



Martha "MOTT" Shealey

March 16, 1939 - November 13, 2024

A Time To Be Born, A Time To Learn - Martha L Shealey was born on March 16, 1939, in Dadeville, Alabama to parents Nomie Jones and Grant Shealey. She was the eldest of six siblings and was so proud to be the "big sister." She received her early education at Wall Street High School in Tallassee, Alabama. At

sixteen, the family moved to Apopka, Florida, where she completed her formal education at Phyllis Wheatley High School. While there, she was a star basketball player and ran track and relay.

A Time To Plant - Martha always had a passion for "doing hair." This led her to attend Orlando Vo-Tech where she graduated as a licensed cosmetologist. After graduation, she opened The Brunson Beauty Salon as an entrepreneur for over 40 years. She was well known throughout Orange County for her expertise in styling and hair management. She enhanced her skills by obtaining a master's degree in cosmetology and was a certified instructor for the Orange County School Board until she retired.

A Time To Serve - At the young age of six, Martha joined and was baptized at the Pleasant Valley. Missionary Baptist in Dadeville, Alabama. It was noted by her mother that she had an amazing talent and an anointed voice for singing. She sang in the Youth Choir, for weddings, funerals, and school plays. Her love for singing continued into adulthood. In 1974, she united with the

Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church under the leadership of the late Rev. F. E. Wilder. She was a loyal member of the former MLK, Jr. Memorial Choir, The Sanctuary Choir, served on the Trustee Board, and was involved in all phases of the church. She was also dubbed as the "Cornbread Queen!"

A Time To Love and Enjoy - Martha was married to the late Henry Bridges, and they were blessed with two children: a son, Jackie, and a daughter Vera. She loved spending quality time with family and friends, but most of all, her grands and great-grands. She also enjoyed fishing, knitting, crocheting, traveling, and especially cruises. Martha even traveled to Japan, there she earned one of her two Black Belts in Taekwondo. She also served as Matron of Mace-donia Lodge #98 Heroines of Jèricho, Grand Chaplin of the Grand Lodge of Heroines of Jericho for the State of Florida, and was a member of Daughters of Sphinx.

A Time To Depart - The Rose Garden belongs to God. He decides when the rose is ready to be plucked. Martha our beloved rose was plucked from the garden on November 13, 2024. She was preceded in death by her parents, Nomie Jones Merchant and Grant Shealey, and three brothers: Willie Raymond Merchant, Otis Shealey, and Thomas Fair.

She leaves cherished memories with her loving family: 1 son, Jackie Bridges, and 1 daughter, Vera Bridges Dozier, both of Orlando, Florida; 4 sisters: Susie Coleman (Henry), Hellen Merchant, and Patricia Oliver, all of Winter Garden, Florida, and Veronica Bradford (Rev. Hezekiah) of Apopka, Florida; 9 grandchildren, 26 great-grandchildren and 1 great great- grandchild. A host of nephews, nieces, cousins, other relatives and many borrowing friends. Very, very special friends: Freddie Anderson, Cassandra Johnson, Ethel Johnson, Lorraine Johnson, and Edna Davis.

Cemetery Details

Winter Garden Cemetery

13636 Lake Butler Blvd.
Winter Garden, FL 34787

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV **29**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church
915 East Plant Street
Winter Garden, FL 34787

Service

NOV **30**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church
915 East Plant Street
Winter Garden, FL 34787

Tribute Wall

MB

“ *Minne Brown lit a candle for her dear friend Martha "Mott" Shealey.*



Minnie Brown - December 03, 2024 at 05:13 PM

BF

“ *Beverly Fair, your goddaughter, lit a candle for Martha "Mott" Shealey.*



Beverly Fair - December 03, 2024 at 05:09 PM

CM

“ *Cynthia Fair McCutchen lit a candle in memory of Martha "Mott" Shealey.*



Cynthia Fair McCutchen - November 30, 2024 at 12:29 PM

MB

“ *My sincerest condolences to the family of my dear friend Martha "Mott" Shealey. Minnie Brown of Syracuse, NY*



Minnie Brown - November 30, 2024 at 12:26 PM

BF

“ Beverly Fair lit a candle in memory of her Godmother Martha "Mott" Shealey.



Beverly Fair - November 30, 2024 at 12:10 PM

BW

“ Rest in Peace Cousin!

Betty Washington - November 30, 2024 at 09:28 AM

BW

“ Betty Washington lit a candle in memory of Martha "MOTT" Shealey



Betty Washington - November 29, 2024 at 03:13 AM

SL

“ Sharon Lee lit a candle in memory of Martha "MOTT" Shealey



Sharon Lee - November 25, 2024 at 05:12 PM



“ You always did my mom hair so nice and prettysleep in perfect peace Mrs.Mott💜💜



Shauntae Holley - November 24, 2024 at 02:35 PM

PR

“ Pamela Rosado lit a candle in memory of Martha "MOTT" Shealey



Pamela Rosado - November 22, 2024 at 08:32 AM

CJ

“ My condolences to the family of Ms. Martha "Mott" Shealey. Praying for the family. Extra special prayers for her loving and devoted daughter Vera and her family.



Cynthia Jackson - November 21, 2024 at 04:28 PM

MA

“ Mary L. Alston lit a candle in memory of Martha "MOTT" Shealey



Mary L. Alston - November 19, 2024 at 09:09 PM

DS

“ *Mrs.Mot Lue was my girl. I am truly going to miss her words of wisdom.
Vera and family prayers for all.*



Dondrea Stevens - November 19, 2024 at 08:15 PM

DS

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Dondrea Stevens - November 19, 2024 at 07:39 PM

AR

“ *My sincere condolences and prayers for your family sweet lady she was*



Adrian Rowell - November 19, 2024 at 07:36 PM



“ *Beverly Hemingway lit a candle in memory of Martha "MOTT" Shealey*



Beverly Hemingway - November 19, 2024 at 01:03 PM

SF

“ *SHERRI MOORE & FAMILY sent a virtual gift in memory of Martha "MOTT" Shealey*



SHERRI MOORE & FAMILY - November 19, 2024 at 01:03 PM

SF

“ *SHERRI MOORE & FAMILY sent a virtual gift in memory of Martha "MOTT" Shealey*



SHERRI MOORE & FAMILY - November 19, 2024 at 01:02 PM

GA

“ *GAYE ANGRY sent a virtual gift in memory of Martha "MOTT" Shealey*



GAYE ANGRY - November 19, 2024 at 01:01 PM

MS

“ *MONICA DENISE SCOTT lit a candle in memory of Martha "MOTT" Shealey*



MONICA DENISE SCOTT - November 19, 2024 at 12:20 PM

MM

“ *Mary D Morss lit a candle in memory of Martha "MOTT" Shealey*



Mary D Morss - November 19, 2024 at 11:50 AM

AC

“ *Annie Coleman lit a candle in memory of Martha "MOTT" Shealey*



Annie Coleman - November 19, 2024 at 09:03 AM

BM

“ *Barbara Massey lit a candle in memory of Martha "MOTT" Shealey*



Barbara Massey - November 18, 2024 at 04:34 PM

LH

“ *Linda Holley lit a candle in memory of Martha "MOTT" Shealey*



Linda Holley - November 18, 2024 at 04:31 PM