



Mary "Gentle Dove" Ridgway

FEB 11, 1946 - APR 3, 2024



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FUNERAL HOME, LLC.

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Mary "Gentle Dove" Ridgway

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Mary Ridgway "Gentle Dove" of Fairton passed away on Wednesday morning in Inspira Medical Center, Vineland. She had been in declining health for the past year. Born in Bridgeton, February 11, 1946, she was the youngest of 10 children born to the late Vincent and Anna (Durham) Ridgway. She was a lifelong area resident.

Mary, affectionately known as "Aunt Mary" had a rich and diverse career in healthcare, spanning various settings from hospitals to community healthcare and even serving in a correctional facility. Her experience includes working at Bridgeton Hospital, Community Healthcare, the Cumberland County Jail, and finally providing home health services with the Griswold agency.

Beyond her professional endeavors, she was deeply involved in her community and her church, Trinity AME Church in Gouldtown. At Trinity AME Church, she was an active member, contributing her time and talents to several roles and initiatives. Mary served on the Steward and Stewardess Board, participated in the Trinity Chorus Choir and the Senior Choir, and was involved in community outreach efforts such as the Food Bank. Additionally, she was a member of the Sister to Sister Women's Group and the Justice Board, demonstrating her commitment to both spiritual and social causes within her community. Despite facing declining health, she displayed remarkable resilience and determination, refusing to succumb to adversity.

Mary's life was marked by her deep love and dedication to her family, despite not marrying or having children of her own. She assumed the role of "Mother Hen" to all her nieces and nephews, offering guidance and support through the various challenges life presented. Despite experiencing the pain of losing siblings and several nieces and nephews prematurely, she remained a steadfast pillar of strength for her family. Her nurturing nature extended beyond emotional support to tangible expressions of care and affection. Mary was also known for her holiday gatherings, where she would lovingly cook for her family and friends, fostering a sense of togetherness and warmth, and she had a penchant for sending cards, especially on birthdays, showing her thoughtfulness and attention to detail.



Obituary

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Mary was a multifaceted individual with diverse interests. She pursued her passion for painting through lessons, showcasing her talent as an artist. Additionally, she enjoyed exploring new culinary experiences, often embarking on vacations to places like Hawaii, Florida, Virginia, Times Square on New Year's Eve, and even taking bus trips to Tennessee. Her adventurous spirit also led her to the shore, where she relished in the sun and the sea, although she preferred to keep cool when temperatures rose too high.

Moreover, Mary's dedication to family remained unwavering, as she selflessly cared for her last surviving brother, Donald, until his passing in November. Her commitment to her loved ones, even in the face of her own challenges, exemplifies her compassionate and nurturing nature.

As Mary's journey came to a close, she left behind a legacy of faithfulness, service, and love. The words "Well Done My Good and Faithful Servant" aptly summarize her life, acknowledging her tireless efforts to enrich the lives of those around her and her unwavering devotion to her faith and family. Her memory will undoubtedly be cherished, and her influence felt for generations to come.

Mary's passing leaves behind a wide network of loved ones who will deeply feel her absence. Among those mourning her loss are her numerous nieces and nephews, as well as her godchildren, who were undoubtedly touched by her love and guidance throughout their lives. Special recognition is also given to the caregivers who provided support and assistance to Mary during her illness, exemplifying the importance of compassionate care in times of need. In particular, Mary's niece and nephew, Linda Pierce and David Ridgway, played significant roles in her life, offering care and companionship during her journey. Additionally, her long-time friend Kathy Hall provided unwavering friendship and support, further enriching Mary's life with love and companionship.

Mary's passing also serves as a reminder of the loved ones who preceded her in death, including her siblings Robert Ridgway, Lester Ridgway, David Ridgway Sr., Paul Ridgway, William Ridgway, Donald Ridgway, Mildred Pierce, Shirley Cuff, and Sarah Ridgway. Throughout her life, Mary's love for her family, her creative pursuits, and her zest for life left an indelible mark on all who knew her, making her a cherished presence in their lives.

