A CELEBRATION OF LIFE FOR

Geraldine H. Hayes

SUNRISE **SUNSET**
June 21, 1936 | November 1, 2026

Sunday | November 8, 2026

Visitation | 2:00 PM
Service | 3:00 PM

Refuge Missionary Baptist Church
400 North 20th Street
Columbus, OH 43203
Rev. Reginald J. Taylor | Senior Pastor

Entombment

Forest Lawn Memorial Gardens
5600 East Broad Street | Columbus, OH 43213
Monday | November 9, 2026

Pallbearers

Roberto Chavez - Angelo Chavez - David Davis Sr. - David Davis Jr.
Elijah Davis - Don Hayes - Kenston Hayes – Eric Davis

Honorary Pallbearers

Thomas C. Hayes - Jerry Hawkins - Donald Nelson - Leonard Davis
Louis Sherrod - Robert Pounds Jr. - Larry Hawkins - Rev. Steve Barnett

Acknowledgements

The Family of Geraldine H. Hayes wishes to acknowledge with deep appreciation the many expressions of love, kindness, and support shown to us during this hour of bereavement. Special thanks to Rev. Reginald J. Taylor and the Refugee Missionary Baptist Church, New Albany Nursing and Rehabilitation, Riverside Hospice and the Marlan Gary Funeral Home, The Chapel of Peace. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your support and comfort. It is immensely appreciated!

A Repast will be held immediately following the service in the Fellowship Hall of Refuge Missionary Baptist Church.





MARLAN GARY FUNERAL HOME
1 FUNERAL HOME | 5 LOCATIONS

MINISTRY OF COMFORT ENTRUSTED TO:

NORTH CHAPEL
2500 CLEVELAND AVE.,
COLUMBUS, OH 43211
614-267-8310

EAST CHAPEL
5456 LIVINGSTON AVE.,
COLUMBUS, OH 43232
614-604-8774

MANSFIELD CHAPEL
753 MCPHERSON ST.,
MANSFIELD, OH 44903
419-524-6999

SPRINGFIELD CHAPEL
823 SOUTH YELLOW SPRINGS ST.,
SPRINGFIELD, OHIO 45506
937-325-1447

CINCINNATI CHAPEL
647 FOREST AVE,
CINCINNATI OH 45229
513-221-4812

WWW.THECHAPELOFPEACE.COM

"Your memory is a keepsake from which we will never part."



Obituary

Geraldine Hoover Hayes, daughter of the late Jake Hoover and Betty Hairston Hoover, granddaughter of the late Mary Hairston Wyatt.

She was preceded in death by her son, Thomas L. Hayes; her three sisters, Ellen Austin, Doretha Richardson, and Bernice Davis; and her six brothers, Herbert, William, Charles, Donald, Paul, and Roy Hoover. Granddaughter Miesha Hayes.

Geraldine was born on June 21, 1936, at 932 Curtis Avenue, Columbus, Ohio. She attended Columbus Public Schools and The Ohio State University. She later attended Ohio Dominican University, where she earned an associate's degree in Gerontology and a Bachelor of Arts in Social Work.

She professed her faith in Christ at an early age under the ministry of the late Rev. R. F. Hairston Sr. She was a faithful member of Refuge Baptist Church, where she served in various ministries as the first appointed woman trustee, Sunday School teacher, superintendent of the Primary department of Christian Education, pianist for Sunday school and multiple choirs, and building fund chairperson. She led various programs for youth and outreach to the surrounding community through the Food Pantry ministry. She took great pride in her role as director of Senior Ministry and as a loving "Granny" to many children in the church and community. She has served her church for over 60 years and as a foster parent to nineteen African American males for 15 years. In her steadfast commitment to the elderly, she served as the President of the Northern Senior Village Condo Association, providing services and outreach to senior citizens.

