

OBITUARIES

Russell

Funeral Home
822 Carl Russell Ave.
722-3459

COLEMAN

Mr. John Howard Coleman, 159 Forest Drive, Kernersville, NC, passed away Sept. 13 at Forsyth Medical Center Palliative Care Unit. He was a native of Fairfield County, SC. He was a retired employee of McLean Trucking Company, a member of the Emmanuel Baptist Church and Prince Hall Masons, Ionic Lodge #72.

Survivors include his wife, Daisy Alexander Coleman; four sons, Howard Christopher Coleman of Port Arthur, TX, Maurice A. Coleman of the home, John H. Brown of Winston-Salem, and the late Marvin Wayne Coleman; one daughter, Marion (Alvin) Johnson; eight grandchildren; three brothers and four sisters, Tina C. (Rev. William) Ownes, Edna R. Coleman, Bertha C. Coleman, Mattie C. Wilson, Arthur (Pearlie) Coleman, McConnell (Doretha) Coleman all of Winston-Salem and Young (Loretta) Coleman of Chicago, three sisters-in-law, Mildred (Deacon Hessie, Jr.) Smith, Minnie L. Alexander of Winston-Salem and Jean-Glover of Charlotte, NC; a host of extended family and friends.

The funeral was held Sept. 18, at 12 noon from Emmanuel Baptist Church. Dr. John Mendez officiated. Burial followed at Evergreen Cemetery. Russell Funeral Home directors were in charge of the arrangements.

HAMILTON

Mrs. Louise Spencer Hamilton, 2945 Reynolds Road, Winston-Salem, passed away Sept. 7 at Villages of Wilkes Skilled Care Center, North Wilkesboro, NC. Mrs. Hamilton was born in Winston-Salem to Nannie and Henry Spencer. She received her early education in the Winston-Salem public school system, earned her Bachelor of Arts Degree in English and History at Bennett College, Greensboro, NC (1935); and Masters of Arts Degree in Social Studies from Columbia University, New York, NY (1945). She did further graduate study at the University of Southern California, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Sarah Lawrence College, New York. In 1971, her class in American History at Winston-Salem State University won the George Washington Honor Medal from the Freedom Foundation, Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. She was proud of the International Recognition Program at Winston-Salem State University. Her vocational experiences included six-years as a teacher of Social Studies at Atkins High School, Winston-Salem; four years as an adjudicator with the federal government in New York City; and twenty eight years as a teacher of Social Studies at Winston-Salem State University, retiring in 1973 as an Associate Professor of History. Mrs. Hamilton was an active community citizen serving in key areas in Winston-Salem and North Carolina. She represented Winston-Salem State University on the Tercentenary Committee celebrating the 300th year of the Charter of North, for which she received a certificate from the State Department; held memberships on the Forsyth-Stokes Mental Health Board, the Mayors Housing Coordinating Committee, the steering committee at Wake Forest that planned a Human Relations Workshop for teachers in the early days of integration, Board of Directors of the North Carolina Museum Associates, Historic District Commission of Winston-Salem, state legislative committee for the National Retired Teachers Association and AARP; she was inducted into the Hall of Fame on National Women of Achievement, Inc. and she served as a member of the Bennett College Alumni. Mrs. Hamilton was active in politics in the Fifth Congressional District and her local precincts. She was a delegate to the Democratic National Convention. She appeared in the 1981-1982 Who's Who in American Politics, Eighth Edition. She had a passion for African American history. She published a brief history about the pioneer contributions of Black people in Winston-Salem (1976) and was contributing editor of revised edition of Forsyth: A County on the March (1976).

In 1983, she initiated the idea that led to the founding of the organization known as The Society for the study of Afro American History in Winston-Salem and Forsyth County. The society has produced six historical calendars highlighting the achievements of the black community from 1890 to 1950. She served as editor for five of these calendars.

