



## Mabel Gartrell

March 16, 1938 - January 29, 2021

Mabel Gartrell, daughter of Rufus and Elizabeth Quinn was born March 16, 1938 in Washington, Georgia. She was educated and graduated from the public schools of Wilkes County.

She married the late George Gartrell Sr. in August of 1958 and relocated from Georgia to Detroit, Michigan. Mabel expressed her deep and abiding Christian faith by being a natural caregiver and seeking the wellbeing of all those around her. She was once referred to as a modern-day Harriet Tubman, helping her sisters and brothers make their way from Georgia to Michigan so they could have more opportunities and a better quality of life.

Mabel was an amazing educator that impacted the lives of many. She instilled a love of education in all her children and ensured they had the opportunity to live up to their potential. She was an educator with the Highland Park School District for 34 years. She was unparalleled at teaching the Distar program, which helped capable readers as well as those who struggled and would not be able to read well without her intervention.

She had a vivacious personality and always made people around her laugh. In fact, she was also known for her distinct and infectious laughter. She was a loyal friend in good times and in bad, including to her longtime companion, Floyd Willis.

She was an inspiration to many. She was a devoted mother to her children and had a special bond with her sons-in-law and daughter-in-law. Ms. Mabel was affectionately known as "Granny", and her deep commitment to the wellbeing of children went beyond her household and the classroom. She had many foster children, and adopted, Qunesha McLin and Mindy Brown. She was recognized by the state of Michigan as Foster Mother of the Year. Her house was always filled with children, laughter, joy, and the smell of good cooking. She fed anyone and everyone who came into the house. Her love language was cooking and she was known far and wide for her cornbread dressing.

Mabel loved doing her daily morning budget review, puzzles, collecting coins, sewing, and visiting casinos. But her favorite pastime was cruising and vacationing with her family in the Caribbean. She would get teary when it was time to pack up, and before ending one trip, she would ask where we were going next. On cruises, she enjoyed the food (buffet), people watching, Caribbean music, and meeting new people to brag about her children and sons-in-law. In fact, on every cruise, no matter the destination, she built a following on day one that lasted until debarking.

She quietly departed this life Friday, January 29, 2021. She was preceded in death by her parents Rufus and Elizabeth Quinn, her sister Audrey Jean Todd, and brothers, Rogers Quinn, Edward Quinn and Mitchell Quinn.

Her beautiful life will forever be cherished in the lives of her four children: Aurelia Jamerson (Kenneth) of West Bloomfield, MI, Joyce Monts (Bruce) of Harper Woods, MI, George Gartrell Jr. (Kim) of Highland Park, MI and Tineka Hardwick (Shaun) of Hooper, UT.; five grandchildren: Gabbreilla, Kayla, Taylor, Kyle and Kyah; sisters Alma McCoy of Conyers, GA and Janice Quinn of Tampa, FL; a host of devoted nieces, nephews, cousins, other family and

friends.

# Cemetery Details

## Elmwood Cemetery

1200 Elmwood Street  
Detroit, MI 48207

# Previous Events

## Strolling Visitation

FEB 7. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Kemp Funeral Home & Cremation Services  
24585 Evergreen Rd  
Southfield, MI 48075  
(248) 702-5367  
info@kempfh.com  
<https://www.kempfuneralhome.com>

## Family Hour

FEB 8. 9:30 AM - 10:00 AM (ET)

Kemp Funeral Home & Cremation Services  
24585 Evergreen Rd  
Southfield, MI 48075  
(248) 702-5367  
info@kempfh.com  
<https://www.kempfuneralhome.com>

## Funeral Service

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FEB 8. 10:00 AM (ET)

Kemp Funeral Home & Cremation Services  
24585 Evergreen Rd  
Southfield, MI 48075  
(248) 702-5367  
info@kempfh.com  
<https://www.kempfuneralhome.com>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Kemp Funeral Home & Cremation Services created a Tribute Video in memory of Mabel Gartrell*



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**Kemp Funeral Home & Cremation Services** - February 08, 2021 at 09:38 AM



