



Vera Jean (McNeil) Sumlin

January 3, 1950 - August 30, 2020

Vera Sumlin Obituary

Vera Jean McNeil, affectionately known by her family and close friends as Jean, was born January 3, 1950 in Somerville, Tennessee to John and Nettie McNeil. She was the youngest of five siblings. At the age of 11, Vera's mother died in a tragic accident. After the accident, she moved to Cleveland, Ohio to live with her eldest sister and family.

In 1968, Vera graduated from Glenville High School. The next year, while working at the salad bar at the Beef House Restaurant, she met the love of her life, a busboy named Willie Lewis Sumlin. They married on January 17, 1970 and happily welcomed three children: Willie Lewis Jr., Eugene Lorin, and Chenita Louise. Willie and Vera were also loving foster parents, helping to raise 10 little girls over 10 years.

Vera accepted Jesus as her Lord and Savior at Hayes Temple Church in God in Christ, under the late Elder J.W. Hayes. She faithfully served the Lord and His people for 50 years. Over the course of those years, Vera served as a Sunday School teacher, a Youth Department leader, the church's financial

secretary, a church bus driver, a Hospitality Committee member, the District Sewing Circle President member, and many other roles to support the church and advance the Kingdom of God.

She truly lived a life of service. Vera held many jobs to help support her family over the years. With every position, she always made sure that she had time for her children and grandchildren. Additionally, God was able to use her heart of service to share the love of Christ and to lead people to salvation in these settings. In 2011, she retired as a librarian page for the Cleveland Heights/University Heights Public Library, opening the door for her to spend more time with her family and to dive deeper into her passion--sewing.

Even as she faced challenges in her health, Vera still thought of others first and served to the very best of her ability. On August 30, just before 6:30 am, God told her "Well done; now it is time for you to rest." Preceding her in death are her parents, John and Nettie McNeil, Johnnie Hubbard McNeil (brother) Mary Lue McNeil (sister) and granddaughter, Kiana Monique Sumlin.

Vera leaves to cherish her memories: her husband of 50 years, Willie Lewis; her children, Willie Lewis Jr (Octavia), Eugene Lorin (Nicole) and Chenita Young (Brandon Sr.); six grandchildren, Konstance, Kandance, Easton, August, Leyla and Brandon, Jr.; two sisters, Irma Price (Earnest Sr.), Mary Anne Barton, her "adopted" babies LeMarr Williams, Aaron Markowitz, and Leah Markowitz, along with many nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, cousins, friends, as well as her beloved Eddie.

But do not forget to do good and share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

Hebrews 13:16

To send flowers
to the family or plant a tree
in memory of Vera Jean (McNeil) Sumlin, please visit our floral store.

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Tribute Wall

NC

“ Vera Jean, was such a lovely person to work with in the Youth Sunday School Dept of Hayes Temple. Always faithful and so dependable. Her Mother in law, Betty Diamond, once told me that she could always depend on Jean. Her life was a snapshot of a Proverbs 31 woman. She exemplified the attributes of a good wife and an ideal mother... Her children arise and call her blessed and her husband also praises her. Honor her for all her hands have done and let her own works bring her praise at the gate.

Nita Cotton - September 08, 2020 at 01:38 PM

MH

“ My sincere condolence to Vera's family in her passing. I met her many years ago as a dear friend of her sister Mary. She quickly became a friendly extended family as well. She was so family oriented and planned special events for them. Many of which I attended. May you be comforted by the words of Jesus that says "Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted". (Matt. 5:4) She has done her work and earned her rest. Be of good comfort, we will see her on Resurrection morning.

Mary Hampton - September 07, 2020 at 08:24 PM

W6

“ To sumlin famiyÂ Â may the good lord shine on you at this time .

WILLIAM C. PAUL GLENNVILLE CLASS 68 - September 07, 2020 at 11:09 AM

TR

“ My most sincere condolences. And thank you for sharing Vera with me, Aaron and Leah so many years ago. Vera brought so much love and stability to my home when times were anything but. She offered me words of faith and wisdom that I remember - and whisper to myself - even today. And in all of the years since, I have yet to meet anyone with a bigger heart or deeper faith. When I say her name, I hear the angels sing. I'm confident that God welcomed her and rewarded her for a life well lived. God bless you all.”

Tracy Rhinehart - September 04, 2020 at 06:32 PM

MH

“ Heaven has a new angel.

Mark Hill - September 04, 2020 at 10:13 AM

SS

“ I'm going to miss my cousin she was at the church when I was young I can't help but think about everything she did at church And picnic wow what amazing woman of god

Sharon Sumlin - September 03, 2020 at 08:26 PM

AA

“ A candle was lit in remembrance

aaron - September 03, 2020 at 06:32 PM

AM

“ Vera provided me so much love when I really needed it most. She looked after my baby sister and me, while my mom was teaching preschool. She gave me a love of libraries and reading, taught me the word fragile (good for a 2 year old!), and taught me how to play. Playing is good for me now, too. Most of all she held together my safety when my dad was acting up. I'm very sad she's gone but pray she has all the peace and love she brought us.

Aaron Markowitz - September 03, 2020 at 06:31 PM

AH

“ I remember Sis. Vera as one of the sweetest I ever met. When I was away from home she welcomed me into her home as a guest and shared herself and family. She reminded me of my mama and that made me feel so special and closer to her. I will dearly miss her. My love and deepest condolences to the family. Love Andrea

Andrea Hughes - September 03, 2020 at 02:13 PM

BJ

“ What a gem of a woman! Our family was around a lot of other families growing up and the Sumlin family was always a good family. I loved the way she honored her husband and children, left an indelible impression in me ill cherish forever. She will truly be missed. Bobby Heard Jr and family

Bobby Heard Jr - September 02, 2020 at 09:34 PM