Traveling was her hobby and she traveled to 45 states in the United States, Europe, Turkey, the Caribbean and Monte Carlo.

An active member in the Methodist Church (now United Methodist Church), Mrs. Hamilton was a member of the Mount Pleasant Methodist Church and became a member of St. Paul Methodist Church when two churches merged in 1976. She served as a member of the Council on Ministries, Administrative Board, United Methodist Women and chaired committees on Religion and Race and Christian Unity and Inter-Religious Concerns for several years.

Mrs. Hamilton married Mr. James Hamilton in 1941. He later died in an automobile accident. In 1953, she married Mr. Carlton S. Hamilton. Mr. Carlton Hamilton died in 1993. Mrs. Hamilton had no children.

Through the energetic personality of Mrs. Hamilton, our family has stayed together and in contact from the annual family reunions that she so proudly coordinated and spent joyous hours working on each year. Mrs. Hamilton kept family and friends dear to her with a feeling of being safe, loved, cared for and disciplined.

She was also a mentor, surrogate mother (so to speak), a friend and any other role that she needed to be for that special person or moment in her life.

Mrs. Hamilton believed in a strict old-time discipline with a strong and loving hand. She was a spiritual and insightful person. She would have you pray with her at any given time.

She leaves to cherish her memories many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. Her family would like to recognize two very special people: Mrs. Julia Johnson, whom Mrs. Hamilton called family, a friend and confidante for 70 years; and her niece, Peggy Hunt, who was a source of comfort during the final chapters of her life.

A memorial service was held Sept. 18 at noon at St. Paul United Methodist Church. Rev. Donald Jenkins officiated. Russell Funeral Home directors were in charge of the arrangements.

HOWARD

Mrs. Margaret Louise Dixon Howard, formerly of 260-A Village Creek Circle, Winston-Salem, passed away Sept. 15 at Kate Biting Reynolds Hospice Home after a valiant and courageous battle. Mrs. Howard was born Oct. 22, 1929 in Durham, NC. She was a resident of Winston-Salem for most of her life.

She was blessed to have a special relationship with both Ephesus Seventh Day Adventist Church and First Seventh Day Adventist Church (Country Club). She served faithfully in many areas of the church until declining health. Holding on to her faith in God, she continued the fight while attending both churches when her health allowed her to come out to worship. She served as a deaconess, Sabbath school teacher/secretary, MV youth leader, Superintendent of the Junior Department and usher. She was the Director of Vacation Bible School, a member of the Prison Ministry, Eastside Prayer Band and the Ephesus Senior Choir. Most importantly, she was a "Mother Figure" to many.

Mrs. Howard was preceded in death by her mother, Lillian R. Wilson and her aunt, Mrs. Vandealnia Caesar.

She is survived by her husband, Paulet R. Howard and one brother, Harold Reid, Sr. (Wanda). She leaves to cherish her loving memories: daughters, Carolyn (Denby) Marcus, Rhonda Miller and Deborah Howard all of Winston-Salem; sons, Raymond Howard, Paulet (Kathy) E. Howard and Anthony Howard; ten grandchildren; two great grandchildren and a host of other relatives and friends. Special friends, Nancy (Theodore) Fulp, Rosemary Stevenson and in-home caregiver, Tangelia Burns.

The funeral was held Sept. 20 at 1 p.m. from Ephesus Seventh Day Adventist Church. Pastor Moses Edwards, Sr. officiated and eulogy by Pastor Sven Behm. Burial followed at Evergreen Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the Margaret Howard Christian Education Scholarship Fund at Ephesus Junior Academy, 1225 North Cleveland Avenue, Winston-Salem, NC 27101. Russell Funeral Home directors were in charge of the arrangements.

MARTIN

Mrs. Alphonzo Norris Martin, Winston-Salem, passed away Sept. 16 at Springwood Care Center of Forsyth following a lengthy illness.

