

God Saw

God saw you getting tired and a cure was not to be,
So He put His arms around you, and whispered, "Come to me."

With tearful eyes we watched you, and saw you pass away.
Although we loved you dearly, we could not make you stay.
A golden heart stopped beating, hard working hands at rest,
God broke our hearts to prove to us He only takes the best.

Pallbearers

Clarence Bates	James Blackburn	Vincent Butler
Murray Garvin	Dwayne Gumbs	Derek Townsend



Acknowledgements

The family of Gertrude Townsend offers our sincere and heartfelt thanks to the staff of hospice Sean Tobin and Elisa Diaz. Also, recognize the people who provided ongoing support and care, Kim, Jada, Marejka, Michell, Renee, and Willie Mae. Laura was her "sister in Christ," with whom she shared a special bond. And a special thanks to Stephanie Thomas for her support throughout Gertrude's illness.



Davis Funeral Home
89 Walnut Avenue, Roxbury
654 Cummins Highway, Mattapan
617 427-0828 617 296-1755
www.DavisOfBoston.com

Celebration of Life for

Gertrude E. Townsend

July 30, 1931 ~ January 25, 2024



MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2024 at 11 AM

ST. PATRICK'S PARISH
400 Dudley St., Boston, MA 02119

Rev. John A. Currie, Celebrant



Life Reflections



Gertrude Elizabeth Townsend was born on July 30th, 1931, and passed away on January 25th, 2024.

She was the daughter of the late Harold and Mary Terrell. Preceded in death by her husband Luther, her sons Richard and Russell, and her brothers Joseph and Harold Terrell.

She graduated from Roxbury Memorial in 1949, where she was an excellent student and participated in many school events, including being part of the cheerleading squad.

After working for some years, she came to her calling as an educator. She taught at the Montessori Family Center from 1964 to 1987. She then moved on to the ABCD Geneva Avenue Head Start where she worked until she retired in 1996, at which time the school was renamed the Gertrude E. Townsend Learning Center and that name remains to this day. In addition to this honor, she received many awards for her outstanding work in the community. She was a faithful member of the “Goldenaires of the Freedom House” where she served as the Hospitality Hostess.

She was well known and respected in her neighborhood where she was fondly referred to as the “warden.” Over the years, she was called by many names: Ma, Nana, G-Money, Godmother, G-Ma, Mrs. T, and Auntie Gertie. Although the names were different, the sentiment was the same, she was loved by all whom she called family.

She was a longstanding member of St. Patrick’s Church and a consistent participant at weekly mass and other events.

She leaves behind her daughter Linda A. Milligan, grandson Derek B. Townsend (Marejka), great grandchildren Devin and Kendall Townsend, daughter-in-law Laura “Kim” Townsend, godchildren Arnitra, Belinda, Linda Marie and Kristina. She also leaves behind the Bates, Blackburn, Garvin, Harper, Miles, Miligan, Swain, Taylor, Thomas and Ward families.

Order of Service

INTRODUCTORY RITES

Greeting & Sprinkling with Holy Water

Placing of the Pall

Entrance Procession—”Blessed Assurance”: Regina Blackburn

Opening Prayer—Rev. Fr. Currie

LITURGY OF THE WORD

SCRIPTURE READINGS

First Reading—Teresa Taylor

Responsorial Psalm

Second Reading—Laura Garvin

THE GOSPEL

Homily

General Intercessions

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Song Selection—”Precious Lord”: Regina Blackburn

Preparation of the Altar and the Gifts—Joan Riley & Marilyn Wurie

Eucharistic Prayer

Communion Rite

Song Selection—”I Love You & You Are Mine”

Family Reflection—Derek Townsend

Obituary—Murray Garvin

FINAL COMMENDATION

Invitation to Prayer

Song of Farewell and Incense

Prayer of Commendation

Recession—”I Have Decided To Follow Jesus”

PROCESSION TO FINAL RESTING PLACE

Interment

New Calvary Cemetery

800 Harvard St.

Boston, MA 02126