



Ms. Mary L. Bruce

November 30, 1928 - August 4, 2020

Mary Lene Bruce was born the third of eight children to Jessie J. and Rutha Mae Jeffries on November 30, 1928, in a small community in Tunica County, Mississippi called Banks. She was affectionately known as Baby Sis. (which was then shorten to "Bay" by a younger sibling). This nickname stuck with her throughout her entire life. Mary accepted Christ at a very early age as did all of her siblings since her parents and grandparents were" very devoted and active in the Christian Methodist faith. .Mary continued: her service to the Lord as a member of the St. James United Methodist Church (The New St. James Community Church) . and also as a member of The Church of The Good Hope United Methodist Church until her passing. Mary received her formal education in Mississippi which included graduating from Mississippi 'Industrial College in 1948. Mary moved to Memphis, TN where she met, fell in love and married John A. Bruce. The family moved to Milwaukee in 1956.Mary was the mother of five children, three of whom preceded her in death; Shawn F. Bruce{died at 2 days.old in 1963), Kenneth A. Bruce and Marvin L. Trice. She was employed by the Milwaukee Public School System as an office clerk from February 18, 1965 until her retirement on January 8, 1988. Mary was extremely organized and meticulous. There were things that she absolutely believed in such as serving three hot, full course meals every day and a "Sunday" style dinner every evening. She also believed in everyone making up their bed every morning and being neat and clean before being allowed to step outside

of the house; that also included having your hair combed. She loved all types of plants and flowers. At one time, she had more than 20 house plants and a garden. While shopping for plants for her garden she remarked that the flowers "looked good enough to eat".

One of our fondest memories as a family was on Christmas Eve when the family moved into our first home. The children, first of all, slept in their own beds complete with sheets, pillows and blankets. We woke up Christmas morning to a decorated Christmas tree, wrapped gifts under the tree and several toys already assembled along with batteries. 011. yes, did I mention the bicycles? After the excitement waned, we all sat down to, you guessed it, a full hot breakfast. It was like we had lived there all our lives. This is just one example of how hard our parents worked for their family. They were a great team. Summertime was the best with backyard cookouts and visits to fairs and amusement parks in Milwaukee and parts of Illinois. As a family, we visited many different parks in the Milwaukee County Park System. We also visited regularly with family and friends out of state. Mary lost her husband John, on March 17, 1999. Because she loved her home, her devoted daughters made every effort which allowed her to live at home for the next 21 years. In addition to her husband and her three sons, Mary was preceded in death by her parents, Jessie and Rutha Mae Jeffries; her brothers Hayes Jeffries, Howard Jeffries, James Jeffries and Francis Jeffries. Mary departed this life on Tuesday, August 4, 2020. She leaves to cherish her memory her loving and devoted daughters, Jacquelyn C. Trice and Deborah C. Bruce both of Milwaukee, WI; one brother, Morris (Earnestine) Jeffries of Los Angeles, CA; two sisters, Emma Craig of Milwaukee, WI, and Pauline Baker of Memphis, TN; five grandchildren, Marvin L. Beauchamp, Tyron A. Cooper (Daphanie), Nicole L. (Arnell, Sr.) Christen, Starisha McIntosh, Shone Trice, and Leon Stephenson; eight great grandchildren; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and other loving

relatives and friends. We wish to acknowledge our mother's dear friends Fran lassiter, Veronica Purifoy, Herlyn Roberson and a long time family friend, Donnie Owens. For a short period of time, Mary was cared for in her home by Ruby lewis and Lynn Medlin, with whom she formed a special bond. Also, a special thanks to the doctors and nurses at Froedtert Menomonee Falls Hospital and Horizon Hospice.

Cemetery Details

Graceland Cemetery

6401 N. 43rd St.
Milwaukee, WI

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 13. 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM (CT)

Northwest Funeral Chapel
6630 W. Hampton Ave
Milwaukee, WI

Tribute Wall

DF

“ *Ms Bruce always had a beautiful smile and words of encouragement when ever I saw her. Light hearted and up beat. I will truly miss her. Prayers and love to the family.*

Debbie Goodwin and Family - August 13, 2020 at 12:09 PM

CY

“ *Corinne Steinhoff Yarwood purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Ms. Mary L. Bruce.*



Corinne Steinhoff Yarwood - August 08, 2020 at 02:57 PM