

## Welcome Home

When I am gone, release me, let me go

I have so many things to see and do.

You mustn't tie yourself to me with tears

Be happy that we had so many years.

I gave to you my love, you can only guess

How much you gave to me in happiness.

I thank you for the love you each have shown

But now it's time I traveled on alone.

So, grieve a while for me if grieve you must

Then let your grief be comforted by trust.

It's only for a while that we must part

So, keep our memories within your heart.

I won't be far away, for life goes on

So, if you need me, call and I will come.

Though you can't see or touch me,

I'll be near. And if you listen with your

heart, you'll hear All of my love around you

soft and clear. And then, when you must

come this way alone, I'll greet you with a

smile and say

"Welcome Home"



## Acknowledgments

The family of **Mrs. Ilea McGowen Howard** is grateful for your many expressions of love, prayers and support during the time of our bereavement as we salute our matriarch. Your presence today comforts us as we complete the final phase of the **Celebration of Her 99 Years** on earth.

We are thankful to God that she is spiritual now and will live forever in our hearts.

A special thank you to the devoted staffs of the Senior Care Center in Brunswick, Georgia and the Reliable Health and Rehabilitation Center in Atlanta, Georgia for the support you extended to our loved one.

May you all receive a reflection of the kindness that you have shown.

Final rites were entrusted to:

**Harrell's**  
**FUNERAL HOME**

Mr. Sidney Keith Harrell- Licensed Funeral Director & Embalmer  
400 E. Cherry Street  
Douglas, Georgia 31533  
(912) 384-2251

## Celebration of Life

for

**Ilea McGowen Howard**

*April 4, 1919 - May 20, 2018*



*Saturday, June 2, 2018*

*2:00 P.M.*

*Gaines Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church*

*1008 South Coffee Avenue*

*Douglas, Georgia 31533*

*Reverend Benny Wilkey,*

*Pastor & Officiating*

# Obituary

# Precious Memories

# Order of Service

*Alea McGowen Howard* was born in Biloxi, Mississippi, on April 4, 1919. She was the third of six children born to Paul McGowen and Gertrude Davis McGowen and is the last surviving member of her family.

Ilea's parents moved from Mississippi to West Green, Georgia before settling in Nicholls, Georgia. She accepted Christ at an early age in the African Methodist Episcopal faith, and together with her family served multiple roles in the church and in various ministries.

Ilea was recognized by her family as a superb cook. She learned to cook at the age of nine and was subsequently given the job of preparing the daily family meals, including desserts. It was a joy for her and all of that experience made her a master of the culinary arts. Her children, grandchildren, cousins, nieces and nephews were always excited when she prepared food and desserts, especially the CAKES!

Ilea had three children from her marriage to Walter Johnson: Wallace, Betty and Paul Lawrence. She was always there for them, providing profound support as children and that relationship continued throughout their adult lives.

Ilea was a long term and active member of Gaines Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Douglas. She maintained memberships in the Mary Garmon Missionary Society and Sister Mary J. Wright's Class #4.

Ilea married Hoves Howard and they became longtime residents of Douglas. When their health deteriorated, they were moved to nursing care in Atlanta where they celebrated seventy years of marriage.

Mrs. Howard passed from this life to eternal life on Sunday, May 20, 2018. She was preceded in death by her son, Paul Lawrence and her husband, Hoves.

Wonderful, loving and precious memories are left with her *son*, Wallace E. Johnson, MD (Betty) of Missouri City, Texas; *daughter*, Betty Patterson of Atlanta, Georgia; and *grandchildren*: Kevin Marshall (Donna) of Fort Worth, Texas; Wallace Johnson, Jr. of Memphis, Tennessee; Sucre Woodley of Missouri City, Texas and Aimee Lynn Johnson of Las Vegas, Nevada. Her *great grandchildren* are: Skyra Johnson, Levi Woodley, Jonah Johnson, Tristan Marshall and Isaac Woodley. She passes on the legacy of the McGowen Family to her *cousin*, Ludie Mack. Additionally, cherishing her memory is an infinite number of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends. A life well lived was

*Mrs. Alea McGowen Howard's* ultimate goal. She certainly accomplished that in all respects in her **99 Years**. In life, she modeled the epitome of a gracious and genteel woman who was able to balance the roles of child, sibling, wife, mother, grandmother, great grandmother, aunt, cousin, and friend, together with her faith and spirituality, losing nothing in the process!



Prelude  
 Processional

Hymn .....Congregation  
*"Blessed Assurance" #450*

Pastoral Prayer .....Rev. Benny Wilkey

Scripture Readings.....Great Nephew, Sterling Wilson, Jr.

Old Testament.....*23<sup>rd</sup> Psalms*  
 New Testament .....*John 14 : 1-4*

Musical Selection .....Congregation  
*"I Come to the Garden Alone" #542*

Personal Reflections

Neighbor .....Mother Mary Wilkerson  
 Church Member .....Sister Mary J. Wright  
 Grandson.....Wallace E. Johnson, Jr.  
 Grandson.....X. Kevin Marshall  
 Son .....Wallace E. Johnson, MD

Musical Selection .....Congregation  
*"It is Well With My Soul" #448*

Obituary .....Great Granddaughter, Skyra Johnson

Special Tribute.....Granddaughter, Sucre Woodley

Solo .....Brother Henry Porter  
*"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"*

Eulogy .....Rev. Sherman O. Childers

Acknowledgements.....Great Niece ,Vanessa Harris

Committal .....Rev. Benny Wilkey

Recessional .....Congregation  
*"When We All Get to Heaven" #511*

**REPAST WILL BE HELD AT THE CHURCH IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE SERVICE**