He was born on June 15, 1927 in Winston-Salem. Mr. Martin was an active member of Shiloh Baptist Church in Winston-Salem for many years. He served in the U.S. Army Air Corps and was honorably discharged in 1947. Alphonzo, better known as "AL" by his many friends, grew up in the section of Winston-Salem known as "The Pond." At a young age, Al's love of gospel music led to his dream of becoming a radio broadcaster. His devoted wife, Lillian, who preceded him encouraged him to fulfill his dream and complete his education at the New York School of Announcing and Speech. Al graced the air of local radio stations with his melodious voice for over 34 years and was known as the "Godfather of Gospel Music." During his years as a gospel broadcaster, Al had occasion to associate with many great gospel artists, such as Mahalia Jackson, Sam Cook and Blind Willie Johnson. A voice of hope, a voice of love, a voice of faith, courage and distinction, a voice that provided comfort and joy to countless numbers over the years. Although retired, Al would often "spin" from his home recording studio the music that soothed so many souls.

Al leaves to mourn his passing daughter, Beverly Speller (Diamond) of Brooklyn, NY; granddaughter, Denise Clark of Atlanta, GA; two nieces, Barbara Martin (Guy) of Charlotte, NC and Emma Jean McWarren of Brooklyn, NY; as well as many friends and acquaintances. He will be greatly missed by all.

The funeral was held Sept. 21 at 12 noon from Shiloh Baptist Church. Rev. Dr. Paul A. Lowe, Jr. officiated. Burial followed at Piedmont Memorial Gardens. Russell Funeral Home directors were in charge of the arrangements.

MCCOY

Mrs. Mozelle Mack McCoy, 3626 Carver School Road, Winston-Salem passed away Sept. 12 at Forsyth Medical Center. Mrs. McCoy was born April 16, 1924. She accepted Christ at an early age. She was a dedicated and faithful member of St. James AME Church for several years where she served on the Deaconess Board for many years until her health declined.

Mozelle was a devoted and loving caregiver for many family members through the years. She will be missed. Mozelle was preceded in death by her parents, Thomas and Riller Mack and four brothers.

She leaves to cherish her memory her loving and devoted husband of 65 years, James McCoy; a daughter, Marilyn Click; two sons, Herman and Bernard McCoy of Winston-Salem; a sister of Winston-Salem; a brother of South Carolina; two grandchildren; four great grandchildren; and a host of other relatives and friends.

The funeral was held Sept. 16 at 1 p.m. from St. James AME Church. Rev. Mary F. Peterson officiated. Burial followed at Evergreen Cemetery. Russell Funeral Home directors were in charge of the arrangements.

MICKLE

Mrs. Betty Shipp Mickle, 3625 Appomattox Drive, Winston-Salem, passed away Sept. 18 at Duke University Medical Center, Durham, NC. She was born June 24, 1948 and was a native and lifelong resident of Winston-Salem. She was married to Ravonne E. Mickle for 36 years. She was a faithful member of First Baptist Church, Highland Avenue, where she was active with the youth ministry department.

She was employed at GMAC Insurance Company until she retired in 2003. She was a graduate of Paisley High School in 1967. Betty was preceded in death by her father, Lafayette Hauser; mother, Alice J. Shipp; and a brother, Sheldon Shipp.

Surviving is her husband of 37 years, Ravonne E. Mickle; a daughter, Bridgette M. (John) Watson; a son, Ravonne E. Mickle, JR.; a brother, Mical D. (Tonya) Shipp; a sister, Darla R. Shipp; two grandchildren, Brandon J. and Christopher K. Legrand; a great grandson, Brian Jones; a devoted uncle, Sampson Shipp. She will also be missed by a host of in-laws, nephews, nieces, cousins and special friends.

The funeral was held Sept. 22 at 1 p.m. from First Baptist Church. Rev. Wendell A. Johnson officiated. Burial followed at Evergreen Cemetery. Russell Funeral Home directors were in charge of the arrangements.

