



Dorothy B. Gilliam

February 24, 1943 - October 13, 2017

Dorothy Arlease Byrd Gilliam was born on February 24, 1943 to Boozer Jasper and Dorothy Mae Spigner Byrd. Her mother made certain that she and her sister Beryle were raised as Christians. Dorothy was very active in church at Turner Memorial AME from a young age. She attended Syphax Elementary, Douglass Middle and graduated from Eastern High School in 1960 in Washington, DC. Dorothy enjoyed helping people so shortly after graduation she took classes and became a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN).

Dorothy, also affectionately known by friends and family as “Dottie,” “Dot,” or “Arlease,” moved to Atlanta, Georgia where she met Leonard Alton Gilliam, Jr. The two married on May 24, 1971 in Atlanta before moving to Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. While in Florida, their first child Lisa Louise was born in May 1973. Dorothy continued to work as a nurse while in Florida until the couple moved back to her hometown of Washington, DC. Their second child, Darryl Emanuel Lee was born there in February 1975.

Dorothy continued to remain active in church while diligently serving others as a nurse. However, she did not just attend church but had a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. She and her late husband instilled those same Christian principles and values in their children. Dorothy would also meditate on the Word of God to help guide her while nursing at Freedman’s Hospital

(now Howard University), St. Elizabeth's Hospital, Lorton Prison, and as a school nurse at Glenarden Woods Elementary and Skyline Elementary in Prince George's County Maryland. Dorothy had many talents, and really liked gospel and Christian music. Besides being a "people magnet" who naturally drew others to her after one conversation, she also had a very good "ear" for music and a nice alto voice. Dorothy sang in choirs in the city such as Tri-Area Community Choir, the former Turner Memorial AME Celestial Chorale and various choirs at Cornerstone Peaceful Bible Baptist Church. Dorothy gave the words "lift every voice and sing" a wonderful meaning because she certainly enjoyed lifting her voice unto the Lord. Dorothy also loved to dance!!

Dorothy, the biggest supporter of her children and grandchildren, was often seen at her daughter's concerts, theater productions, speaking events and preaching engagements. She would also find time to support her son's various sporting events. Dorothy was especially proud of her role as "Nana" to her "grands" Jason and Kellie. She took care of them with great love and care. At the end of the day, Dorothy could be found swinging with Jason and Kellie on their swing set, blowing bubbles or playing catch with her babies in the yard. She loved coming to their events and activities. Perhaps one of the things Dorothy will be remembered for is how she prayed for, encouraged and supported others' endeavors. She was selfless with her time, gifts and talents and truly sought to serve God with her life. There is no doubt that Dorothy is in heaven dancing and praising God with a carefree attitude. Dorothy did not complain here on earth and it is certain that she is freely giving God all of her praise right now and singing in the choir with the angels in heaven! In fact, she was certain of what she planned on doing when she got there.

"Birth is the beginning. Life is to be completed with your today and

transitioning is my destiny. When/as you look upon this shell-I'll be dancing before King Jesus my Savior and my Lord. It is here where I'll have the best alto voice with the other angels. At last I'll sing the solo part and the others will join in. HaHa. Since my voice is not above reproach. Oh incidentally, my dance has been perfected also watch me now-as I glide on the gold."

Written by me for you—Dorothy B. Gilliam

Dorothy leaves to cherish her memory her daughter Lisa, son Darryl, daughter-in-law Doris, grand-children Jason and Kellie, sister, Beryle, nephew Cullen, great-niece Brittany, great-great nephew Daniel, and so many cousins, extended family members and friends. She was preceded in death by her parents, Boozer and Dorothy, and her husband Leonard.

Cemetery Details

Maryland National Memorial Park

Baltimore Avenue (Rte 1)
Laurel, MD

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **21**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Cornerstone Peaceful Bible Baptist Church
9010 Frank Tippet Road
Upper Marlboro, MD

Service

OCT **21**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Cornerstone Peaceful Bible Baptist Church
9010 Frank Tippet Road
Upper Marlboro, MD

Tribute Wall



“ *Dorothy B. Gilliam*

October 23, 2023 at 08:15 AM



“ *Lisa and Darryl, I attended your mother's Celebration of Life. Her spirit was in the sanctuary. How fitting to center the service around the things she enjoyed doing in life; and, to hear your expressions of love, made my heart glad. I thank God for allowing her to come into my life. Thanks for sharing your mom with me. I will always remember her smile and her positive attitude upon greeting her. Keep her legacy alive! May God strengthen you in your walk with Him. Love, Mrs. Demetra Washington Turner Memorial AME Church*

