

*Celebrating the
Life and Legacy of*



DEACONNESS

*Willie
Glae*
OSBORN

~ Services ~

Tuesday, May 7, 2024

Wake: 10:00 A.M. | Homegoing Service: 11:00 A.M.

THE GREATER FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

2701 13th & Fairmont Street, N.W. | Washington, D.C. 20009

The Reverend Dr. Winston C. Ridley, Jr. - Sr. Pastor/Officiating

Willie Mae Osborn, An Extraordinary Life...



On Saturday, April 20, 2024, Mrs. Willie Mae Osborn (née Dailey) died of natural causes 15 days before her 104th birthday. She was devoted to God, a self-described “sharecropper’s daughter,” granddaughter of enslaved people, retired teacher from Arlington County Schools, and wife of the late Deacon Quinton O. Osborn. She was the beloved mother of three sons, grandmother to seven grandchildren—two grandsons and five granddaughters—and great-grandmother to many more. She was a Deaconess of the Greater First Baptist Church of which she had been a member since the early 1950s, and dear friend to countless people from Oklahoma to Washington, D.C.

Born on May 5, 1920 in Hearne, Texas, Mrs. Osborn grew up in McIntosh County, Oklahoma — originally in the town of Huttonville, and later in the town of

Eufaula. Mrs. Osborn was the ninth of thirteen children, to Mr. William Dailey and Mrs. Loreen Dailey (née Wilson). She was a granddaughter of Mr. Peter Wilson, a formerly enslaved man and woodcutter who suffered a gunshot wound to the face while successfully escaping bondage.

Mrs. Osborn’s family worked as sharecroppers, moving from place to place until they settled in McIntosh County in the mid-1920’s. She attended the Rosenwald School that was built in Huttonville in 1929, walking one and a half miles each way back and forth to class. She was singled out by teachers and staff for her scholastic ability and talent with guiding younger students, building on the confidence provided by her older sister, Rebecca, who was her original inspiration to become a teacher. With New Deal-era programs helping her family through the Depression, Mrs. Osborn later attended high school in Eufaula and, upon graduation and after taking college-level courses offered by Booker T. Washington High School in Tulsa, she attended Langston University – still the only HBCU in Oklahoma – earning her degree in Elementary Education in 1943.

Mrs. Osborn, a renowned storyteller, would happily recall her first teaching experience to anyone who asked. As a newly minted educator, she was assigned to a remote area of Oklahoma near a town called Hoffman, which was close to the Creek Indian reservation. The housing she was supposed to have lived in had burned down, and for a night she had to sleep in the schoolhouse. She hardly slept a wink. “About midnight,” Mrs. Osborn said, “I heard these wolves howling. I looked through that window and there were five or six of those big things out there in the middle of that road.” She soon found safe housing among the families of the nine children she was to teach — “the nicest kids,” she said — but upon completing the term, she arranged reassignment to a school in Eufaula. “My former principal put me in the second grade there,” Mrs. Osborn said. “And that’s where I taught until Quinton came out of the Army.”

On December 13, 1943, Mrs. Osborn (then Willie Mae Dailey) married Quinton O. Osborn, while he was serving in the United States Army. While in the service, Mr. Osborn had befriended residents of the Washington, DC, area who piqued his interest in attending Howard University. Mrs. Osborn drafted his letter of application to Howard and Mr. Osborn was accepted, where he went to school during the day while working nights. Mrs. Osborn continued to work in Eufaula for a time, visiting Mr. Osborn during semester breaks, after which she moved to Washington, DC permanently.

Their three sons soon arrived, first Oscar in 1944, Reginald in 1952, and Ronald in 1954. In 1951, the family joined the Greater First Baptist Church of Washington, DC, where Mrs. Osborn became a deaconess and Mr. Osborn, a deacon. As Mrs. Osborn said, "I told the Lord a long time ago that if he kept me on my feet and in my right mind, I would praise him for the rest of my days." Mrs. Osborn was a deeply active member of the church for more than 70 years, including as Sunday School Department Superintendent, alto and soloist in the choir, Baptist Training Union member, and member of the Steering Committee and Anniversary Committee that together organized Greater First Baptist's centennial celebration.