SHEPARD

Mrs. Demarshall Shepard, 650 Ontario Street, Winston-Salem, passed away Sept. 13 at Kate Biting Reynolds Hospice Home. He was born in Gastonia, NC on Jan. 1, 1924 to the late Rosa Shepard. He moved to Winston-Salem at an early age and was of the Baptist faith. While here in Winston-Salem, he worked as a custodian and bus driver for R. J. Reynolds High School where he was known and loved by the students and staff. He also worked for Pleasant Hardware Store. In his spare time, he loved to fish, watch Nascar racing and working on automobiles. In his later years, he owned and operated Shep's Towing Service.

Among those who now hold the collection of memories more dearly is a very special and devoted friend, Lillie Walters of Winston-Salem; two sisters, Ann Williams of Brooklyn, NY, Geneva Shepard of Winston-Salem and two sisters who preceded him in death, Gracie Armstrong and Carrie Gist. Two brothers also preceded him in death, Alonza Shepard and Monroe Shepard.

He leaves six sons to cherish his memory, Charles (Phyllis) Walters, Emmanuel (Pegi) Walters, Bobby (Faye) Shepard, Harold (Lillie) Shepard of Winston-Salem, Cinque (Kim) Walters of Greensboro, NC, Ernest Walters of Charlotte, NC and Malik Shari/Marshall Shepard of New York, NY; five daughters, Jennifer (Leon) Evans, Gail (Larry) Wilson, Ella Faye Boston, Sylvia (Rev. Sam) Hickerson and Linda Shepard all of Winston-Salem; 41 grandchildren; 32 great grandchildren and many nieces, nephews, cousins and other relatives and friends of the immediate and extended families.

A home-going service was held Sept. 17 at 1 p.m. from the Chapel of the Russell Funeral Home. Rev. Sam P. L. Hickerson officiated. Burial followed at Piedmont Memorial Gardens. Russell Funeral Home directors were in charge of the arrangements.

SUMMERS

Mr. Jerry Jerome Summers, Sr., 4800 Indiana Avenue, Winston-Salem, passed away Sept. 12 in Winston-Salem, NC. Jerry was born on Nov. 7, 1950, the son of Hallie Lee Summers and Frances Moore Summers. Jerry attended the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools and was a graduate of North Forsyth High School. He loved sports cars and never met a stranger. Jerry was of the Baptist faith and was employed by Vincenzo's Italian Restaurant. He was preceded in death by his father, Hallie Lee Summers.

Those who stood with Jerry in life and who look to stand with him in eternity include his wife, Portia Faye Causser Summers; four children, Lovely Summers, Jerry Summers, Jr., Charlita Summers, Aldine Summers; three step-children, Corey Cameron, Justin Cameron and Jermaine Cameron; his mother, Frances Moore Summers; his brothers and sisters, Hallie Lee (Grace) Summers, III, Hershah (Natalie) Summers, Shirley (Edward) Lowery, Attorney Cecil (Robin) Summers, Connie S. Mack, Rev. Dr. Douglas (Pam) Summers, Bobby (Olivia) Summers, Kenneth (Sandra) Summers, Dennis (Denise) Summers, Sharon (Tracy) Jones; seven aunts, Ruth S. Reich, Betty S. Pinkney, Ruby S. Peterson, Lucy S. Brooks, Elizabeth M. Covington, Vera M. Sheff and Mary D. Summers; three sisters-in-law, Minister Kathy Joy Summers, Minister Dee (Ronnie) Harrell, Gloria Couser; one brother-in-law, Wayne L. Couser; a host of cousins, nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

The funeral was held Sept. 16 at 11 a.m. from the Chapel of the Russell Funeral Home. Rev. Dr. Douglas E. Summers. Burial followed at Piedmont Memorial Gardens. Russell Funeral Home directors were in charge of the arrangements.

