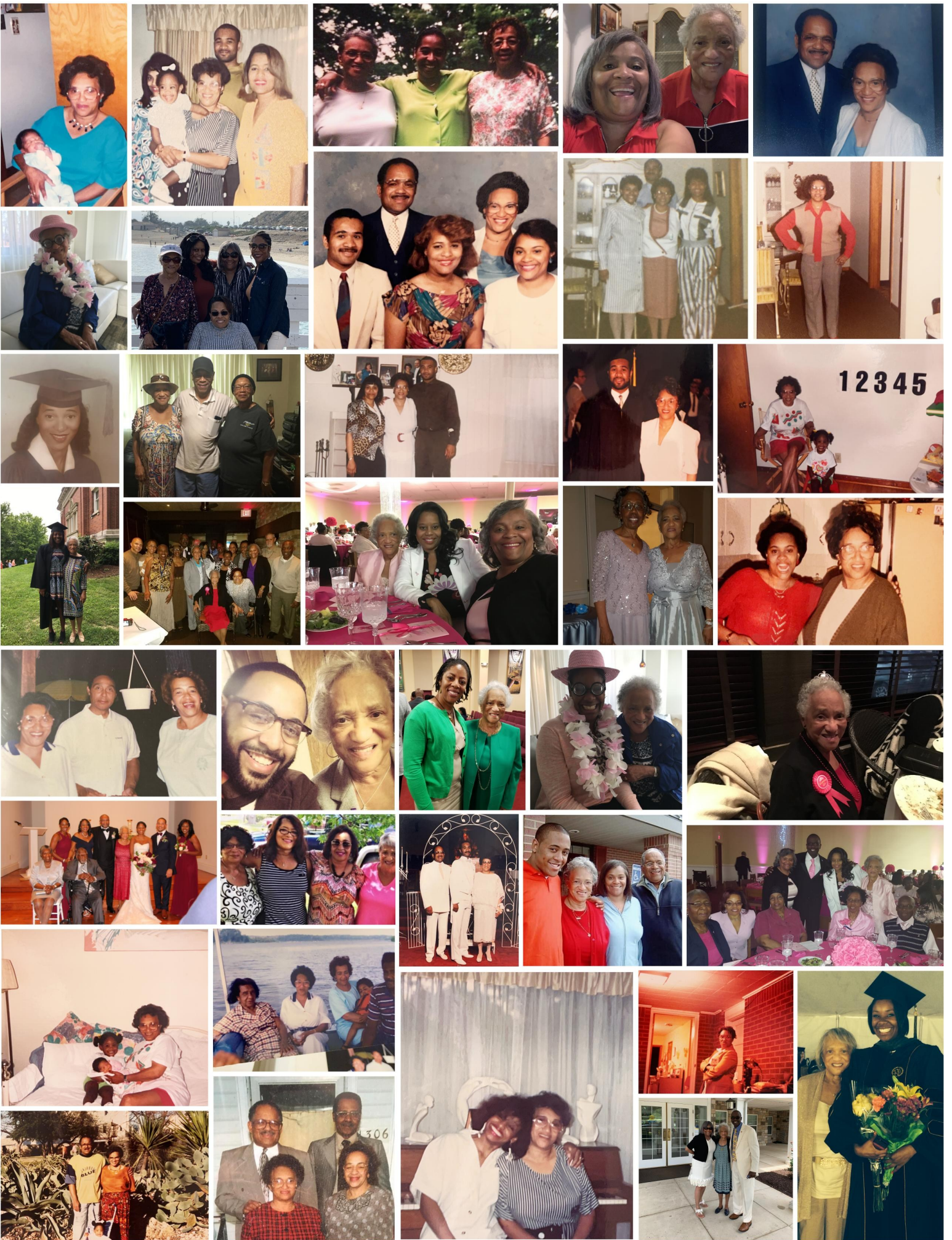
- Lola J. King and the King family

My mother-in-law was a Blessing to our family and me. I am grateful for the Love and Wisdom that she graciously shared with me. Her faithfulness, generosity and kindness are qualities that she leaves behind for each of us to continue in her honor. Love you forever Grandma!

- Your Daughter In Love, Laurie 'Belle'

I have been in reflection since learning that you had taken ill and of your passing. My thoughts tried to recall when I first met Bill and the family, and the funny thing was that I could not recall. It seems as though you have always been part of my life. I have always been amazed that although small in stature, you were a giant to everyone. Throughout my youth, you would impart so many pearls of wisdom, with a dose of discipline and accountability for everyone's actions. Although Mr. Turner was such a force as a father figure, I was always clear as to who carried "the Stick" ... If you don't know, you don't know. There was always love in the Turner home and I always felt not only the stick, but the love. I am so ever thankful for your guidance, wisdom and living example of your faith and love for our God along with the importance of knowing Him. My love for you has always been as a son loves his mother, for I always considered you one of mine. I am so thankful that I had the opportunity to spend time with you the few days before you went home, the intimate and impactful words and thoughts you shared will be with me forever as will my love for you, Mr. Turner, Bill, Rhonda and Dianne. It is written in the Book of I John 5:13, "I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life..." You lived by these words and knowing this, I have faith that you will always be with us and living by your example and faith in God. May God bless the family during this difficult season with faith that Momma Turner will be with us forever.

- Love Always and Forever, Mark





Congregational Hymn
Lift Him Up

*How to reach the masses, men of ev'ry birth,
For an answer Jesus gave a key:
"And I, if I be lifted up from the earth,
Will draw all men unto Me."*

CHORUS

*Lift Him up, Lift Him up,
Still He speaks from eternity,
"And I, if I be lifted up from the earth,
will draw all men unto Me."*

*O the world is hungry for the Living Bread,
Lift the Savior up for them to see;
Trust Him, and do not doubt the words that He said,
"I'll draw all men unto Me."*

CHORUS

*Lift Him up by living as a Christian ought,
Let the world in you the Savior see;
Then men will gladly follow Him who once taught,
"I'll draw all men unto Me."*

CHORUS

Acknowledgement

The entire Turner and Forrest families sincerely thank all of you for your prayers, comfort, love and support. Your many acts of kindness and expressions of sympathy have been a blessing to us. May the Lord Jesus Christ bless and keep you in perfect peace!

Pallbearers

*Alphonso Cain, Calvin Eley
LaVern Finks, Michael Forrest Jr.
Calvin McDowney and Ken Walton*

Flower Bearers

Family and Friends

Services Entrusted to:

*Hodges and Edwards Funeral Home
3910 Silver Hill Road | Suitland, MD 20746*