



Mary L. McCants

March 5, 1926 - October 20, 2016

Mary L. McCants was born March 5, 1926 to the union of Willie and Fannie Mae Jones in Thomaston, Georgia. Mary was the 5th of nine children. As a young girl, Mary confessed her commitment to the Lord Jesus Christ. Mary was educated in the Thomaston and Upson County Schools. In 1945, Mary married Charlie E. McCants. The following year Charlie and Mary blessed with the birth of their son, Charles Edward McCants. In 1947, Mary and her family relocated to Kalamazoo, Michigan. After their arrival in Kalamazoo, Charlie and Mary were blessed by the arrival of their only daughter Mivis and youngest son Dennis.

Upon her arrival Kalamazoo, Mary joined Second Baptist Church under the leadership of Pastor Warfield. She was a faithful member of the choir, missionary society culinary committee, and served many times as chairperson of it's women's day and the Pastor's anniversary. Nothing illustrated her love more than the beautiful flowers she planted around the ground of the church.

Tough but fair, made Mary a landlord who was mentor, teacher and friend to her tenants.

To know Mary was to know that hard work was her signature. There was no task she took on halfheartedly. She took pride in all she did. However, her first priority was her family. She loved her children and grandchildren with all her heart and was confidant to each of her siblings.

Mary fully understood that to whom much is given much is required. When she saw a need in her community, she did her best to meet that need. Mary was a founding member of the Merry Makers Community Service Club where they provided tutors and mentors to Kalamazoo's youth. They also awarded college scholarships to students.

Mary was Past Imperial Deputy and Commandress of the Oasis to Alzabir Court #141.

She was also a member of the Order of the Eastern Star, Zorah Chapter #3 Kalamazoo,

Michigan. She was an avid gardener and cook. She delighted in creating beautiful things and had the ability take the ordinary and transform it into something extraordinary.

On Thursday, October 20, 2016, the Lord extended his hand and called Mary home to external rest. Mary's loving husband, Charlie E. McCants; son Charles E. McCants and seven of her siblings preceded in death. Mary leaves precious memories to be cherished by: her daughter Mivis Matthews (Dudley), her son Dennis (Cynthia), daughter-in-law, Diann, her precious grandchildren Brandon Matthews, Charles W. McCants (Aisha Richardson), Cedric and Cherie McCants. Her sweet great grandchildren Malaya and Charles Peyton McCants; brother Fred Jones (Sandra); special Godchildren Gene and Ivory Gant; special friend Esther Fountain, along with a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Cemetery Details

Riverside Cemetery

1015 Gull Rd
Kalamazoo, MI 49048-1733
(269) 337-8227

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT 28. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Harper Funeral Home - Chapel
521 Douglas Avenue
Kalamazoo, MI

Visitation

OCT 29. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Second Baptist Church
609 N. Rose Street
Kalamazoo, MI

A Service in Loving Memory

OCT 29. 12:00 PM (ET)

Second Baptist Church
609 N. Rose Street
Kalamazoo, MI

Tribute Wall



“ Harper Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Mary L. McCants



Harper Funeral Home - October 26, 2016 at 08:47 PM



“ Mary L. McCants

October 23, 2023 at 06:06 AM



“ Mary L. McCants

October 06, 2023 at 10:42 AM



“ Carrie Baker lit a candle in memory of Mary L. McCants



Carrie Baker - November 06, 2016 at 06:25 AM



“ PATTERSON FAMILY lit a candle in memory of Mary L. McCants



PATTERSON FAMILY - November 04, 2016 at 10:32 AM

LE

“ So sorry for your loss. My prayers are with the family!

*Lorna T. Beard, Esq.
Legal Division
Legislative Service Bureau*

Lorna T. Beard, Esq. - October 31, 2016 at 10:19 AM

BJ

“ I found out late about Mary's passing. Mary was a friend and a teacher.. that is, she taught how to treat people, while being firm.. She would rent you an apartment.. furnish it and even provide linen and tableware.. Hard work marked her life and I am blessed to have known her. My thoughts are with Mivis (my friend) and family.. hoping this chapter will not be a sad one, but will be filled with good memories. Be in touch..

Katie Hairston (Kitty)

Bonnie Johnson - October 30, 2016 at 11:52 PM

PA

“ Pamel Ampey-Lyles sent a virtual gift in memory of Mary L. McCants



Pamel Ampey-Lyles - October 30, 2016 at 05:41 PM

MT

“ Melvin & Hazel Tellis lit a candle in memory of Mary L. McCants



Melvin & Hazel Tellis - October 29, 2016 at 04:44 PM

SW

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Shirley (Fee) Woodard - October 29, 2016 at 07:02 AM

EM

“ Evert & Lee Mitchell lit a candle in memory of Mary L. McCants



Evert & Lee Mitchell - October 28, 2016 at 04:30 AM



William & Sally Bradshaw

Sally Bradshaw - October 29, 2016 at 07:52 AM



Lit a candle in memory of Mary L. McCants

Sally Bradshaw - October 29, 2016 at 07:56 AM



“ 1 file added to the album LifeTributes



Harper Funeral Home - October 27, 2016 at 06:50 PM

GF

“ A priceless friend of the family ,, MANY a good times was spent with her , Husband "Charlie " and the "kids " Dennis , Mivis , and the late Charles peace be to all of you
Gary Fountain and the Fountain family

Gary Fountain - October 27, 2016 at 04:45 PM

JA

“ My deepest condolences.