Mrs. Demetra Washington - November 10, 2017 at 05:01 PM



Thanks so much Mrs. Washington for being there with us at the funeral service and for the beautiful sentiments you shared. God bless, Lisa

Lisa Gilliam - February 05, 2018 at 10:16 AM



“ *Arlease has been such a beautiful and wonderful person to me and my family. She will be truly missed, RIP my Angel*



Brenda C Allen - October 26, 2017 at 06:01 PM



Thank you Brenda. Lisa

Lisa Gilliam - February 05, 2018 at 10:16 AM



“ I always looked forward to seeing her & Auntie. Both of them with their beautiful smiles, & me walking them to their seats. And both of them telling me to behave, cause I'm always clowning around.

Tony Hunt - October 26, 2017 at 05:46 PM



Thanks so much Tony for always caring for and helping my family. You never hesitated to do so and I am grateful. May God bless you abundantly. Lisa

Lisa Gilliam - February 05, 2018 at 10:20 AM

EB

“ Ellen Bowen lit a candle in memory of Dorothy B. Gilliam



Ellen Bowen - October 24, 2017 at 07:53 PM



Thanks cousin

Lisa Gilliam - February 05, 2018 at 10:20 AM

TT

“ Dorothy was full of so much love and grace, her smile would light up an entire building! She was poised with beauty and had wisdom for ages. I loved just sitting in her presence at the many music events she would attend to support her daughter, she had such a great peace about her. You'd never know she wasn't feeling well or that she was angry because she was always smiling and always showed love. The angels definitely welcomed home a sister when she transitioned and I know she's rejoicing and dancing!



Gonna miss your beautiful smiling face, Ms. Dorothy!

Temeka Thompson - October 24, 2017 at 05:24 PM



Thanks for sharing these kind sentiments Temeka. Lisa

Lisa Gilliam - February 05, 2018 at 10:22 AM



“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



Marshall-March Funeral Homes - October 24, 2017 at 05:02 PM

AG

“ Still processing this heavy weight that you transitioned. I will never forget your love for me, your word of wisdom, your concern and fervent prayers over me and the lives of my family. I will always love you, Ma Gilliam.

ANGELA GORDON - October 23, 2017 at 09:26 AM



Thanks Angela.

Lisa Gilliam - February 05, 2018 at 10:23 AM

DB

“ *Lisa, Darryl and Auntie Beryl...*

I just wanted you to know that the service was beautiful. Mom would have been so pleased and Im sure it made her heart smile. The tributes, memories and expressions expressed about her could not have been said any better.

She always had a kind word and was such a gentle, beautiful spirit. I loved that about her and she will be sorely missed. She always made you feel so warm and loved. Im sorry the family and I didnt get a chance to come and see you to share our condolences with you all personally but know you are and will always be in our hearts, prayers and thoughts. Family is not always blood and we love yours! We are blessed and honored to have known such a virtuous woman!!! She may be gone in the flesh but her spirit will continue to live and grow in every life she touched.

DeAndra Brown - October 22, 2017 at 02:09 PM



Thank you for being there and for your kind words. Much love to you and the Brown family.


Lisa Gilliam - February 05, 2018 at 10:25 AM

RB

“*Ma Golliam Auntie Béryl Sweet John (they're name for him) and I (hot stuff- another name from then to me) went to visit Andrea at Baltimore Hospital. When we completed the visit we decided to go to Timbuktu to have crabcakes. Mom and auntie were on a fast so all they could have was a salad, but John and I had crabcakes and it was good. We laughed and had such a good time in before we left we left, we ordered a crabcake dinner for Auntie and mom. Oh the stories they sold us about when they were young and in church. "Sweet John" and "hot stuff" laughed all the way from Timbuctoo to Upper mMarlboro! Fun women. Ma Gilliam I'm going to miss you not missing anything, Shari going with me about what says the Lord! I know you're in a better place, but we miss you! Rest easy and in the arms of a loving God.*



Rev. Dr. Pat Boyden - October 21, 2017 at 09:05 PM

 Lisa
Gilliam

I was so surprised to see you at the funeral but very glad that you cared enough to travel to be there. That meant alot. Thank you so much, for everything!

Lisa Gilliam - February 05, 2018 at 10:28 AM

LG

“ I can tell that Momma Dorothy Gilliam is singing and dancing in Heaven right now. The weather cleared, got hot, and I swear I can hear Angels shouting, "Go Dottie, go Dottie!"