When Mrs. Osborn arrived in Washington, DC, she began employment with the federal government, for which she worked eight years. Then, after service to Greater First Baptist as Sunday School Department Superintendent, Mrs. Osborn was encouraged to apply for a teaching position at Arlington County Schools. On completing just two assignments as a substitute teacher, Mrs. Osborn was taken on permanently as one of the County's first African American teachers and became a widely respected member of the faculty for 13 years, until her retirement in the late 1980s.

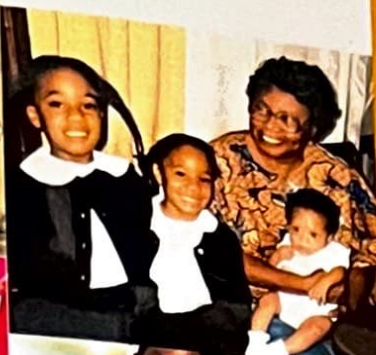
Through highs and lows — including the losses of her husband in 1995, and her youngest son Ronald in 2007 — Mrs. Osborn was a light and a rock to family and friends, offering her unparalleled wisdom and warm comfort to all who sought her counsel, always grounded in her deep and abiding faith in an everlasting God.

She ran her race as few others have. Triumphant, she has gone home. Mrs. Osborn was a member of the Lambda Alpha chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Gideon's International Bible Group of Greater Washington, and the Order of the Eastern Star.

She is survived by: her sons, Oscar (Carolyn) of Florida, and Reginald of Maryland; nieces, Clarice Baldwin of Wisconsin, Daisy Brown of Washington, DC, Dorothy Davis of Mississippi, Janis Noel of Tennessee, Karen Dailey-Killian of California, Lorraine Brown of Washington, DC, Martha Law of Michigan, Rose Coleman of Tennessee; nephews, Cecil Spivey of Oklahoma, Irving (June) Brown of Minnesota, Lawrence Dailey of California, Nathaniel Dailey of Maryland, Rudolph Martin of California, Ted Martin of Kansas; granddaughters, Catinna Osborn, Denise Dennis, Kimberlee Osborn, Vonita Osborn of Maryland, Jessica Osborn (Doug Pennington) of Washington, DC; grandsons, Quinton Osborn (Danielle) of Maryland, and Reggie Osborn Jr. of Oklahoma; great-grandchildren including Reananh Pylant-Osborn, Alexis Phillip, Baylor Dennis, Christian Moore, Clarke Dennis, Dominic Kelly, Gabrielle Osborn, Karter Brown, Keshara Crippens, London Stancil, Nichele Phillip, Octavia Osborn, Olivia Osborn, Remy Phillip, and Shaun Brown; grandnephew, T.J. Brown; great-great-grandson, Karson Crippens; an honorary son, Gamelia Jackson; and honorary grandson, Rodney "Moon" Lambert.

In lieu of flowers, please send donations in memory of Mrs. Osborn to:
The Greater First Baptist Church of Washington, DC, Rev. Dr. Winston C. Ridley, Jr., Pastor

To Live is
To Love...





A Life of Servanthood



Poetic Tribute

My Great Grandmother

Grandma was my best friend and confidant,
I would tell her stories or joke about what's going on.
We would talk and gossip or sing songs on the phone,
Or talk about our days and how it felt soo long.
I got her hooked to fashion,
Makeup was her thing;
I always seemed to catch her
rummaging through all my things.
Whether it was lipstick
or powder for her nose,
she always seemed tickled when we gave her fashion shows.
I guess it was nostalgic
back then we played different roles,
I used to be the one
playing dress up in her clothes.

