



Mrs. Lenore Marquerite Mathews

July 18, 1929 - April 1, 2015

Lenore Marguerite Mathews was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin on July 18, 1929. She was the eldest of three children born to the union of the late Leroy Simmons and Annie Brown Clark Simmons. She was the paternal granddaughter of the late Walter and Ella Simmons.

Lenore accepted Christ at an early age and was a lifelong member of St. Mark African Methodist Episcopal Church for more than 50 years. She served under twelve Pastors and was a charter member of the Membership and Evangelism Commission and Anvil Club ministries. Additionally, Lenore served her church as a member of the Class Leaders, the Missionary Society for 25 years, the 105th Anniversary Committee since 1974, the Wednesday Morning Bible Study Group, the Historical Society and she was the Trustee Emeritus of Seniors On The Move.

Lenore was united in holy matrimony with Mr. Clifton D. Mathews of Bluefield, West Virginia and together they raised their five daughters, Marilyn, Karen, Noreen, Kathleen and Phyllis.

Lenore affectionately called Norrie by her family and close friends, grew up in the Walnut Street Community. She was a charter member of the Walnut Street Group and was actively involved in her community. She received her early education at Ninth Street and Roosevelt Junior High Schools. She graduated

from Lincoln High School in January 1947 and was a very proud Lincoln Comet. She attended the Annual North-Lincoln Alumni Games, where at one of the last games she was recognized as one of the oldest Lincoln High School graduates present. Lenore was a renaissance woman who played the viola, excelled at art and loved her family.

She would often tell stories of her childhood and time spent with her grandfather "Grandpa Reeves" at the Wisconsin State Fair. "Grandpa Reeves" allowed Lenore to work with the horses with him. She and her cousins helped to clean the stables. As a young adult, Lenore also enjoyed playing baseball at Lapham Park with her cousins, Diana, Dani and Jeannie.

Lenore and her family were known and respected throughout greater Milwaukee. During the 1940's, Lenore worked closely with her father, Leroy Simmons during his successful campaign to become the First African American State Assemblyman for the State of Wisconsin. Lenore was mentored by her late aunt and uncle, Mrs. Ardie Halyard and Mr. Wilbur Halyard who pioneered a new wave of community and neighborhood development for the City of Milwaukee during the 1950's and 60's.

Lenore was a hard worker whose first job was at a factory on East Pleasant Street. She also worked in several Walnut Street restaurants as a waitress doing whatever she needed to pursue a better life for her girls and herself.

She worked for companies in increasing responsible roles culminating in her position as a Customer Service Representative Supervisor at the Wisconsin Gas Company where she retired in 1988, after 20 years. Retired but not tired, Lenore began working for the City of Milwaukee's Election Commission where she worked until her health failed.

Lenore, the Renaissance Woman, pursued an interest in preserving her Ancestral History and became a bonafide Genealogist. She found great satisfaction in researching the archives in Chicago, the microfiche files in Wisconsin and Washington D.C., and recently recorded an oral history of growing up in Milwaukee during the 1930's and 40's and 50's with her first cousin Mrs. Diana Jarreau. She was also an avid Green Bay Packer fan and was famous for her pound cakes.

She made her heavenly transition on Wednesday, April 1st, 2015, at the age of 85. Lenore was preceded in death by her mother, Anne Simmons; father, Leroy Simmons; brother, Le Roi Maurice Simmons; grandson, Kevin Fields; and granddaughter, Andreia Mathews.

She leaves to cherish her memory: her devoted daughters, Marilyn (Tommy) Burress, Karen Simmons, Noreen (Richard) Johnson, Kathleen (Christopher) Levy and Phyllis (Mansfield) Turner; nine grandchildren, James Fields III, Patrice Sims, Erick McKay, Julianne Christianson, Keith Fields, Bryan McKay, Neena Mathews, Amber Mathews and Marlon Sims; 25 great-grandchildren; two great-great-grandchildren; one sister, Mrs. Constance Baldwin; one special cousin, Mrs. Diana (Al) Jarreau; God-family, Reverend Ray, Carolyn, Ray III and Patricia Walker and many nieces, nephews and a host of friends.