Funeral Services will be held on Wednesday April 10, 2024, 12 PM with her Pastor Michael Keene officiating. The interment will be next to her nephew Orwig Pierce Jr in Gouldtown Memorial



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Park. A viewing will be held one hour prior to the services.






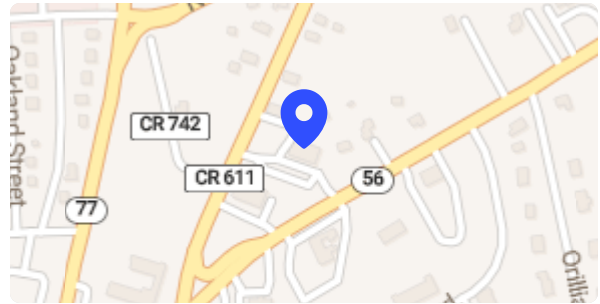
Events

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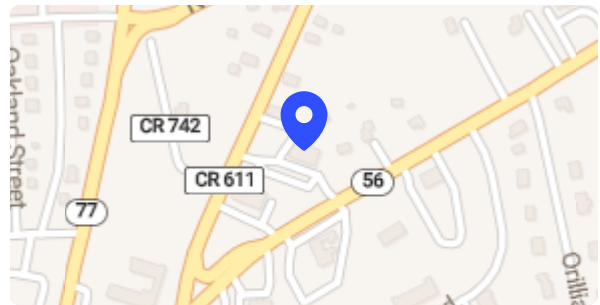
Visitation

-  **Wednesday, April 10, 2024**
-  11:00 AM - 12:00 PM ET
-  **Sray Webster Funeral Home**
62 Landis Ave, Bridgeton NJ 08302




Service

-  **Wednesday, April 10, 2024**
-  12:00 PM ET
-  **Sray Webster Funeral Home**
62 Landis Ave, Bridgeton NJ 08302



Cemetery Details

-  **Gouldtown Memorial Park Cemetery**
Route 49 & Route 553, Bridgeton NJ





Tribute Wall

Mary "Gentle Dove" Ridgway

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IH

Ian Hughes lit a candle in honor of Mary.



April 10 at 4:42 AM

IH

Ian Hughes April 10 at 4:51 AM

Mary was dedicated to serving the Lord during the years she was a part of Trinity A.M.E. Church. She was a conscientious member of Trustee Board. She cared deeply about the upkeep of the church and the parsonage. She was always concerned about how others were doing when they were ill, even when she was facing illness herself. My heart goes out her family relatives. I will miss her very much.

SM

Sherren And Brother Mosley lit a candle in honor of Mary.

Mary was one of a kind, always had something nice to say when ever I seen her ,lots of good times back in the day. Miss seeing you and you will always be miss my friend. Love Sherren and Brother Mosley



April 9 at 1:56 PM

SW

Shalona Wiggins posted:

To the best Godmother a girl could ask for and the best patient I've ever had, I'm sure going to miss you! Our memories will last an eternity. From our week long shore vacations to you teaching me how to bake cookies from scratch. I love you Red ❤️ Love always your god daughter, Shalona W

April 9 at 1:50 PM

JC

John Casarow lit a candle in honor of Mary.

Rest in peace, Mary. Thank you for your kindness to me and many others, John A. Casarow, Jr.



April 8 at 2:52 AM



Tribute Wall

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Larry W Carney Srv posted:

We would like thank Mary for her help with Agnes Durham Mary a a blessing to her while she was not feeling her best jut before she passes away . Thank you Mary and may you TIP the carney family from Delaware .our hearts goes out to you we love you

April 6 at 1:53 PM



Chris posted:

Love you Aunt Mary. We may not know what to do (since her departure) but let our eyes be on the LORD. (2 Chron 20:12)..... "Thank you for giving to the Lord."Chris

April 6 at 5:56 AM



Lewis M Durham Sr April 8 at 6:40 AM

Going to miss you aunt Mary rest in piece and just so everyone knows aunt ary and uncle Charlie Thompson were together for 57yrs didn't understand why he wasn't mentioned at all in her obituary they did still have love for each other



Lois Hall April 6 at 8:42 AM

She now has no pain and is dancing and praising the LordD



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Mary by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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