Lisa Gilliam, thank you so much for sharing your Mom and Auntie with me. They have enhanced my life so much and poured so much love into me that I will forever be grateful. And thank you for praising God and making today a true Homegoing Celebration perfectly fitting for the new star Alto in the Heavenly Choir!!

*God bless you, Auntie Beryle and the family. I love you dearly.
#CelebrateLifeToday #RIPMommaDorothy
Love, Lorna M. Gilkey :o)*

Lorna M. Gilkey - October 21, 2017 at 02:59 PM

 Lisa Gilliam

Thanks Lorna for sharing these kind words. I can imagine my mom singing and dancing in Heaven now just like she did here on earth. She loved to give God praise and I have no doubt she is doing that even as I type this. That makes me smile :-)

Lisa Gilliam - February 05, 2018 at 10:31 AM

ET

“ One of the things about Ms. Gilliam that has always stood out to me was the first time I met her. I came to the house to see Lisa, and when I met Ms. Gilliam for the first time she was so kind she made me feel as though I was a long time family friend. Through the years when I would talk to Lisa, Ms. Gilliam would always ask, "How is my Eric and his family doing?" Ms. Gilliam's beautiful spirit and that of her daughter 's is one of the reasons I accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior. I am forever indebted to her for that blessing.

Eric Thomas - October 21, 2017 at 10:52 AM



As I have told you many times, this brings joy to my heart. I am glad that God used us as a part of your journey, leading you to accepting Jesus as your Lord and Savior. We love you and your family very much.

Lisa Gilliam - February 05, 2018 at 10:35 AM



“ I absolutely loved Ms Dorothy!!! Such a beautiful woman of God...inside and out. My prayers continue for the family especially as they move forward with the Home Going Celebration in the morning.....and a celebration it will be 🙏🙏🙏🙏🙏🙏

Tonya Mitchell - October 20, 2017 at 05:40 PM



Thanks so much for being there with us Tonya and James as well.

Lisa Gilliam - February 05, 2018 at 10:36 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Dorothy B. Gilliam.



October 20, 2017 at 04:06 PM

DC

“ I send condolences from San Antonio, TX where I now reside. I knew Dorothy and shared fond memories of her when we served together in the SOW Book Club at the Cornerstone Peaceful Bible Baptist Church, Upper Marlboro, MD. She was a very wise woman who did not hesitate to freely share her wisdom and experiences with you. During the last year of my husband's life she shared with me, giving me hope and encouragement when I needed it most. All this was while we were discussing the book of the month. Being around her was such a pleasure. I will miss her and her beautiful smile. Praying for your strength Lisa and for the rest of the family.
Dorothy S. Carr

Dorothy S. Carr - October 20, 2017 at 03:24 PM

 Lisa Gilliam

Thank you so much Mom Carr. Lisa

Lisa Gilliam - February 05, 2018 at 10:37 AM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Dorothy B. Gilliam.



October 18, 2017 at 07:29 PM



“ *Sister Dorothy, Thank you for being my prayer partner, my mentor and my friend. I love you and so appreciate every wise word spoken to me. You shared your love and wisdom with my entire family. I am so thankful that God allowed us to be connected. We love you.*
Cynthia Davis and Family

Cynthia Davis - October 18, 2017 at 03:03 PM



Thank you for your presence in my mom's life. I know she appreciated it and so do I. Lisa

Lisa Gilliam - February 05, 2018 at 10:39 AM



“ *Sister Dorothy Gilliam was such a blessing to me. She prayed for my healing on several occasions. She always greeted me with a beautiful smile and a big hug. I will miss this wonderful woman of God. Rest in Paradise my sister. My condolences to the family. I will be praying for you.*

Brenda Craig - October 18, 2017 at 12:42 AM



Thanks for sharing this Brenda! Lisa

Lisa Gilliam - February 05, 2018 at 10:40 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dorothy B. Gilliam.*



October 17, 2017 at 02:56 PM

JB

“ Ms. Gilliam, mom, you were awesome! You would come to the dorm, you always had a smile on your face. I hope you see my mother up there! Thank you for calling me part of your family and sharing them with me. Darryl & Lisa now she's looking down on you, and at times will be with you if not always. Love Jamilliah Brinkley

jamilliah brinkley - October 17, 2017 at 07:43 AM

 Lisa Gilliam

Thanks roommate. I am so glad you felt welcomed into our family. I love you.