Cemetery Details

Forest Home Cemetery

2405 W. Forest Home
Milwaukee, WI

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 10. 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Northwest Funeral Chapel
6630 W. Hampton Ave
Milwaukee, WI

Visitation

APR 11. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (CT)

St. Mark AME
1616 W. Atkinson Ave
Milwaukee, WI

Service

APR 11. 10:00 AM (CT)

St. Mark AME
1616 W. Atkinson Ave
Milwaukee, WI

Tribute Wall

PM

“ Mother it has been 7 months since we said "see you later", I feel blessed in that I was able to tell you many times just how much I loved you! everyday here without you gets better but I know and understand to be absent here means to be present with The Lord so I have many tangible memories love your youngest daughter "The Baby ".
Phyllis



P Mathews - October 28, 2015 at 05:27 PM

LF

“ May God give her family great comfort during this difficult time.

*Lois Foster-McAlmont
Brooklyn, New York*

Lois Foster - July 14, 2015 at 01:25 PM

BO

“ Keep your Mom by your side at all time. It will get better but God need her now. The Bonds Family from way back Lois Vonnie Azie Jr
Connie Becky Michael and Carolyn

Bonds - April 22, 2015 at 11:45 AM

LR

“ To Phyllis, Kathy and all of the family: I will dearly miss my Aunt Lenore. She was an often mentioned family member whom we didn't see often due to time and distance constraints. My Aunt Mary(Emma) always talked about her and about their many visits. I will remember her visit to Greenbelt, Maryland and Bluefield, West Virginia because she was very family oriented. She was of a Godly mind and always wanted to keep in touch with family. I'm glad I got to talk to her before she went into hospice. As we were talking, I think she knew who she was talking to because she said, "My husband had a niece named Tish - and I told her that was me. She was such a kind and forthright person. Cousins, we are now becoming the family matriarchs. Remember: Weeping endures for a night but the sun comes out in the morning! Love, God's many blessings and sympathy to all!

Letitia(Tish) Ross - April 10, 2015 at 07:03 PM

JJ

“ Jan Jones lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Lenore Marquerite Mathews



Jan Jones - April 10, 2015 at 05:19 PM

CR

“ Cheryl, Cherell, Skyyron & Rosie purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Mrs. Lenore Marquerite Mathews.



Cheryl, Cherell, Skyyron & Rosie - April 10, 2015 at 10:39 AM

JG

“ *To Family and Friends of Ms. Mathews,
I cried when I received Carolyn’s message that you had transcended and went home to be with the Lord. You see I wasn’t sad but a little selfish. For over twenty years I had looked forward to coming to Milwaukee to see my family---to see you. I don’t know how or when you became family but you did. And it seemed you had always been a part of our family.*

You always had advice or a story to tell. We shared many celebrations over the years. And the unconditional love shared with my sister and her family was reciprocated. Everyone in our family knew you as Carolyn’s god mother. You were truly a god mother or should I say a good mother to her. I will miss your wisdom and the comfort of your presence. To your family know that God is able to provide support and comfort during this trying time. We all will be praying for you.

She was a blessing and I feel honored to have known her. She demonstrated that love is not bound to genetics or mere relationships but flows from Christ himself. I believe she was the Walker’s angel and sent to enrich their lives. Her legacy for me will be to strive to be of service to others. Rest peacefully knowing you were respected and loved. To her family and friends, thank you for sharing your Lenore.

Jocelyn Woodward (Carolyn’s Sister)

Jocelyn Goodwin - April 10, 2015 at 09:29 AM

EF

“ *Emilie Fluker lit a candle in memory of Mrs.
Lenore Marquerite Mathews*



Emilie Fluker - April 10, 2015 at 09:07 AM

JG

“ *Jocelyn Goodwin purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Mrs. Lenore Marquerite Mathews.*



Jocelyn Goodwin - April 09, 2015 at 02:09 AM

VB

“ *Victor And Nancye Brazil lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Lenore Marquerite Mathews*



Victor and Nancye Brazil - April 08, 2015 at 07:49 AM

FR

“ *Freda lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Lenore Marquerite Mathews*



Freda - April 03, 2015 at 05:29 PM

FR

“ *Miss Lenore was a wonderful, dear person, whom I admired dearly. She was known for her quick wit and knowledge/history of Milwaukee's African American community. She was my mentor for the Milwaukee Election Commission where I learned how to deal with people and voting rules. She was loved by her neighbors and they always looked for her during elections at Columbus Park. We'll all miss her.*

Freda - April 03, 2015 at 05:29 PM