



Lillian Olivia Fields

October 12, 1924 - November 22, 2018

OBITUARY

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Lillian Olivia McClain was born to Lucille and Lee McClain on Sunday, October 12, 1924. Lillian was the fourth of five children, one of whom (McKinley), sadly, died shortly after birth. The McClain family home was located at 525 Boyd Street, in Florence, South Carolina, a small town on the major north-south railroad line, and interstate route 95.

Lillian was called home at the age of 94, on November 22, 2018, while residing at her home in Washington, D.C.

Lillian's father, Lee, supported his family through a long career as a call boy with the Atlantic Coastline Railroad (formerly the Florence Railroad). Lucille was a stern but loving homemaker, and was much sought-after as a domestic worker.

Two of Lillian's fondest and oft-repeated childhood memories are of her close relationship with her sisters, Ruth, Rosa Lee, and her brothers, Willard and Robert.

Her timeless stories of 'Big John, The Horse', whom she was afraid to ride, and the unnamed chicken who was to have been dinner, but who managed to escape Lillian's grasp, have brought joy and amusement to friends and family over the years. (Lillian reported that, having made good his escape, the chicken in question was never seen or heard from again.)

Lillian Fields is survived by her beloved sister, Ruth Lucas, of Florence South Carolina; her sons, Curtland Eugene (Melinda) of Verona, New Jersey and Washington D.C., and Christian Alexander Fields, of Washington, D.C.; grandchildren Robin Christina Fields, and Jennifer Fields Joseph (Schiller); several great grandchildren, including Robin's children (Trevon, Serenidy, and Takaree), Ellis Grace, daughter of Jennifer and Schiller; and a host of nieces (including Bertha Mae Scott (deceased) and Lois Ruth, both raised as sisters to Lillian), nephews, cousins and friends.

Lillian was preceded in death by her husband, William Eugene Fields, of Glade Springs, Virginia. Lillian and William were married for 44 very happy years. William was trained as a grade school teacher at The Bluefield State College in West Virginia. However, as was mainly the case in those years, especially for African Americans, William was able to earn far more as a carrier for the U.S. Post Office. And so, that was the occupation he chose after teaching for a short time in nearby Virginia. Though William preceded Lillian in death, on Tuesday, May 10 of 1994, he never left her thoughts, her conversation, or her heart. Lillian and William were members of The Holy Redeemer Church in Washington DC.

Ever enterprising, Lillian was a savvy real estate and bond investor from her earliest adult years, and throughout her long and fruitful life. As an indication of her life priorities in life, each of Lillian's wise investments was made with family in mind. Her family benefits from these investments today, and will for

the rest of their lives.

Interestingly, Lillian met William (to whom she referred as 'Fields' throughout their marriage) when he was new in town and seeking a place to live. His discovery of the apartment which Lillian had posted for rental was simply a happy coincidence.

Lillian's first house was located at 1356 D Street, N. E., now considered the very heart of Washington's elite Capitol Hill neighborhood. Lillian was quietly proud of the fact that she never once called an apartment home.

Of course, the rest of William and Lillian's magical story is the stuff of history. 'Fields' wasted not much time at all in converting Lillian from landlord, to life-mate. They treasured each other in marriage with a love and respect which was rare, and beautiful to see.

Lillian showed great spirit and courage early on. At the age of 14, she accepted an offer to leave her South Carolina home to live with, and be a helpmate to her Aunt Della, up in Washington, D.C. Della's stately Seaton Place brownstone in the historic African American community of Ledroit Park D.C. is there still.

Lillian finished her secondary education at the noted Cardozo Senior High School. In 1949, Cardozo was, intentionally segregated and, ironically re-named for the former Supreme Court Justice Benjamin N. Cardozo.

Following her graduation from Cardozo, Lillian sat for and passed with flying colors the Federal Government employment examination.

This opened the door to her first and only job, with the Bureau of Engraving

and Printing. There she built a career of some forty years, starting at a salary of \$.66 an hour, as those who knew her were often informed. Lillian worked hard and persevered. Her inborn intelligence and natural leadership were eventually recognized, as she assumed supervisory responsibility for the Examining Unit of this large and important agency of the United States Department of the Treasury.

Lillian was blessed also with a natural and timeless sense of style. Her homes sparkled with the unique design sense she brought to everything she touched. In this same vein, Lillian reported proudly that she herself was the seamstress for virtually every outfit which she wore to work throughout her long career.

Her creative talents did not end there, however. She was an astonishingly fine cook, best known for her chili, her sumptuous seafood dishes, and her lectures on the importance of seasonings.

Above all, Lillian's priority was the success and well-being of her family. In her home, love; honesty; good values; concern for others; the arts, in all their dimensions and especially education, were uniformly stressed and rewarded. All who entered Lillian's home experienced her legendary generosity and hospitality, and her considerable prowess as a conversationalist. Lillian was never reticent to share her opinions, wisdom, or advice. Stalwarts among her recommendations were to 'save your money', and to tune in faithfully to Pastor Joel Osteen's Sunday broadcasts.

In the later stages of her life, Lillian was blessed to be watched over lovingly by earthly Angels-of-Mercy, Lemueil and Lena, husband and wife. She accepted them as son and daughter. In addition, later came the caring attention of Christopher, who was brought to the Fields family by the Lemueil and Lena. Of the many blessings in Lillian's charmed life, perhaps none were

greater than these friendships.

Lillian lives on in the hearts and memories of her friends and family. Truly, no one who knew or met her will ever forget her. May she continue to guide and watch over us all.

Lillian lived out her later years in the peace and bliss of the home she loved so dearly.

Funeral Services are scheduled for Thursday, November 29, 2018 at:
St. Paul's Rock Creek Church
201 Allison St NW, Washington, DC 20011
(Intersection of Rock Creek Church Road and Webster Street, N.W.)

Viewing is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

Services will begin at 10:00 a.m.

Internment: Rock Creek Cemetery

Family and Friends are invited to gather at the Great Hall of St. Paul's Rock Creek Center for repast following services.

Cemetery Details

Rock Creek Cemetery

Rock Creek Church Rd

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 29. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Paul's Episcopal Church Rock Creek Parish
201 Allison Street NW
Washington, DC

Service

NOV 29. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Paul's Episcopal Church Rock Creek Parish
201 Allison Street NW
Washington, DC

Tribute Wall



“ *Lillian Olivia Fields*

October 23, 2023 at 08:15 AM



“ *Sorry For Your Loss
Jesus Christ Loves Me
We Are Special
We Love You*



Thomas Widgeon - November 28, 2018 at 07:47 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 - November 27, 2018 at 12:44 PM