Lisa Gilliam - February 05, 2018 at 10:41 AM

 Tania Williams

“ Mrs. Dorothy was one of the sweetest souls that I ever met. Her kind heart and her beautiful smile will be missed for sure. My condolences to the family. You are in our prayers.

Tania Williams - October 16, 2017 at 09:05 PM

 Lisa Gilliam

Thanks so much Tania!

Lisa Gilliam - February 05, 2018 at 10:42 AM

EL

“ Ma Gilliam always encourage me to keep on serving to the glory of God. I hugged her neck about 3weeks ago at CPBBC. She was full of the love of my Jesus. She will certainly be missed. I love you Ma Rest easy!

Elbie - October 16, 2017 at 07:55 PM



Thank you Elbie and thanks to you and Alkeisha for being at the funeral service too. We appreciate it.

Lisa Gilliam - February 05, 2018 at 10:44 AM

CI

*“ We are deeply saddened to hear about the loss of your love one. Please know that our prayers are with you all at this difficult. time. May your many happy memories carry you through and strengthen you for the days ahead.
Penny and Melvyn Ivy*

Charlene Ivy - October 16, 2017 at 06:15 PM



Thank you so much. We appreciate it your prayers. Lisa

Lisa Gilliam - February 05, 2018 at 10:45 AM

PM

“ Pastor Kenny and I have wonderful memories of "Lisa's Mom." Her smile alone was so captivating, welcoming, warm, full of love and life. We always looked forward to supporting Lisa and being blessed by her ministry. However, during those times when we were weary, but didn't want to disappoint Lisa by not showing up, we gained strength in knowing we would be rewarded by Mrs. Gilliam's loving embrace, warm smile and kind words. We have no doubt she will be one of heaven's welcoming angels because she was faithful over that assignment here on earth, now our heavenly Father will make her ruler over that position with Him in glory. Lisa, although we cannot be physically present with you, just know in our hearts we will be with you in spirit and in prayers. We are sending you our Hugs, Encouragement, Love, Prayers (HELP) always. Pastors Kenny & Estelle Martin in Indianapolis, IN

Pastors Kenny and Estelle Martin - October 16, 2017 at 05:38 PM



Thank you both so very much. I love you .

Lisa Gilliam - February 05, 2018 at 10:46 AM



“ *Pretty Please was purchased for the family of Dorothy B. Gilliam.*



October 16, 2017 at 05:31 PM



“ *I have such awesome & fond memories growing up in Turner Memorial A.M.E. church and any of those memories include Dorothy Gilliam & family! Dorothy was ALWAYS so sweet & kind & loving & compassionate to everyone! And, FUNNY!! :) My heart is there with all the family right now - know that Dorothy is Resting now in Sweet Paradise with her Savior! Blessings to all of you! Love you all! Veronica & Juan McCall & Sons*

Veronica A McCall - October 16, 2017 at 04:31 PM



Thank you Veronica and your family as well. A lot of people do not know how funny my mom was but she was funny indeed! I miss her laughter and smile but I imagine her smiling while dancing and praising God in Heaven. That thought comforts me. :-)

Lisa Gilliam - February 05, 2018 at 10:51 AM

LG

“ Mommy, you were the absolute best mother anyone could ever want! You were my biggest supporter...always at events, games, preaching and singing engagements. You gave unconditionally and I am not just speaking about material needs. I watched you sacrifice and make sure Darryl and I had all we needed even if that meant you went without items. I never had to wonder if you loved or care about or for me. I can hardly believe that I cannot talk to you daily and hear you respond with your many words of wisdom, but know that I am so grateful that God created me to be your daughter. I miss you but I have peace knowing you are in Heaven rejoicing with Jesus! Until I get there...keep smiling! I love you!!!

Lisa Gilliam - October 16, 2017 at 03:51 PM

RP

Lisa and Family your Mother will be truly missed, her hugs, talks and her smile. Loved her truly.

Rev. Tony Perry - October 23, 2017 at 02:40 PM

 Lisa Gilliam

Thank you.

Lisa Gilliam - February 05, 2018 at 10:52 AM



“ We the March Family and Marshall-March Staff wish to extend our deepest and heartfelt sympathy in the passing of your loved one. Our prayers go out to you and your family in your time of loss. We know and understand that you have received many expressions of love and we will continue to lift you up in prayer. May the memories you cherish of brighter and happier days help to ease your sorrow and comfort you always.

Marshall-March Funeral Homes - October 16, 2017 at 01:42 PM



Thank you for your impeccable service and kindness during our time of grief.

Lisa Gilliam - February 05, 2018 at 10:54 AM