I enjoyed our times together
She dropped gems when she could,
It was words of wisdom
Or an opinion on where she stood.
Now there is silence
but I know I'm not alone,
She is still beside me
even though she's gone home.
That day was very important
when God gave his call.
Of course you had to answer
...it's the greatest call of all!

We always wondered
what would happen when that time came-
but I read you scripture and then God came.
This has been a journey and I'm honored to have been,
Right there beside you
holding your hand 'til the end.

- Alexis M. Phillip



The Order of Celebration

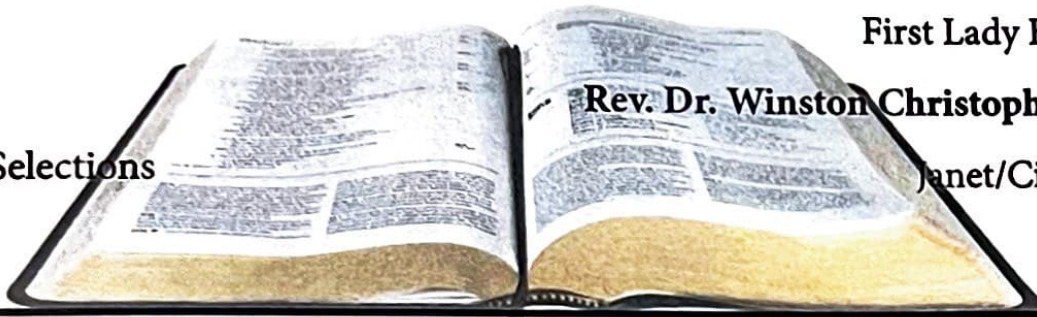
For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand.
(2 Timothy 4:6 KJV)

Organ Prelude	
Call to Worship	Ms. Janet Johnson
Processional	Rev. Dr. Winston Christopher Ridley, Jr.
Congregation Hymn	Clergy & Family "Praise Him"
Scripture Readings: GFBC Deacons Ministry	
Old Testament-	Joshua 1:9
New Testament-	John 3:16
Prayer of Comfort	
Selection	Rev. Robert Hood
Acknowledgments	Seneca Daniels
Reading of the Church Paper	Deaconess Lynn Freeman
Selection	Deaconess Jean Johnson Leon Clark, Jr.

~ Tributes ~

Ms. Irma Salley, Deacon Gamelia Jackson
Deaconess Donna Brooks, Francine McGill

Reading of the Obituary	
Selection	First Lady Bonita Ridley
Eulogy	Rev. Dr. Winston Christopher Ridley, Jr.
Recessional Selections	Janet/Cilista Johnson



Repast (Immediately following services)

Tuesday, May 7, 2024

The Greater First Baptist Church (Fellowship Hall)
2701 13th & Fairmont Street, N.W. | Washington, D.C. 20009

Quinton J. Osborn
Baylor P. Dennis
Rodney Lambert
Keith Wiggs

Active Pallbearers

Remy-Quinton E. Phillip
Doug Pennington
Daniel Thompson

Honorary Pallbearers

Oscar M. Osborn
Reginald Osborn
Gamelia Jackson

Acknowledgments

*Because you cared, you came to share beautiful flowers and words of prayer...
Because you cared enough to do, words of comfort on cards came too.
Because you cared we're grateful indeed, you've been a comfort and a friend in need.
Because you cared, we're able to bear the grief and sorrow - there is no despair.
Because you cared, we are praying also that God will abundantly bless each of you.
Whatever you did to console our hearts, we thank you so much whatever the part.*

- The Family

Entombment

Wednesday, May 8, 2024 | 12:00 Noon
Maryland National Memorial
13300 Baltimore Ave. | Laurel, MD 20707

Arrangements Entrusted To
the Professionals of:



**Marshall
March Funeral Homes**

MARSHALL-MARCH FUNERAL HOMES, LLC
4217 9th Street, NW | Washington, DC 20011 | (202) 723-1250