

CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF



FEB. 19, 1925

JAN. 7, 2025

Gertrude H. Cortner Duncan

FIRST CORINTHIAN BAPTIST CHURCH
COLUMBUS, OH

Obituary

Gertrude Cortner Duncan was born on February 19th, 1925, to Otis and Dollie Mitchell in Dayton, Ohio and transitioned from this life on January 7, 2025. Gertie, as she was affectionately called, grew up in a loving, hard-working family. She was the youngest of three children that included a sister, Mildred, and an older brother, Hubert. In addition to her immediate family, she was happily surrounded by aunts, uncles, and cousins who also lived on the same street. Even as a young girl, Gertrude took pride in learning from her mother how to turn a house into a beautiful home. Gertrude's family also admired her for her attention to detail. She was also very close to her father, who demonstrated love and leadership in the family. Throughout her years, she enjoyed telling stories about growing up in a large extended family.

At a young age, Gertrude became a member of Corinthian Baptist Church of Dayton, Ohio. She had many blessed memories of attending and serving at Corinthian and developing lifelong relationships. Gertrude was so grateful for her early beginnings and relationship with the Lord.

Gertrude attended Wogaman Elementary School and graduated from Dunbar High School in 1943. She was later married to her beloved Artie D. Cortner and was blessed with three loving and devoted daughters Belinda, Arnette, and Rhonda. Gertrude truly loved and enjoyed caring for her husband and children. She had a passion for styling her daughters, homemaking, and thrived in interior and exterior home design. Artie and Gertrude developed a loving and nurturing family environment. She was known for her hospitality and entertaining guests and extended family. These were truly some of the most cherished times of her life.

While raising a family, Gertrude was blessed to have a career with the Defense Electronics Supply Center (DESC) in Dayton, Ohio. She retired from the federal government with 32 years of dedicated service. In addition, she was a member of The Women's Guild (Corinthian Baptist Church), a former member of Top Ladies of Distinction Inc. (Dayton Chapter), and participated with the Alpha Wives (Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. - Theta Lambda Chapter).

Gertrude became a widow after 37 years of a loving marriage with Artie. Yet at the age of 70, the Lord blessed her again with another husband Robert W. Duncan. Gertrude would ALWAYS say, "the Lord blessed me with two good husbands, and that's why I keep both names!" She would constantly thank God for the opportunity to experience love and joy in her latter years of life.

Following the passing of Robert, Gertrude moved to Columbus, Ohio, to live with two of her daughters. During this time, she became a member of New Salem Missionary Baptist Church. Gertrude found great joy in the Lord during her years at New Salem. She came to a deeper understanding and freedom in God and relished in the many relationships she developed at New Salem. She was eager to encourage younger women in their marriages, singleness, style, or any area they wanted to discuss. Gertrude would often reflect and realize that she still had a purpose - even in her 90s.

A reflection on this long life would not be complete without mentioning her beloved grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Each brought great joy, love, and laughter to her life. Their admiration and love inspired her to keep moving forward.

Gertrude will always be remembered as a woman of high standards, revered for her elegance and sophistication, and an anchor of support for family and friends. Yet despite all these qualities, what mattered most was her love for the Lord. She would often quote her mother, stating, "He is able!"

Gertrude is survived by her daughters, Belinda (Clifford) Hall and Rhonda Peterson; grandchildren, Julian (Celia) Carpentier, McKenzie (Myeshia) Harmon, Morgan (Gabriel) Towles, and Candace Hall; great-grandchildren, McKenzie Nicole Harmon, Maxton Harmon, and Blake Carpentier; sister-in-law, Elsie Mitchell. She is preceded in death by her daughter, Arnette Harmon, and husbands, Artie D. Cortner and Robert W. Duncan.

Order of Service

PRELUDE

SCRIPTURE

OLD TESTAMENT

Psalms 27:4 (KJV)

NEW TESTAMENT

Ephesians 3:20 (NKJV)

PRAYER OF
COMFORT

SELECTION

"I WON'T COMPLAIN"

*Soloist, Dr. A.B. Sutton, Jr.
Pastor, Living Stones Temple
Fultondale, Alabama*

"OLD SHIP OF ZION"

*Soloist, Deacon Tony Preston
New Salem Missionary Baptist Church*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF
RESOLUTIONS AND CONDOLENCES

REMARKS

DR. A.B. SUTTON JR.

Family Friend

MORGAN TOWLES & MCKENZIE HARMON

Grandchildren

EULOGY

DR. KEITH A. TROY

Pastor, New Salem Missionary Baptist Church

RECESSIONAL

PALL BEARERS

Julian Carpentier Gabriel Towles
McKenzie Harmon Keith Warren

FLOWER BEARERS

Kim Cunningham Roberta Meacham
Dominique Gunn Therese McCann
Aris Troy

INTERMENT

WEST MEMORY GARDENS
6722 Hemple Rd. Moraine, OH 45439

The Cortner family would like to express their appreciation and heartfelt gratitude for each and every one of your prayers, acts of kindness, words of comfort, encouragement, cards and flowers.