



Mrs. Maggie B. Gaston

September 12, 1934 - August 2, 2013

“To everything there is a season and a time to every purpose under the Heaven.” Ecclesiastes 3:1

“A Time to be Born” On Wednesday, September 12, 1934, in Richburg, South Carolina, Maggie Bell Stroud entered the world. She was born to her loving parents, Nan Crane Stroud and Moses Stroud.

“A Time to Learn and Work” Maggie, affectionately known to her family as “Sister,” received her early education at the Mt. Moriah School in Richburg, South Carolina, eventually pursuing her GED at the Police Athletic League (P.A.L.) in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. She worked several years at the Polyclinic Hospital before embarking on a career with the former Bell Telephone Company that culminated with retirement from Verizon with thirty-two years of service.

“A Time to Love” Maggie married her childhood sweetheart, Willie Gaston, on April 29, 1950. This sixty-three year union produced four dotting children with unconditional love for Maggie and “Deah.” Together Maggie and Deah forged a marriage bond that could only be severed by death itself.

“A Time to Worship and Serve” Maggie united with the Bethel A.M.E. Church of Harrisburg, PA, in 1953 and remained an active member until her passing. Aside from her church, Maggie served her family by providing an atmosphere that epitomized hospitality. She had an open-door policy that welcomed everyone. If you left her home hungry, you had only yourself to blame! A seasoned cook steeped in the southern tradition, Maggie’s culinary skills were

highly regarded by all who graced her kitchen. Some of her notable desserts included banana pudding, apple pie and peach cobbler. She raised her children to be respectful and responsible adults. Though loving and supportive, she always held her children and grandchildren accountable for their actions. She was a no-nonsense “old-school” matriarch. What society today calls tough love was to Maggie, simply parenting.

“A Time to Die” On Friday, August 2, 2013, at the Harrisburg Hospital, Maggie peacefully transitioned from labor to reward, returning forever more to her Heavenly Father and Lord.

“A Time to Mourn” In addition to her parents, Maggie was preceded in death by six brothers, Charles, Thomas, Ira, Robert, Frank and Marcus Stroud; and one sister, Mozell Stroud McMullen. She leaves to celebrate her life with cherished memories, her devoted husband Willie; daughters, Diane Griffy and Lovella Burhannon; sons, Jerome L. Gaston Sr. and Gary G. Gaston Sr., all of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania; an adopted son, Dr. Alvin J. Cook of Atlanta, Georgia; her grandchildren, Lisa Griffy, Shannon Gaston and Tara Gaston, all of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, Denisha White (Shawn) of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Shawnte` Arrington of Los Angeles, California, Jerome Gaston Jr., Taylor Gaston and Gary Gaston Jr., all of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania; six great-grandchildren, Tahjir, Jaylen, Sydney, Aishani, Michael and Lila; one sister, Willa Mae “Tot” Stroud of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania; one brother, James Stroud of Buffalo, New York; two sisters-in-law, Osie B. Stroud and Patricia Stroud of Richburg, South Carolina; a devoted nephew, Willie Stroud; three special nieces she helped rear, Debra James, Wanda James-Rucker and Marie James-Bowers, all of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania; and a host of other relatives and friends. Next to her sister “Tot,” her closest friends were Helen Peterson, Mary Smith, and her neighbor of forty years, Margaret Suszko, all of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Giving God all Glory, Honor and Praise, Lovingly Submitted by Maggie’s Family

Tribute Wall

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“ *I'd like to express my deep sympathy for the loss of your mother. Please know that you and your family are in my thoughts and prayers during this time.*

*Sincere Sympathy,
Louise Graves*

Louise - August 07, 2013 at 11:30 AM