Throughout her life, Geraldine worked as a licensed sales agent with Francis Realty Company. She became Franklin County's youngest female Black real estate broker at age 21. She owned a business and was very active in her community. In 1974, she worked for Community Health, later renamed LifeCare Alliance. Under her leadership and commitment, LifeCare Alliance grew from serving 50 meals per day to over 5,000 meals per day. She remained committed to the senior population and testified before Congress on the results of a study she coordinated for the Urban Institute of Washington, D.C., about Franklin County's poor blacks, entitled "Hunger Among the Elderly." She retired from LifeCare Alliance with 31 years of dedicated service.

She has served on numerous boards, including but not limited to the National Association of Meals Program, inductee into The Area Agency Senior Hall of Fame, National Council on Aging, St. Stephen's Health Advisory Board, Office Coalition for the Homeless, National Black Caucus Center on Black Aged, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Urban League Guild, National Institute of Long-Term Care, to name a few.

Geraldine has also received many awards for her services. Her accreditations and awards include Community Service Award, Minority Health Award, Living Faith Award – Metropolitan Area Church Council, Professional Excellence Award, Neighborhood House Advisory Board Award, Foster Parent Mother of the Year, and the Walter and Marian English Scholarship Award.

At a young age she met and married the late Deacon Thomas L. Hayes. To this union were born five children. She leaves to cherish her fond Toni Hayes Carter, Thomas L. Hayes (deceased), Merry (Leonard) Davis, Dr. Geraldine Hayes (Donald) Nelson, and Rachel C. Hayes and Louis Sherrod Jr.; Special sons: Michael E. Higgins, Carlos Johnson, and Billy Anderson. Special church funeral girls Barbara Groce, Jeanette Daniels, and Marva Walker.

Grandchildren: Tina A. Richardson, Thomas (Lesha) Hayes, Don Hayes (Natlie), Nik-kiana Burton, Roberto E. (Rachelle) Chavez, Kristina (Adam) Waller, Angelo M. (Vir-ginia) Chavez, David A. Davis, Vivian, Veronica, Teresa, Eric, Lamar, Tonya Davis and Yolanda (Gilbert)Moore, and her Special granddaughter: Amber Church;

Great-Grandchildren: Taleur and Kristina Hayes, David, Elijah, and Kari Marie Davis. Aerynn and Wynter Davis; Ria and Rosalina Chavez; Sosa and Karter Waller; Mya Chavez; Jesse and Jessany Hutchison; Khristin; and Kenston Hayes. Donavan Hayes and 21 plus addi-tional great-grandchildren too numerous to list; special friends: Louise White, Ethel Willis and Brenda King and a host of other extended family.

Order of Service

OFFICIANT
Rev. Reginald J. Taylor

THE PRELUDE
Soft Music

THE PROCESSIONAL
Clergy

SCRIPTURE READING
Old Testament: Ecclesiastes 3:1-8
Minister Flora Martin
Refuge Missionary Baptist Church

New Testament: 2 Timothy 4:7-8
Elder Rodney Phipps
Pastor, New Shiloh Baptist Church

PRAYER OF COMFORT
Dr. Jeffrey A. Dennis
Senior Pastor, Mt. Calvary Baptist Church – Akron, OH

SELECTION
"Save A Seat For Me"
Minister Patricia Hoover Bryd
St. John Baptist Church – Columbus, OH

READING OF THE OBITUARY
Read Silently

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS/RESOLUTIONS
Trustee Latonya Brown

REFLECTIONS/EXPRESSIONS
(Two Minutes Please)
Deaconess Otha Robinson - Trustee
Trustee Sherrill Hodnett – Family Friend
Mrs. Catherine Willis – Lifelong Friend
Mrs. Sandy Taylor – LifeCare Alliance

MUSICAL SELECTION
Minister Elaine Phipps
New Shiloh Baptist Church

FAMILY TRIBUTE
Dr. Geraldine Hayes Nelson

THE EULOGY
Dr. Roderick Pounds
Senior Pastor, Second Baptist Church – Akron, OH

COMMITTAL
Rev. Reginald J. Taylor

SONG OF CELEBRATION
Rev. Jesse Howell and Congregation
"Let The Church Say Amen"

RECESSIONAL
Clergy, Family and Friends