ACKER

Mr. Mack Lee Acker, 5005 Longbrook Circle, Winston-Salem, passed away Sept. 14 at Wake Forest University/Baptist Medical Center. He was born Aug. 8, 1917 to Joseph and Elizabeth Acker. Mr. Acker was a native of Greenville, SC, and educated in the public school system. He served in the U.S. Navy and was a veteran of World War II. He was a faithful member of Emmanuel Baptist Church for many years. Mr. Acker was preceded in death by his parents, Joseph and Elizabeth Acker; his wife, Geraldine Acker and subsequently Biner Acker; a daughter, Eldora Acker-Williams; and two sons, Willie "Honey Bee" Acker and James Acker.

Surviving relatives include his daughter, Odessa Y. Fields of Winston-Salem; five grandsons, Toney (Bernice) Fields of Winston-Salem, Derrick Fields of Greensboro, NC, Terry (Wanda) Fields of Kernersville, NC, Dewon Fields of Atlanta, GA and DeQuincy (Rochelle) Fields of Whitehall, OH; a granddaughter, TeNisha Fields of Winston-Salem; a devoted niece, Deborah Jean Snipes of Winston-Salem; a devoted cousin, Lottie Cunningham of Winston-Salem; several great grandchildren; and a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

ALLEN

Mrs. Amy Elizabeth Lawrence Allen, 120 Billie Sue Drive, Winston-Salem, passed away Sept. 11 at The Salemtowne Moravian Retirement Home. Mrs. Allen was born Dec. 2, 1922 in Columbia, SC to the Rev. Rufus G. Lawrence and his wife, Bertha. The third daughter in a large family that included five sisters and four brothers, Amy was raised in Orangeburg, SC by the Rev. Lawrence and Maude Haigler Lawrence ("Miss Maude"), the mother who guided the family after Bertha's death. After receiving degrees from Claflin College and Atlanta University, Amy moved to Chicago, IL, where she began her forty-year career as a Teacher-Librarian for the Chicago Public School System. Amy then married John Everett Allen, Sr. on Aug. 20, 1949. Their family expanded to include two sons, John Everett Allen, Jr. and Donald Lawrence Allen; a daughter-in-law, Gloria Gay Allen; a grandson, Jonathan Gabriel; and a granddaughter, Traci Marie. After the death of her husband in 1985, she left Chicago (along with her sister and brother-in-law, Dorothy and Luther Patton) and moved to a new home in Decatur, GA. For Amy, life was built on generosity, faith and service. She always lovingly recognized family accomplishments, birthdays and other events with a special care; many times she even included a financial gift. She extolled the value of education, and was extremely proud when her daughter-in-law became certified as a teacher. She embraced church life, both at Chicago's Gorham United Methodist Church and Atlanta's Cascade United Methodist Church—gladly serving church programs in Christian Education, missions, outreach, and administration. She campaigned for civil justice in the community. (Supporting the activities of Operation Breadbasket in Chicago) and ecumenical justice in her church (supporting the activities of the Black Methodists for Church Renewal). Her presence at Martin Luther King's "March on Washington" in 1963 was, for her, a statement of faith in action. She constantly strove to uplift others. And her praise, whether it was a hand wave, a foot stomp, a tear, or a loud shout was an acknowledgment of her appreciation of God's manifold wonders in her life. Amy's greatest legacy will be her living witness to the power of true Christian love. She taught us to fervently fight for those less fortunate than ourselves; to sincerely acknowledge the preciousness of all God's children; and to constantly demonstrate respect and kindness for everyone we encounter. She leaves us with the message from Matthew 25:40: "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these by brethren, ye have done it unto me."

