

A Tribute from the Grandchildren

Yesterday my grandmother got her wings!
I was one of those kids that was always at grandma's house.
I am so thankful for all the love, patience,
prayer and understanding she poured into me.
I can't think of a moment she was not encouraging or
cheering me on, either in the stands at one of my games
or at her dinner table with tears in my eyes from
the stress or disappointment that life sometimes brings you.
She was my grandmother, my second mother,
my friend and now my Angel.

Forever in My Heart,
Rest In Peace Grandma Bea
DeMario McCleary



Pallbearer

| | |
|------------------|------------------|
| John Bowser, III | Jared Collins |
| Rendel Lomax | Renzon Mendoza |
| DeMario McCleary | Enrico McCleary |
| James McCleary | Parrish McCleary |

Honorary Pallbearers

| | |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| William (Fancy) Arnold | William Lomax |
| Sherman McCleary | Rev. James Parris |

Floral Attendants

Grand Daughters
Great Grand Daughters
Nieces

Acknowledgements

With grateful hearts, the family of the late
Beatrice A. McCleary acknowledge the many acts
of kindness bestowed upon us during our time of
bereavement. Your kind words, prayers, various gifts
and services are sincerely appreciated. We further extend our
gratitude for the number of kind expressions.

Interment

Maryland National Memorial Park
13300 Baltimore Avenue
Laurel, Maryland 20707

Services Entrusted to

Snowden Funeral Home, P.A.
246 North Washington Street
Rockville, Maryland 20850
(301) 762.2500

www.snowdencares.com

Livestream link: <https://firebug.live/missbea/>



A Celebration of Life *for* *Beatrice A. McCleary*

June 27, 1921

November 17, 2021



Monday, November 29, 2021

Viewing: 11 o'clock a.m.

Service: 12 o'clock p.m.

Queen's Chapel United Methodist Church

7410 Old Muirkirk Road

Beltsville, Maryland 20705

Rev. Dr. William E. Butler, Senior Pastor

Order of Worship

Prelude

The Word of Grace

Rev. Dr. William E. Butler

Hymn of Faith “*What a Fellowship*”

Opening Prayer

Dr. Gregory Parham, Certified Lay Minister
Queen’s Chapel UMC

Reading of Scriptures

Old Testament: Psalms 23

New Testament: Philippians 4:10-13

Selection “*You Raise Me Up*”..... Jordan Bobo

Words of Comfort:

Rev. Johnnie Randolph, Jr., Pastor

Mt. Zion UMC -Magothy (Pasadena, MD)

Dr. Delila Parham, Certified Lay Minister

Queen’s Chapel UMC

Minister Rose Thompson,

Mt. Zion UMC (Laurel, MD)

Selection (Duet) Demi Thomas and Jere’ Fegans

Acknowledgements

Lady Sonya Butler

Obituary *(please read silently)* Musical Interlude

Selection “*Lomax Sisters*”

Family Video Tribute

Sermonic Selection “*It is Well*” Congregation

The Message Rev. Dr. Butler

Recessional “*Thank you*”

Interment and Benediction

A Blessed Journey

My life’s journey began on Monday, June 27, 1921 in the small southern town of Calhoun, TN, McMinn County — located between the cities of Knoxville and Chattanooga, TN. My parents — Prince Albert Arnold and Bessie Crumpton Arnold — welcomed me as their fourth child; and I was named Mildred Beatrice Arnold. My parents were farmers and were blessed to own a large farm in the Britten community.

My siblings — Spencer, Luvenia, Cleo, Margaret, and I were required to work the family farm. Not only did we plant crops and cut trees for lumber, we also had chickens, pigs, a mule, and cows; milking cows was one of my least favorite tasks. While it was sometimes a struggle, overall, I have such great memories of my childhood years! Like many young people in their adolescent years, I wanted to grow up fast. Around the age of eleven or twelve, I no longer wanted to wear “bobby socks” to church, instead I wanted to wear silk stockings. I tried sneaking the stockings by my parents, needless to say, it didn’t work. When you live in the country, it is not unusual to see snakes; I was absolutely terrified of snakes and would run screaming into the house. While I was being hysterical, my sister Cleo would comely take care of it.

