

— *The Order of Service* —

Processional..... Clergy and Family

Musical SelectionGreater Friendship Church Choir
“Pass Me Not”

Scripture Readings:

Old TestamentPastor Terrance Autry
Psalm 4

New Testament.....Pastor Terrance Autry

Prayer of Comfort James H. Taylor

ResolutionThe Honorable Johnny Ford, City Councilman
District Two

Church ResolutionConstanza Hoffman

Reading of Obituary Tatiera Jones

Solo Gloria Henderson
“If I Can Help Somebody”

Reflections of Love..... Three Minutes Each (Please)
Pastor Terrance Autry
Ala Whitehead
Euclde Chisholm
Teshana Gipson-Stinson
Derrick Kimbrough

Eulogy.....Reverend JArthur Grubbs

Closing Prayer

Recessional

— *Pallbearers* —

Christian Golmon
Darryl Jones, Jr.
Eric Kimbrough, Jr.
Jamarcus Ellington
Harvey Smith
Daniel Kimbrough

— *Honorary Pallbearers* —

Guy Trammel
Larry Perry
Brian Williams
Euclde Chisholm
Probate Judge James Cooper

— *Floral Attendants* —
Family and Friends

— *Acknowledgment* —

The family of the late Mrs. Mary Ellen Gaines Kimbrough acknowledges with grateful appreciation all acts of kindness, prayers, cards, telephone calls, flowers and words of comfort extended to us during our time of bereavement.

IN MEMORIAM

May we take this opportunity to express sincere and deep appreciation for allowing us to serve you during this most difficult period. It is our constant aim to afford to the people of this community a service completed in all details and faultlessly executed with sympathy and understanding.



Final Arrangements Entrusted to:

Harris Funeral Home
Sympathetic, Courteous & Professional Service

515 South Sixth Street
Opelika, Alabama 36801
(334) 749-6583 Fax (334) 759-7018
www.harrisfuneralhomeinc.com

A CELEBRATION OF LIFE FOR

Mary Ellen
GAINES KIMBROUGH

SATURDAY, APRIL 26, 2025 • 10:00 A.M.

GREATER FRIENDSHIP MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH
606 BROWN STREET • Tuskegee, Alabama 36083

REVEREND JARTHUR GRUBBS, JR., OFFICIATING



— The Obituary —

Mrs. Mary Ellen Gaines Kimbrough, a beacon of faith and service, peacefully passed away at her home in Tuskegee, Alabama on Friday, April 18, 2025. Born on August 19, 1933, in Decatur County, Georgia, she was the cherished daughter of the late Mr. Arzie and Mrs. Corene Ballard Gaines. Her journey through life was marked by devotion to her community, her church, and her family, leaving behind a legacy of love and commitment that will be fondly remembered by all who knew her.

Mary Ellen was a proud graduate of Hutto High School in Bainbridge, Georgia, Class of 1951. She furthered her education at Tuskegee University, where she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Institution Management in 1955 and met her future husband, Tuskegee Airman Frank T. Kimbrough, Jr. She completed a one-year internship in the American Dietitian Program, demonstrating early on, her dedication to learning and excellence. Her academic achievements laid a solid foundation for a life characterized by unwavering faith and service to others.

From an early age, Mary Ellen was a woman of deep faith. She confessed Christ and became an active member of St. Paul Primitive Baptist Church in Attapulgus, Georgia. Her spiritual journey continued as she united with Chapel Grove Missionary Baptist Church in Pasadena, California, in 1967. Eventually, she found her spiritual home at Greater Friendship Missionary Baptist Church in Tuskegee, Alabama, where she actively contributed to the Church Nursery, Hospitality Committee, Missionary Society and served as Sunday School Secretary. Her faith was the cornerstone of her existence, guiding her actions and inspiring those around her.

Her professional career began at Michael Reese Hospital in Chicago, Illinois. Mary excelled as a Dietitian at St. Joseph Medical Center in Burbank, California, San Gabriel Community Hospital in California and Community Hospital in Duarte, California.

