

A Service of Celebration
for
Mrs. Gamella Brown Twitty



Friday, March 20, 2009
11:00 A.M.

Simpson-Gillespie United Methodist Church
3545 Beatties Ford Road
Charlotte, North Carolina

The Reverend Walter Pegues, Pastor
Officiating

Reverend Dr. James H. Graves
Eulogist

Obituary

Samella Brown Twitty, or "Sammie," as she was affectionately called, was born on March 16, 1917 in Charlotte, North Carolina to the late Samuel Burris Brown and Mary Ella Gaffney Brown. She departed this life on March 15, 2009 at her home after a brief illness.

Sammie, a retired teacher, received her formal education in the Charlotte public school system, and went on to earn her Bachelor's degree in Education in 1939 at Bennett College in Greensboro, North Carolina. She later attended Columbia University in New York, New York and graduated with a Master's degree in Education in 1950.

She taught in various Charlotte-Mecklenburg schools, including Cornelius Elementary, Morgan Elementary, Biddleville Elementary, Lincoln Heights Elementary, and Barringer Elementary. She knew that education was the key to success as she motivated hundreds of students to always do their best. She retired in 1982 after almost 40 years of dedicated service.

Sammie met the love of her life, Walter Whitman Twitty, Sr., at a dance even though he had two left feet. They married on December 26, 1942 and from this union, they had two children. She and "Twitty" shared a wonderful relationship for 63 years until his death in 2006. Together they enjoyed traveling, playing bridge and family outings. They competed in national bridge tournaments all across the country. They danced with the Swanks and socialized with the Modernettes.

She was a lifelong and faithful member of Simpson-Gillespie United Methodist Church where she served as a Communion Stewardess, was a member of the United Methodist Women and First Thursday Fellowship. She gave countless volunteer hours to Bethlehem Center, a program supported by the United Methodist Women.

Sammie was caring, loving, fun and full of life. She was a good cook who looked forward to experimenting with new and creative recipes. One of her most favorite pastimes was playing bridge. She loved the game and was a member of the Metrolina Duplicate Bridge Club. She was also a founding member of the Modernette's Social Club. In later years, she would go on trips with her sister, Burnas, to Atlantic City, NJ, Cherokee, NC, Biloxi, MS, and Las Vegas, NV – they had a gaming good time!

Sammie was preceded in death by her parents, her husband and 9 siblings, Wallace Brown, Pearl Brown Pickney, Sadie Belle Brown Johnson, Lillie Belle Brown, Druscilla Brown Walker, Hazeline Brown Alexander, Ruth Mary Brown Harris, Samuel Gaffney Marcellus Brown and James Archie Brown.

She leaves to cherish fond memories, her daughter, Marilyn Twitty Marable of Richmond, VA; son, Walter W. Twitty Jr, of Charlotte, NC; one sister, Burnas Lucille Brown Wright of Lancaster, SC; two grandsons, Robert Marable of Austin, TX and Joel Marable of Richmond, VA; one granddaughter, LaKesha M. Ervin of Charlotte, NC; two great grandsons Jahleek Hailes Marable of Atlanta, GA and Ibisakin Owoiya Marable of Austin, TX; two brother-in-laws, Wishum Twitty of Durham, NC and Percy "Joe" Jackson of Rutherfordton, NC; a special niece, Hilda Lee Brown Odom of Jacksonville, FL, and a host of other nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.