Jaquese - October 27, 2016 at 02:00 PM

JA

“ My deepest condolences.

Jaquese - October 27, 2016 at 01:57 PM

CM

“ I appreciate everyone's support while we are going through this difficult time my grandmother was a great woman I have been surrounded by extraordinary people all my life that is the unique thing about my family but there was always something special about my grandmother she did not have a off switch all she knew was go and she passed that along to me. She showed me hard work pays off and most importantly don't be no push over, make them tenants pay lol my grandparents set the bar in my family it's up to us to keep the ball rolling. I can see my grandmother and aunt mont chilling in heaven telling jokes watching us well thanks for everybody support chas



Charles mccants - October 27, 2016 at 01:17 PM

SJ

“ I loved Mary dearly and always considered her family to me.....she was an exceptional person and she provided our family with help and care.....in her later years I just liked it when she could be with me.....sometimes I would help her with her Bingo and bake sales and we would always go down and look at her flowers at Second Baptist and she was so proud of them. Mary was an example of the best intentions and effort.....more than anyone I've known.....we need more like her. My love and blessings to all of her family. We will meet again

Lovingly,
Susan Johnson

Susan Johnson - October 27, 2016 at 01:16 PM

CM

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Charles mccants - October 27, 2016 at 01:13 PM

MJ

“ *Mary (Mitchell) Johnson lit a candle in memory of Mary L. McCants*



Mary (Mitchell) Johnson - October 27, 2016 at 01:08 PM

BM

“ *Barbara McPherson lit a candle in memory of Mary L. McCants*



Barbara McPherson - October 27, 2016 at 11:19 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mary L. McCants.*



October 26, 2016 at 03:03 PM

KD

“ *Kevin Dunigan lit a candle in memory of Mary L. McCants*



Kevin Dunigan - October 26, 2016 at 12:10 PM

JL

“ *John & Phyllis Lewis lit a candle in memory of Mary L. McCants*



John & Phyllis Lewis - October 25, 2016 at 11:04 PM

JL

“ John & Phyllis Lewis lit a candle in memory of Mary L. McCants



John & Phyllis Lewis - October 25, 2016 at 11:03 PM

RW

“ R.J. & Anita Wilkerson lit a candle in memory of Mary L. McCants



R.J. & Anita Wilkerson - October 25, 2016 at 10:24 AM

AR

“ There is one correction to my earlier post that I made regarding helping Fred Jones build his club. It was the "Ambassador Lounge", not "Mr President". The location was in my mind but the name had escaped me.
Abdul-R Rashid

Abdul-R Rashid - October 25, 2016 at 09:46 AM

TC

“ Tina Colbert-Underwood lit a candle in memory of Mary L. McCants



Tina Colbert-Underwood - October 24, 2016 at 10:01 PM

TC

“ Aunt Mary will be missed. I can still see her dancing at family gatherings! She loved to dance and watch others dance and have a good time.

Tina Colbert-Underwood - October 24, 2016 at 10:00 PM

AR

“ I heard about the passing of Mrs. Mary McCants this evening [10/24] from my Aunt Mary Kate, and I was very sadden to hear it. Ms Mary [as I used to call her as a teenager] and her siblings were friends of the Gaston Family from the time Second Baptist Church was located on Walbridge St under Pastor Bernis Warfield Sr, all the way through to the relocation on Rose Street. I personally knew "all her siblings" and their children. As a teenager I would spend the night with her oldest sister's son....John Worthy Jr. I remember one of her younger twin brothers Fred Jones, employed his nephew John and I to work as labors in helping him build his club "Mr. President" now that was an experienced to say the least [smile]. But what it showed in actuality was the ingrained commitment to succeed in life they inherited in Thomaston, Ga. I moved to Atlanta, Ga in 1987 and I have been to Thomaston many times, so I know what I'm talking about. I could go and on, because I interacted with her two eldest, Charles and Mivis, their first cousins Pastor Joel Brooks Jr and his brother Ronald and one of their younger first cousins Woodrow Jones Jr. The rest of her nieces & nephews were a bit younger than I was. She has my prayers. May G-D bless Ms Mary to enter the paradise, forgive her of her sins and bless her for all the good that she did.. Amin.

Abdul-R Rashid--Robert Gaston Jr.

Abdul-R Rashid - October 24, 2016 at 09:32 PM

AR

“ Abdul-R Rashid lit a candle in memory of Mary L. McCants



Abdul-R Rashid - October 24, 2016 at 08:13 PM

CG

“ Cordell & Brenda Gardner



Cordell/Brenda Gardner - October 23, 2016 at 07:44 PM



“ *Karest Willis-Brown lit a candle in memory of Mary L. McCants*



Karest Willis-Brown - October 23, 2016 at 07:34 AM

MW

“ *Minister Flora Walker lit a candle in memory of Mary L. McCants*



Minister Flora Walker - October 22, 2016 at 08:16 PM

HB

“ *Helen (Mills) Brooks lit a candle in memory of Mary L. McCants*



Helen (Mills) Brooks - October 21, 2016 at 06:04 PM

PG

“ *Pauline Gardner lit a candle in memory of Mary L. McCants*



Pauline Gardner - October 21, 2016 at 05:31 PM