



## Ms. Margaret Mae Grimes

April 22, 1931 - December 14, 2023

Margaret Mae (Shepherd) Grimes, affectionately known as “Molly,” passed away peacefully on the morning of December 14, 2023, surrounded by her loved ones. Molly was born on April 22, 1931, in Alexandria, VA, to the late Louise and John Shepherd. The Shepherds were a close-knit family who lived in the section of Alexandria known as “Colored Rosemont” during the early years of Molly’s childhood. When Molly was 16 years old, the City of Alexandria bought her family’s land to build the new Parker-Gray High School, and the Shepherd family moved further uptown into the red brick house in the 400 block of N. West Street.

Molly attended Alexandria City Public Schools and graduated from Parker-Gray High School in 1949. At Parker-Gray, Molly sang in the Glee Club and played on the girls’ basketball team. After graduating from high school, she obtained her cosmetology license and also worked for the Federal Government as a telephone operator. In 1957, Molly accepted a position in the Central Service Department of the Alexandria Hospital, where she quickly advanced to Supervisor. Molly worked as a Central Service Supervisor at the Alexandria Hospital for more than 35 years until her retirement in 1992.

Molly grew up in a devoutly Christian household – she accepted Jesus Christ as her Lord and Savior and was baptized at a young age. She was a lifelong member of her family’s church, Third Baptist Church in Alexandria, where she served as a Deaconess and sang in several choirs, including the Senior Choir, Mixed Choir, “Shepherd Sisters,” and “Third Baptist Church Trio.” The

“Shepherd Sisters” was a gospel group formed and led by Molly’s mother, renowned pianist Louise Shepherd, that included Molly and four of her sisters – Teresa, Ruth, Harlean, and Lorraine. The “Trio” was a harmony group that Molly and two of her lifelong friends – the late Shirley (Berry) Johnson and late Costella (Morrison) Hayes – formed when they were in high school at Parker-Gray. The “Trio,” known for its beautiful harmonies, performed together for over 50 years until Costella’s death in 2005. For 27 of those years, late Deaconess Luberta (Pierce) Lenon served as the musical accompanist for the group. Both the “Shepherd Sisters” and the “Trio” performed regularly at Third Baptist Church and other churches throughout the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area, and Molly’s high-pitched soprano singing voice was legendary.

Molly always had a kind and giving spirit. As a child, she was a founding member of the Shepherd Flock Tent No. 585 (established by her mother) and remained active in the organization until her health declined earlier this year. She constantly sought ways to help people who were less fortunate or simply needed a “helping hand,” and she never expected anything in return. She valued family over everything, except God, and loved spending time with her children and grandchildren, all of whom referred to her as “Mama.” Mama brought many of her grandchildren (as well as their friends) to Third Baptist Church with her over the years and encouraged them to participate in various church ministries, such as the Junior Choir, Junior Usher Board, Vacation Bible School, and other activities. When her health began to decline and she was no longer able to attend church in person on a regular basis, Molly would call the church’s telephone conference line to participate in Sunday worship services. Molly also enjoyed reading her Bible and daily devotionals, cooking, eating good food, watching her soap operas, and doing puzzles.

Molly married U.S. Army Sgt. Harvey Grimes in 1955. They reared five children – Glenn, Kim, Veda, Rodney, and Cathy – before divorcing in 1977. Molly was predeceased by her parents; a grandson, Frederick Gregory

Barton, II; and her seven siblings, Theresa Hall, Arthur Douglas, Ella "Sissy" Carter, Ruth Catron, Harlean Griffin, Wilbur "Pimpico" Shepherd, and Lorraine Jennings.

She leaves to cherish her memory five children, Glenn R. Shepherd (Jutta), Kim J. Grimes, Veda H. Grimes-Barton (Frederick), Rodney A. Grimes (Zina), and Cathy L. Grimes-Miller (Wendell); two devoted former daughters-in-law, Carolyn Evans and Bridget Shepherd; 15 grandchildren, Leslie, Jamie, Ashika, Kishwar, Michael, Monté, Reka, Tarah, Brian, Nneka, Greg (deceased), Chaise, Geno, Wynn, and Glenn; 15 great grandchildren; five great-great grandchildren; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and other relatives and friends.

