

Homegoing Celebration
For
Mr. William E. Bluford, Sr.



Friday, February 18, 2000

Visitation: 1:00 P.M.

Service: 2:00 P.M.

Memorial Presbyterian Church
2600 Beatties Ford Road
Charlotte, North Carolina

The Reverend Edward B. Newberry, Pastor
Officiating

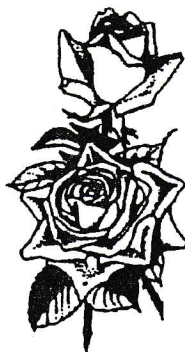
Obituary

William E. Bluford, Sr. departed this life on February 13, 2000 at University Memorial Hospital in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Mr. Bluford was born in Gloucester, Virginia and attended public school there. He received his Bachelor Degree from Virginia Union University. He did work in History at Harvard University and New York University, and received his M. A. Degree in History from the University of Michigan. He pursued additional studies at the University of North Carolina and Davidson College.

During World War II, Mr. Bluford served as personnel director of the Pittsburg Metallurgical Company in Charleston, South Carolina. From 1945 until 1975, he was Director of Community Services and Professor of History and Political Science at Johnson C. Smith University. He was also visiting Professor of History and Political Science at the former Carver College in Charlotte, North Carolina and Winthrop College in Rock Hill, South Carolina. He served on the Board of Trustees of the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, Committee for Government Plaza, Historical Properties Commission and a member of the Republican Party. A long time member of Memorial Presbyterian Church, Mr. Bluford served as a Ruling Elder and was active in the Sunday School.

He is survived by: his wife, Ocala G. Bluford; son, William Bluford, Jr. and wife, Deborrah; grandchildren, Jamee Johnson, Burnadett Johnson and Cheyenne Bluford; great-grandchild, Shannon; several nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.



--- Acknowledgement ---

The Family of Mr. William Bluford wishes to express their deep appreciation for all of the kind expressions of sympathy and love which have been extended to them during their period of bereavement. May God richly bless each of you.

G1
Mrs. Ocala Godfrey Bluford
1911 - 2002

"The Lord is my Rock and my Fortress,
and My Deliberer."

Sunrise:
April 5, 1911

Sunset:
Aug. 21, 2002

Mrs. Ocala Godfrey Bluford

As God strolled through His Heavenly Garden on Wednesday evening, He looked down from Heaven upon His Mother Earth at 4:45 P.M. and picked one of his earthly flowers, Mrs. Ocala Godfrey Bluford (Mama), to be with his Army Of Angels. Mama Bluford slipped away quietly into eternal rest at her doctor's office on August 21, 2002. She was born on April 5, 1911 to the late Joshua Eden Godfrey, Sr. and Georgianna Hayes in Summerville, South Carolina. God saw fit to call her birth Mother at an early age. The late Mr. Joshua Eden Godfrey remarried the late Maryellen Wilson; she stepped in like a mother and helped raise the Godfrey children, Joshua and William. Mama Bluford would often speak words of wisdom about their step-mother, stating that she treated them as if they were her own birth children.

Mrs. Ocala Godfrey Bluford received her early education in Summersville, South Carolina. The family moved to Charleston, S.C. Her parents enrolled her into a private school, Avery Institute. There, she received her secondary education. She did undergraduate study at Claflin College, earning an AB degree in English. Her graduate study was at the University of Michigan and New York University. She earned a Master's Degree in English.

The Obituary

Acknowledgements

Ocala Godfrey Bluford met her beloved late husband, Mr. William Edward Bluford, Sr. while they were working at Avery Institute, where he was the principal at Avery Institute. On October 24, 1936, they were united in Holy Matrimony.

Mrs. Bluford's career began as a Principal of Awanson Elementary School in South Carolina as a teacher at Avery Institute in Charleston, S.C. She was a retired teacher from the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School System. She served on many committees and was a missionary for her community. Mama Bluford's call from God was to sing on her church choir. She would practice every Wednesday to be prepared to sing each Sunday. When she was unable to attend service, she asked Rosanna, "What's going on at the Church?" She wanted to be kept informed. She rarely missed going to Church.

She was predeceased by: two sisters, Carlotta Godfrey, Tryphenia Godfrey; two brothers, Joshua Eden Godfrey, Jr. and William Henry Godfrey, Sr.; her husband, Mr. William Edward Bluford, Sr.; and George Marion Johnson, Sr., whom she took for a son.

Mrs. Ocala G. Bluford leaves to cherish her loving memories: a son, William Edward Bluford, Jr. (Debra) of Charlotte, N.C.; four grandchildren, Lance Corporal George Marion Johnson, Jr. of the United States Marine Corps of California, James Edward Johnson, Bernadette Ocala Johnson, and Cheyanne Bluford; one great-grand child, Shannon Shyan Edwards; a special former daughter-in-law, Rosanna C. Johnson whom she took for a daughter; *all of Charlotte, N.C.*; a loving niece, Ruth Godfrey Inness and son, Ray Godfrey Inness of New York, Frank Godfrey of Raleigh, N.C.; William H. "Buck" Godfrey, Jr. of Atlanta, Ga., Robert N. Godfrey of Decatur, Ga. and John Godfrey of Charleston, S.C., George Edward Heath, M.D., (Kim) of Olney, Va.; and a host of nieces, nephew, other relatives and friends.