Mary Ellen's commitment to her community was unparalleled. She was a tireless advocate for community service, contributing in any and every way possible. Her efforts did not go unnoticed, as she received numerous service awards and recognitions, including: 2018 NAACP Never the Less She Persisted Award (Honoring Women Who Fight All Forms of Discrimination Against Women), 2018 Iota Phi Lambda Sorority, Inc., Unsung Heroes Award, NAACP Appreciation Award for Outstanding Service to the Tuskegee-Macon County Branch, California Alumni Award and California Assembly Resolution, both (featuring Mayor Tom Bradley) for the positive impact she made in the lives of many. Her selfless nature and willingness to help others were hallmarks of her character, making her a beloved figure in her community for more than eighty years. Mary was a member and served as Chairperson for the NAACP, a life member of the Cooking Club of America, she and her late husband, Frank were Co-Founders of the California Connection Club and Temporary Housing Program

(in addition, a program that assisted the needs of students and their families during crisis and emergency situations). Her passion for helping others extended to volunteering at the Food Bank in Tuskegee.

As someone who loved fishing, Mary Ellen found joy and tranquility in the simple pleasure of casting that line and pulling in her catch. It was an activity that not only brought her personal satisfaction but also allowed her to connect with nature and reflect on the beauty of creation. Her love for fishing was just one of the many facets of her rich and fulfilling life.

Described as faith-filled, Mary Ellen's unwavering belief in the goodness of people and the power of community was evident in everything she did. Her life was a testament to the values she held dear, and she embodied the virtues of kindness, generosity, and compassion. Her presence was a source of strength and inspiration to those fortunate enough to have crossed her path. Her favorite song, "If I Can Help Somebody" by Alma Hazel, truly reflected her life's mission and indeed, she did.

Mary was preceded in death by: her husband, Frank Tazzie Kimbrough; sister, Burnethel "BB" Sanford.

She leaves to cherish her precious memory: three children, Dirk (Maria) Kimbrough of Las Vegas, NV, Derrick D. Kimbrough of Pacoima, CA and Eric (Maureen) Kimbrough, Sr. of Las Vegas, NV; seven grandchildren, Tyrone (Erin), Erika (Jason), Antoinette (Darryl), Eric, Jr., Mike (Laura), Zola and Sophia; eleven great-grandchildren; one sister, Annie McNeal of Attapulgus, GA; two nieces, Peggy Daniels of Attapulgus, GA and Dia Poole of Las Vegas, NV; three nephews, Warren Thomas of Inglewood, CA, Terrance Autry of Dallas, TX and Wilbur Johnson of Attapulgus, GA; a host of other relatives, church family and nationwide friends.

— A Psalm of Life —

Tell me not, in mournful numbers,
Life is but an empty dream—
For the soul is dead that slumbers,
And things are not what they seem.

Lives of great men all remind us
We can make our lives sublime,
And, departing, leave behind us
Footprints on the sands of time.

Let us, then, be up and doing,
With a heart for any fate;
Still achieving, still pursuing,
Learn to labor and to wait.

Life is real! Life is earnest!
The grave is not its goal.
Let us leave behind us
Footprints on the sands of time.



— The Order of Service —

Processional..... Clergy and Family

Musical Selection “Amazing Grace”

Scripture Readings:

Old Testament Elder James Hamilton
Pastor, St. Paul Primitive Baptist Church

New Testament..... Minister Rayfield Daniels
Zion Hill Baptist Church

Musical Selection “If I Can Help Somebody”

Resolutions..... St. Paul Primitive Baptist Church

Reading of Obituary Tatiera Jones

Reflections of Love..... Derrick Kimbrough, Family
Loretta Harrell, Family
Friends

Eulogy..... Elder Lee Harris
Mount Olive Primitive Baptist Church
Jacksonville, FL

Closing Prayer..... Elder Lee Harris

Recessional

— Pallbearers —

Wilbur J. Johnson
Daniel Kimbrough
Eric Kimbrough, Jr.

Christian Golmon
Darryl Jones, Jr.

— Honorary Pallbearers —

Marvin Dawson, Sr.
Vernard Harris

Willie Lewis III
Willie Bryant, Jr.

— Floral Attendants —
Family and Friends

— Interment —

Elisha and Mary Harris Garden of Peace Cemetery
Attapulgus, GA 39815

— Acknowledgment —

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Mary Ellen
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MONDAY, APRIL 28, 2025 • 11:00 A.M. (E.S.T.)

ST. PAUL PRIMITIVE BAPTIST CHURCH
4562 FOWLSTOWN ROAD • Attapulgus, GA 39815

ELDER JAMES HAMILTON, PASTOR
ELDER LEE HARRIS, EULOGIST



