



Cora Lee Turner

September 1, 1920 - September 23, 2023

Cora Lee Haskins was born in Knifley, Kentucky on September 1, 1920, to Reverend Muga Haskins and Mary (Hendrickson) Haskins. Muga was a prominent pastor in their area and Mary, a schoolteacher. Cora was adored by everyone in her close-knit family, especially her proud father and her older half-sister, Luella. As an adult, Cora spoke fondly of her childhood adventures, which often involved her cousins Alpha,ASURE and “Spoon”. In fact, on separate occasions, she and Alpha both gave an identical account of how they used to clear away areas of brush, then gather the remaining tall branches at the top to form “houses”, in which they’d play. Autumn also brought its share of delights, as Cora and other school children enjoyed a tradition of gathering nuts, wild berries, and colorful leaves.

After graduating from Bellaire High School in 1939, Cora enrolled at Howard University in Washington, D.C. She left shortly after to pursue what would become a lifelong career as a federal government employee. A very independent young woman, Cora carefully weighed the many options available to women during wartime. She even considered repairing war planes – a job for which someone of her very petite stature was well suited, since it involved working inside the nose of the plane! However, she (thankfully) dismissed that idea. In the meantime, Cora and her friends attended dances, featuring live performances by Count Basie with his orchestra and Duke Ellington. She would later share how she scraped

together the price of admission to these soirees (\$1.50)!

A beautiful woman inside and out, always impeccably dressed, Cora caught the attention of Willard R. Turner – Willard was an outstanding young army soldier and an acquaintance from Bellaire, Ohio. The two were married in December of 1945, eventually residing in Ecorse, Michigan. The couple had three girls: Rocquelle, Yolande and Nyreevah. Cora and Willard were a great team. With Cora's expertise in sewing and embroidery work, and Willard's brilliant carpentry, they had a lovely home, well-dressed daughters with equally well-dressed dolls and an abundance of wonderfully crafted doll accessories. Cora's warmth and kindness always made her a favorite not only with her own children, but with other children as well – including her young nieces and nephews from Akron, Ohio – Joyce, Karen, Marilyn and Gerald ("Butch"). These siblings still fondly recall getting to sleep over at Aunt Cora's and Uncle Willard's house! Cora's beloved grandchildren – Kael, Alex, Deannè and Linden also recall the many joyous memories they shared with their Grandma. They particularly appreciated her quick wit and sense of humor.

While caring for her young family, Cora found time to write articles for the two local newspapers: The Michigan Chronicle and The Ecorse Advertiser. She served as a Brownie Scout troop leader, was an active member of the PTA, and a Theta Chapter soror of the Eta Phi Beta Sorority. Cora was a devoted member of her churches – Grace Episcopal Church in Detroit, and the Church of the Resurrection in Ecorse. She later joined Church of the Redeemer in Southfield.

In 1962, Cora resumed her work with the federal government – first at the Army Tank Automotive Command (ATAC) in Warren, Michigan, and later as a purchasing agent at the Veteran's Administration Hospital in Allen Park, Michigan. She retired in 1982. Sadly, Cora and Willard Divorced in 1988.

Cora carried on rigorously, despite any setbacks. Her flair for interior design was put to good use well into her seventies, as she designed décor for the homes of her friends and family.

So, Cora Lee departed from this life on the morning of September 23, 2023. She passed away with the same quiet grace she exhibited throughout her lifetime. To say that she'll be sorely missed is putting it mildly. Cora was quite a lady, who appeared to be much younger than her 103 years.

In addition to previously mentioned loved ones, Cora is survived by her two precious granddaughters-in-law, Ami and Chareese, and grandson-in-law, William. She was further blessed with nine great grandchildren: Estebon, Amenra, Nya, Kelsi, Emory, Baeden, Eliot, Greyson and Yasu; and one great-great grandson, Kash. Others left to celebrate Cora's memory include cousins Charles (Thelma), Sylvia, Danny (Joanne) and Joan, along with their children and grandchildren.