Survivors are her son, John, Jr., her daughter-in-law, Gloria and her two grandchildren, Jonathan Gabriel and Traci Marie. She is also survived by three sisters, Lillian L. Thomas of Pasadena, CA, Dorothy L. Patton of Decatur, GA, Rubilee L. Addison of Clemson, SC; four brothers, Rufus G. Lawrence, II of Lithonia, GA, James Robert Lawrence of Augusta, GA, Rayburne J. Lawrence of Chicago, IL and Thomas E. Lawrence of Orangeburg, SC. Amy will be mourned by brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law, Luther Patton, Sr., Clarence Addison, Geneva Lawrence, Jacqueline Lawrence, Carolyn Lawrence and Sylvia Lawrence, her many nieces, nephews, cousins and other relatives and by a multitude of friends, co-workers and acquaintances.

Amy was preceded in death by her husband, John E. Allen, Sr., her son, Donald L. Allen, her father, Rufus G. Lawrence, Sr., her mothers, Bertha Robinson Lawrence and Maude Haigler Lawrence, her sister Malialie Person and two infant brothers (Samuel and Amos).

The funeral was held Sept. 17 at 1 p.m. from St. Paul United Methodist Church in Winston-Salem and Sept. 18 at 1 p.m. from Gorham United Methodist Church, Chicago, IL. Rev. Donald Jenkins officiated in Winston-Salem and Bishop Edsel Ammons and Rev. Barneather Murph-Heath officiated in Chicago, IL.

Burial followed at Oak Wood Cemetery, Chicago, IL. Russell Funeral Home directors were in charge of the arrangements.

CALDWELL

Mrs. Florence Louise Payne Caldwell, 621 Barbara Jane Avenue, Winston-Salem, passed away Sept. 14 at Forsyth Medical Center after an extended period of illness. Mrs. Caldwell was born Jan. 7, 1925, in Forsyth County to Jack and Dora Payne. She was a Gold Star member of First Baptist Church, the Sunday school and the Women's Progressive Club until her health declined. She was preceded in death by her parents and 11 brothers and sisters.

She is survived by her loving and devoted husband, Robert Caldwell, Sr. of the home; a son, Robert (Constance) Caldwell, JR. of Winston-Salem; four daughters, Gloria Caldwell (Bernard Witherspoon) of Winston-Salem, Joyce (Benjamin) Brown of Pfafftown, NC, Janice (Michael) Pettigrew of Winston-Salem and Virginia Caldwell of the home; nine grandchildren, Michelle R. Caldwell, Michael S. Pettigrew, Renita L. Scales, Chrystal N. Caldwell, Robert L. Scales, IV, Jason J. Caldwell, Johnathan R. Pettigrew, Kendra L. Witherspoon and Briana L. Witherspoon; 12 great grandchildren, Samara, Makayla, Ariyana, Joshua, Mnemosyne, Najashi, Janae', Jah, Jeremiah, Acostus, Jayniah and Zoei; a devoted nephew, Thomas (Phyllis) Baldwin of Huntersville, NC; devoted nieces, Shirley (Thurmond) Carter of Pfafftown, NC, Mary P. Jones and June Soares of Winston-Salem; devoted sisters-in-law, Edith Payne, Katie Payne and Marthola Payne all of Winston-Salem, Sarah Hairston of Yeadon, PA, and Beatrice McKnight of Columbia, SC; brothers-in-law, George Baldwin of Winston-Salem, Joseph (Polly) Caldwell of Kernersville, NC and Malachi Caldwell of Sumter, SC; devoted cousin, Thelma Jeffries of Winston-Salem; devoted friends, Odessa Hunter, Evelena Clayborn, Claudine Cheeks and Dorothy Allen of Winston-Salem; and a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

The funeral was held Sept. 18 at 12 noon at First Baptist Church. Rev. Wendell A. Johnson officiated. Burial followed at Evergreen Cemetery. Special thanks to Dr. Chirapa Sinthusek, the Oaks at Forsyth, 2nd GI Unit and 6th Floor Intermediate Care Unit of Forsyth Medical Center and the Rev. Sandra Thigpen. Russell Funeral Home directors were in charge of the arrangements.