# Previous Events

## Viewing

DEC 27. 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

Third Baptist Church  
917 Princess Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314

## Viewing

DEC 28. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Third Baptist Church  
917 Princess Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314

## Funeral

DEC 28. 11:00 AM (ET)

Third Baptist Church  
917 Princess Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314

## Live Streaming Service Link:

<https://client.tribucast.com/tcid/5971799287>

DEC 28. 11:00 AM (ET)

Third Baptist Church  
917 Princess Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314

## Interment

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DEC **28** (ET)

Bethel Cemetery  
Wilkes Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314

# Tribute Wall



“ *Phillip Bell Sr. and Winona Morrissette-Johnson Funeral Service, P.A. created a Webcast in memory of Ms. Margaret Mae Grimes*



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**Phillip Bell Sr. and Winona Morrissette-** - December 22, 2023 at 03:51 AM



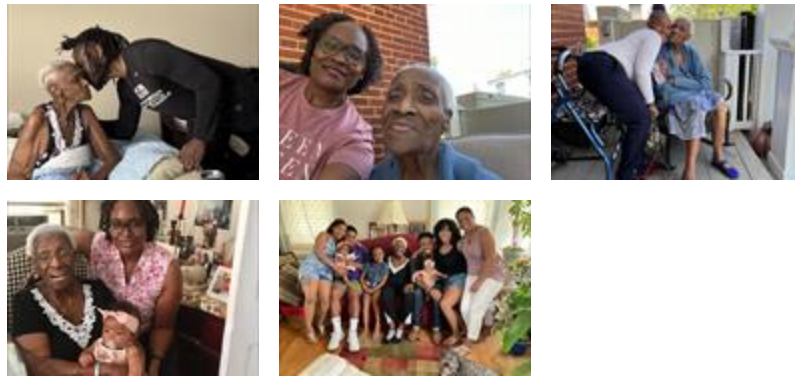
“ *Ma I miss you so much...-Ashika your grandbaby!*

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**Ashika Grimes** - October 13, 2024 at 11:45 AM



“ *10 files added to the album Memories Album*

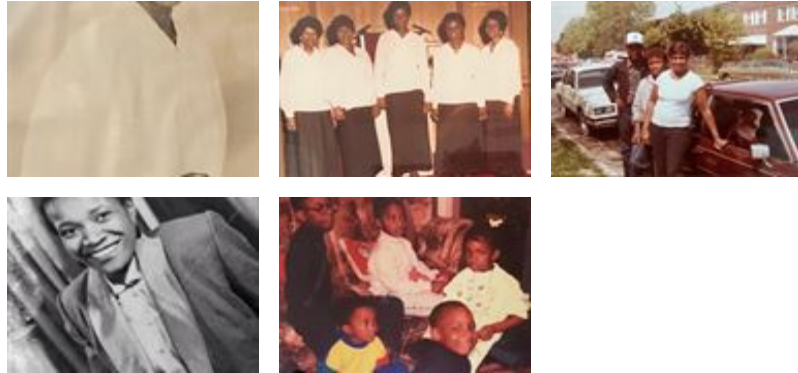


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**Phillip Bell Sr. and Winona Morrissette-** - December 28, 2023 at 06:43 AM



“ 102 files added to the album *LifeTributes*



**Phillip Bell Sr. and Winona Morrissette-** - December 27, 2023 at 09:33 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Ms. Margaret Mae Grimes.



December 27, 2023 at 07:09 AM



“ *Cousin Carolyn, Mike and Austin Smith* purchased the *Sentiments of Serenity Spray* for the family of Ms. Margaret Mae Grimes.



**Cousin Carolyn, Mike and Austin Smith** - December 26, 2023 at 11:39 AM

CS

“ Cousin Carolyn, Mike and Austin Smith planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ms. Margaret Mae Grimes.

Cousin Carolyn, Mike and Austin Smith - December 26, 2023 at 11:39 AM

VE

“ Vyleen E. purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Ms. Margaret Mae Grimes.



Vyleen E. - December 24, 2023 at 01:27 PM

BD

“ The heading to Psalms 91 is titled “Safety of Abiding in the Presence of God”, and that the Lord did as a result of her unshakable faith in Him. She was a legend in her own time. A true example of a godly woman. The entirety of Psalm 16 is dedicated to Ms. Grimes and ends on verse 16 with the words “With long life I will satisfy him, and show him My salvation.” That again, HE DID. RIP Ms. Grimes. 🙏. You and your sweet spirit will be missed.

Barbara Davis - December 23, 2023 at 01:55 PM

AG



Ashika Grimes - October 13, 2024 at 11:47 AM

PF

“ *Pullen Family lit a candle in memory of Ms. Margaret Mae Grimes*



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**Pullen Family** - December 22, 2023 at 12:56 AM

NP

“ *Nakita Peterson lit a candle in memory of Ms. Margaret Mae Grimes*



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**Nakita Peterson** - December 21, 2023 at 08:56 PM