



## Ernestine B. McMillan

April 12, 1942 - July 31, 2012

Memorial services for Ms. Ernestine B. McMillan, 70, of Stone Mountain, GA, will be held Saturday August 4, 2012 at 12:00 NOON at The Greenforest Community Baptist Church Rev. Dennis W. Mitchell, Pastor. 3250 Rainbow Dr. Decatur, GA 30034. Final arrangements entrusted to Gregory B. Levett & Sons Funeral Home 4347 Flat Shoals Pkwy., Decatur, GA. 30034 (404) 241-5656.

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### OBITUARY.

Ernestine B. McMillan, affectionately known as “Ernie”, passed away on July 31, 2012. She was born on April 12, 1942 to Ralph and Betty Burdette in Jenkin Jones, a coal mining town in West Virginia.

Ernie attended a one-room school for grades K-8, which also served as a church. The church became an integral part of her life. She strongly believed, “We live within the shadow of the Almighty” and “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”

Her mother passed away after an extended illness when Ernie was 12 years old. She and her brother remained in Washington, D.C. with their aunt and uncle, Alberta and Carl Mitchell who raised them as their own. Ernie excelled in school. She played the violin, took ballet and became a track star in high school.

Ernie left Washington, D.C. and spent time in Fayetteville, NC and Seattle, WA before moving to Atlanta, GA in 1985. She began working at South DeKalb Mall as an Executive Management Assistant in the Management Office where her professional persona exemplified the true meaning of customer service for over 25 years.

Ernie had a huge “To Do” list of services to people in need. Whether it was volunteering to feed the hungry, facilitating a support group or helping indigent women obtain free mammograms, she worked tirelessly.

As a breast cancer and domestic violence survivor, she has been an advocate for over a decade. Ernie has served as a facilitator for Sisters By Choice Breast Cancer Support Group as well as a Founder and CEO of Ernie’s Butterfly Assistance, Inc. She orchestrated a walking team, “Ernie’s Butterflies,” that has participated in the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. She was heavily involved in other activities including the Sisters By Choice Annual Pink Ribbon Walk and the

Annual American Cancer Society Relay for Life. As a member and advocate of the National Breast Cancer Coalition Fund she was active in lobbying every year on Capitol Hill for breast cancer research. There, she met with Georgia's Congressional leaders and representatives seeking funding for environmental research and quality healthcare.

She made her mark as one of Judge Johnny Pano's "Women of Distinction," for women who have made outstanding contributions to DeKalb County. She served on the membership committee of DeKalb NAACP, and the DeKalb United Way Advisory Board. As a board member of Safe Haven Transitional Home, Ernie was instrumental in getting basic living resources, furniture, clothing and more, for burned out victims and women fleeing for the safety of themselves and their children. In 2008, she was acknowledged at the annual, "Stompin' at the Savoy" fundraising event for her work in the community as a recipient of the Howey Hudson Lowe Award.

Commissioner Larry Johnson declared it "Ernestine McMillan Day" in DeKalb County on April 7, 2012 in celebration of her 70th birthday. Most recently, President Barack Obama sent her a birthday greeting recognizing her community involvement and commitment to serving others.

Ernie was a long-time member of Greenforest Community Baptist Church and

will always be remembered for the love she exemplified as a mother, grandmother and friend towards others. She was a gentle and caring person.

She is survived by her son Darell Brown of Clemson, South Carolina; daughter and son-in-law Kim and Royce Davis of Snellville, Georgia; son and daughter-in-law Keith and Sheila McMillan of Stone Mountain, Georgia; brother Mairo Burdette of Stockholm, Sweden; and sisters Delores Magobet of Sicklerville, New Jersey and Toni Crutchfield of Seattle, Washington; eight grandchildren: Christian, Destiny, Dovante, Jaci, Jasmine, Kaleb, Keisha and Triniti; one great grandchild: Malik; and a host of nieces, nephews and other relatives and friends.

In lieu of flowers, you may contribute to any of Ernie's favorite charities:

Ernie's Butterfly Assistance, Inc  
PO Box 37185  
Decatur, Georgia 30034

Safe Haven  
PO Box 501  
Conley, Georgia 30288

Sisters by Choice  
5910 Hillandale Drive  
Suite 104  
Lithonia, Georgia 30058



# Tribute Wall

GM

“ Gerald McDowell lit a candle in memory of Ernestine B. McMillan



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**Gerald McDowell** - August 03, 2012 at 10:54 AM

BP

“ May "the God of all comfort" continue to sustain you as you look ahead to the fulfillment of the Bible's promise..."The hour is coming when all those in the memorial tombs will hear Jesus' voice and come out." ~John 5:28,29. Jesus confirmed his role in this loving promise when he said..."I am the resurrection and the life. He that exercises faith in me, even though he dies, will come to life." ~John 11:25. God is faithful...

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**Beulah Parks** - August 02, 2012 at 03:44 PM

KS

“ Hi. I didn't know Ms. Ernestine at all but I know that she will be truly missed by so many people. I also know that many people were hurt. That is how Jehovah God felt when his only son died. He was hurt to his heart. But Jehovah raised up his son from death. Jehovah will also allow you to see your dead loved ones again. Notice here at John 5:28,29 that Jehovah will raise up all of the dead ones. That means you and others will be able to see dead friends and family once more. But notice something else that is encouraging. Here in Revelation 21:4. It says that death will be no more. But along with death, crying, pain, suffering, and every other badness that we face will be no more. We can truly wait for this promise from Jehovah and know that it will be fulfilled. I hope that these words proved to be a source of encouragement to all.

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**Kelsi Slaughter** - August 02, 2012 at 09:46 AM

VT

“ My sincere condolences to the family of Ernestine McMillan. May you find comfort in your loving memories, and in knowing that God is "near to those that are broken at heart; and those who are crushed in spirit he saves." (Psalm 34;18) While grief at the loss of Ernestine is great, joy at welcoming her back in the resurrection will be greater. (Mark 5;42) With deepest sympathy,

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**valerie thompson** - August 01, 2012 at 07:02 PM