My spiritual journey began at Britten Baptist Church. As part of God’s plan for my life, that’s where I met my beloved life partner—James Henry McCleary. Mac was a city boy. Growing up in Jim Crow south, I attended the segregated schools of Athens; I completed my schooling at the J.L. Cook High School, named in honor of Jacob Lincoln Cook, a black Presbyterian minister and educator. The school was one of over 5,000 Rosenwald schools built in the South. More importantly, J.L. Cook High was “known throughout the state and the south as one of the premier schools” for blacks.

Although we attended school together at J.L. Cook High School; our association was strictly in group settings. After courtship, we were married April 17, 1942. Following the War, Mac decided to make the Army his career, eventually reaching the rank of Command Sargent Major. Like my parents, he and I were blessed with five children—James, Ephraim, Margaret, Henry, and Cheryl. As a wife of a career soldier, and mother with a growing family, I traveled with Mac to Guam, and served two tours in Germany, Kansas, and Kentucky.

Ft. George G. Meade was our last tour of duty, and it was then that we decided to purchase a home and put down permanent roots in the small community of Vansville in Beltsville, MD. In our 53 years in the Vansville/Laurel community, Mac and I developed many friendships with our neighbors. As I had throughout my marriage, I devoted my time to making a home and caring for Mac and our children. Once

we were settled, I gained employment with the D.C. Children’s Center in and Laurel, MD working as a dietary assistant. I always thoroughly enjoyed cooking for family and friends; my apple cobbler was often requested. My chow chow and sweet iced tea were also a favorite. In *my spare time* I enjoyed crocheting, canning and making pickles. After retiring, Mac, the ‘city boy’ became a farmer and we shared the bounty of fresh vegetables from his neighborhood garden.

Mac and I became members of Queen’s Chapel United Methodist Church under the late Rev. John L. Winters. As United Methodist Women President/Vice President I sponsored a State Pageant and Easter Pageant - “The Way of the Cross”. During the tenure of the late Rev. Dr. Bruce F. Haskins, I was privileged to be part of the Meal Team organized by the Staff-Pastor Parish Relations Committee. In my years at Queen’s Chapel, I regularly attended Adult Sunday School taught by Sis. Carlene Branch and was truly honored when selected to serve as a Communion Steward for this most sacred ministry of the church.

Mac and I were blessed to share a 69-year journey together as husband and wife. Finally, I thank God for my **100-year** journey. One of my favorite scriptures is Philippians 4:13 -”*I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength.*” In Psalms 90:10 it reads: “*The years of our life are threescore and ten, or eighty if we have the strength; . .*” **My life has truly been blessed, which is a testament to these scriptures.**

I leave to cherish their memories five children: James (Danita), Ephraim (Deborah), Margaret, Henry (Collette), and Cheryl (John); eleven Grandchildren: Parrish (Eva), Erica, Tyffani (Preston), James W, (Amanda), Alicia, Ephraim Jr. (Melissa), DeMario (Brooke), Enrico (Kashina), Imani, John III, and Jaelyn; fifteen Great-Grandchildren: Renzon, Elese, Ava, Madison, Taelynn, Mariah, Chace, Elaina, Burgundy, Amirah, Brooklynn, Natalia, Camren, Yaru, and Kyelle; Four Godchildren: Eugene (Geno) Evans, Demi Thomas, Jared Collins; special family and friends: Fancy Arnold, Joyce Fletcher, John, Clifford, Rita, and Roosevelt Bell, Rasheita, Nina, and Xavier White, Ariyah Martin, Gahlia Parris, James Parris, Deborah Haskins, Lomax Family, Walker Family, Marsha Brown and a many many more.

“Remember me in your heart,
Remember me in your thoughts and your memories
Of the times we loved
Of the times we cried,
Of the times we laughed,
For if you always think of me,
I will never be gone.”

by Robert Test

