Obituary; 2009-01-21; Leonard, Florence

Bethel A.M.E. Church

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Home Going Celebration for

Florence "Flo" Leonard

Monday, January 26, 2009
Wake 11:00 a.m.
Funeral 1:00 p.m.
Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church
1525 Michigan Ave
Buffalo New York 14209
Reverend Richard Allen Stenhouse, Pastor
Her Motto: MAY THE WORKS I’VE DONE SPEAK FOR ME

Florence E. Leonard (Flo) was born November 2, 1926 in Buffalo, New York to the late Charles and Alberta Brunson.

On June 30, 1951, Florence was united in the bond of holy matrimony to the late George Leonard. To this union three children were born; Gervais (Jerry), Garcia (Garry) and Gavina (Princess) and three foster children, Arturo, Maxine and Elsieta Chapman.

Florence was a product of the Buffalo Public School system where she received the Jesse Ketchum award and numerous other awards and merits. She also attended Bryant and Stratton Business Institute.

Flo began her employment career at Westinghouse, after which she worked as a real estate agent. She was also co-owner of the Plaidlocks Society. She volunteered for many years as a foster grandparent for Catholic Charities and received an award for 20 years of service.

Flo was a lifetime member of Bethel AME Church and in 2007 she was honored as a Golden Member. Flo was a founding member of the Hospitality Usher Board, serving as President for fifteen years. She was also a devoted Greeter.

Sister Florence was affiliated with the Queen Esther Household of Ruth #10 of the G.U.O. of O.F.; Sisters of Jeremiah #130 International F. & A.M. Mason & Order of Eastern Stars; the V.F.W. Glover Fleming #2501; Buffalo High Steppers and the Buffalo Marching Club. She was also an active member of her community where she participated in numerous organizations.

Florence leaves to cherish her memory: Two sons, Gervais of Houston Texas and Garcia (Deborah) of Buffalo, New York; one daughter, Gavina of Buffalo, New York; one granddaughter, Iesha; three foster children, Arturo, Maxine and Elsieta; two foster grandsons, Luis and Tyrone and a host of family and friends.
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Order of Service

Prelude
Opening Sentences
Hymn .................... Leaning On the Everlasting Arm #525
Prayer of Comfort
Scripture
   Old Testament Psalms 27 .............. Rev. Eddie Barrons
   New Miracle Baptist Church
Resolution ..................... Steward Martha Younger
Solo ......................... It is Well With My Soul
   Sis.. Bobbie Warren
Acknowledgements
&Reading of the Obituary .......... Steward Marie Brown
Congregational Hymn .............. This Little Light of Mine
Eulogy ...................... Rev. Richard A. Stenhouse, Pastor
Recessional .................. We’re Marching to Zion #520

Pallbearers
Clyde Watkins    Richard Thompson    John Herritage, IV
Sandra Benefield Charles Jones    Steve Aiken

Honorary Pallbearers
Cathy Herritage    Debra Jones
What is a Mother
It takes a mother’s love
to make a house a home
A place to be remembered,
no matter where we roam...

It takes a mother’s patience
to bring a child up right.
And her courage and her cheerfulness
to make a dark day bright.

It takes a mother’s thoughtfulness
to mend her heart’s deep “hurt,”
And skill and her endurance
to mend little socks and shirts....

It takes a mother’s kindness
to forgive us when we err,
to sympathize in trouble
and bow her head in prayer.

I takes a mother’s wisdom
to recognize our needs.
And to give us reassurance
by her loving words and deeds
And that is why in all this world
there could not be another
Who could fulfill God’s purpose
as completely as a mother!

Auspices
H. Alfred Lewis Mortuary
968 Jefferson Ave.
Buffalo NY 14204
Internment Ridge Lawn Cemetery
Cheektowaga, NY

Acknowledgement
The family wishes to acknowledge with deepest gratitude, the
many acts of love and kindness extended to them.

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By
Helen Steiner Rice

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