

Obituary

Lessie Hilliard Herring was affectionately known as Mom, Grandma, Lessie and Aunt Gee. Born on April 21st, 1913, in Jackson, Mississippi, she was the sixth of eight children born to Archie and Lucy Hilliard. Lessie married her best friend, Robert Guss Herring, Sr. on August 21st, 1933. God blessed this union with the birth of three children: Robert, Jr., Archie and Benny Ross.

In search of a better life for their very young family, Lessie and Robert moved to Weed, California, shortly after the birth of their first child. In 1943, Robert sought work in Seattle, Washington, where he and Lessie decided to make their final home.

The importance of family and church to Lessie was evident to everyone who knew her. Upon arriving in Seattle Lessie became an active member of the First AME church. One of her favored activities was serving on and supporting the Annual Tea Committee, a major fund-raising function for the church.

During the war years, Lessie worked as a riveter for Boeing, a time she enjoyed often telling about. Fishing was also a favorite activity, both the catching and eating. None of these, however, gave her as much joy as spending time with her children and grandchildren. Watching her boys and later her grandchildren in their athletic endeavors was her introduction to the world of organized sports. This led her to a life long enjoyment of televised professional football, basketball and baseball. She could hold conversations about the players and the games with the best of them.

Lessie frequently provided "taxi-service" to and from school for her grandchildren, helping provide peace of mind to their working parents. She was the most reliable "baby-sitter" in town, even arriving as early as 6:30 in the morning with a sunshine smile on her face. She was always available and willing to lend a helping hand of any kind to nieces and nephews, and her brothers and sisters alike.

Lessie had the wonderful ability to see the humor in many of life's ironic twists. With a mischievous twinkle in her eye she would bring a smile and laughter to the hearts of family and friends with her own unique brand of humor. Lessie departed this life on August 21st, 1999. She is survived by 2 children, 5 grandchildren, 6 great-grandchildren, 1 great-great grandchild, her sister, Jessie Mae and many nieces, nephews and friends.



Order of Service

Viewing

Organ Prelude

Processional

Prayer

Scripture

Solo

Obituary

Acknowledgments

Solo

Eulogy

Recessional

Felisa Hundley

Rev. Dr. John J. Hunter

Rev. W. Eugene Square
Proverbs 31:10-31

"I'll Fly Away"
Sandra Smith-Jackson

Silent Reading

Feralyn Carter

"Because He Lives"
Sandra Smith-Jackson

Rev. Dr. John J. Hunter

Pallbearers

Robert G. Herring, III
Barney H. Hilliard
Bill W. Hilliard

Bruce H. Hilliard
DeForest Rankin
Ray H. Hilliard