Thank You, Cora (AKA Mama/Grandma/G.G./Aunt/Cousin), for all those wonderful memories, and for being such a treasure. We Love You!

To My GramGram

One of a kind, never have I met anyone with such class; an example of how to be a woman in a changing world. Your kindness knew no bounds, a true definition of a southern Belle; intelligent, wise, classy and dignified with principles based on strong morals. You specialized in what is rapidly becoming rare... common sense. Your core values coupled with worldly intelligence, humility, a strong spiritual balance and genuine grace helped you navigate through generational changes, but remain classy. These values last

the tests of time and should be held in the highest regard, as we were privileged to have our beloved Mother / Grandma / GiGi with us for 103 years. Your love, our bond and moments shared will remain in my heart. Your wisdom and beautiful human nature are what I strive to exude to the world on a daily basis. You will be missed greatly GramGram, but still near and dear to my heart and soul.

Love, your grandson, Linden

Cemetery Details

Acacia Park Cemetery

31300 Southfield Road
Beverly Hills, MI 48025

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

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

Church of the Redeemer
18140 Cornell Road
Southfield, MI 48075

Tribute Wall

“ Reflections

“To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die...” Ecclesiastes 3:1-2a

God in His infinite wisdom brought into being, (known before the foundation of the world), two brothers, Alvin Zell Turner and Willard Rembert Turner. They in turn were joined together in matrimony to two beautiful and wonderful women; Elizabeth (Mosley) Turner, and Cora (Haskins) Turner many years ago. To those two unions children were brought forth and family relationships began and continue to this present time.

From Alvin and Elizabeth came:

Joyce, Karen, Marilyn and Gerald (Butch)

From Willard and Cora came:

Rocquelle (Rocky), Yolande (Lannie) and Nyreevah (Reevah)

“Family is where life begins, and love never ends.”

Speaking on behalf of the siblings on the Alvin/Elizabeth Turner side of the family, in our minds all roads led to 4135 15th Street Ecorse, Michigan. Whether we traveled there for short weekend trips or we children for two week vacations (that we tried to extend), we always enjoyed the warm, kind, hospitality of Aunt Cora and Uncle Willard and our cousins; which included plenty of food, fun and lots of excitement. Our fond memories of 4135 15th street also included many of the neighborhood kids that wanted to hang with all of us. No boredom around that house. The Ecorse family made many visits to Akron, Ohio where we lived as well.

The voice of the “Matriarch” of our family has now been silenced at the age of 103 years old – WOW! Our dear mother Elizabeth Turner made her transition into Glory at the age of 102 almost 10 years ago. Both of our fathers preceded these two wonderful mother’s (Aunties) many years ago. We are so grateful for the time our Heavenly Father allowed us to be under their tutelage and care. To Rocky, Lannie, and Reevah, thank you so much for the love and

care you gave to your mother and our precious Aunt Cora. We so much wanted to be with you today as you honor your mother and lay our Auntie to rest. The timing, commitment to schedules, plane arrangements around today etc. just was not working in our favor from Florida or Ohio. Know our hearts, thoughts and prayers are with you by His Spirit. We must make concertive efforts to come together soon to continue this legacy of "Family Love". What a testimony of His Love To us. PLEASE REMEMBER THIS ...

*Her Journey's Just Begun
Don't think of her as gone away
her journey's just begun,
Life holds so many facets,
this earth is only one,
Just think of her as resting
from the sorrows and the tears,
In a place of warmth and comfort,
Where there are no days or years,
Think how she must be wishing
that we could know today,
How nothing but our sadness
can really pass away,
And think of her as living
in the hearts of those she touched,..
For nothing loved is ever lost,
and she was loved so much.*

*Lovingly written to our cousins and your families from,
Karen Leftwich, Brandon, FL; Marilyn Hollis, Sun City Center, FL;
Gerald (Natalie) Turner, Wadsworth, OH; and all of our children
throughout the United States – CA, FL, NC, NV, TX*

Yolande Williams - October 02, 2023 at 10:42 PM