“ *Mabel Gartrell*

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September 27, 2022 at 08:40 PM



“ *Mabel Gartrell*

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September 27, 2022 at 06:52 PM



“ *Sincere Condolences* 🙏



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**patricia ferguson, MD** - February 14, 2021 at 11:48 AM

BF

“ Betty Ferrell-Echols lit a candle in memory of Mabel Gartrell



Betty Ferrell-Echols - February 09, 2021 at 06:43 AM

VS

“ My deepest condolences to the family 💔 well looks like I missed out on knowing this beautiful, powerful lady, but thank you for lending my friend your daughter, your twin to my life. May you now rest in Heaven peacefully knowing you left a lasting love in the hearts of others. 💖🙏😊

verona Fort Shipp - February 08, 2021 at 12:54 PM

SH

“ Aunt Mable! I have sooo many wonderful memories of you! Visiting you with my God Mother Barbara, who adopted me into the family! You always showed me Love! Rest peacefully Aunt Mabel, until we meet again.... Love, ~Susan~

Susan Harkey - February 08, 2021 at 12:48 PM

VS

“ Verona Fort Shipp sent a virtual gift in memory of Mabel Gartrell



verona Fort Shipp - February 08, 2021 at 12:47 PM

TH

“Granny, I miss all those trips to Costco's and Sam's Club with you. I enjoyed shopping thru the aisles and around every corner there were all these different taste samples. Most of them would be so good that you used to tell me to go back and get 2 more samples for the both of us. Then after shopping we would go over to the concession stand to get us our polish sausage, fries and a pop. Those sausages was the best sausages I've ever had. We would walk outta there with our bellys full and a smile. Then we would pull up at the house and you would tell me to go and tell the other girls to come out and help bring in the boxes of groceries and start putting them away. So I'd run in and yell "Granny said all yaw come on here and get these groceries!" 😊 They all came out to the van and help bring everything in. These memories and much more I will cherish all the days of my life. I will cherish you Granny in my heart forever. I have been so so blessed to have lived a whole decade of my childhood & teenage life with the most sweetest, encouraging, inspiring, loving and caring woman I have ever met. I will always love you Granny. You were like my second mother to me. And now you are my guardian angel. You go on and get your rest now. I will see you again when our Father in Heaven calls upon me. May the Lord Bless all of the Gartrell family and friends and may He hold us together as we continue sharing Granny's memories.

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**Tonya Howard** - February 07, 2021 at 02:42 PM

KA

“The Monts family extend our love and condolences to you. Please know and be assured that we join a company of many that are praying for you. She was a beautiful lady and we know she will be missed. Peace and strength.

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**Karen** - February 07, 2021 at 10:15 AM

 Sonya Sheppard

“ I'm so glad that God gave me you as my favorite aunt. You loved me and everyone else the same. I still remember the weekend when I was younger that I came to spend the weekend but it turned into the entire summer. I will always love you and cherish the wonderful memories that you gave me. I love you and I will miss you 🙏❤️🙏❤️🙏

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**Sonya Sheppard** - February 07, 2021 at 10:10 AM

AN

“ As a young girl she was teaching at Courtland elementary. Not knowing I would become living with her sister (Gran) as my foster mother and (Granny) as the best aunt ever. She always told me how it is and to never give. I'm an awesome wife and mother because of her.

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**Anita** - February 07, 2021 at 12:18 AM

SW

“ As a young man growing up on Tyler Mrs Mabel was my sister and I baby sitter. Over time she turned into another Mother figure. Loved her & her family as our own. Will miss her, the visits and talks we would have. Condolences and prayers to the family. 🙏🌹❤️

Steven & Judy Washington..

HP4LIFE Memories..

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**Steven Washington** - February 06, 2021 at 10:59 PM

GS

“ Mabel was the best aunt a person could ever ask for. She was the matriarch to all of us. Her home, the kook-aid house - was the gathering place for everyone when we were kids, especially for Sunday dinner. All were welcome because she never met a stranger. We will miss her but the great memories she left us with will carry us all forward. God Bless the family.



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**Geri (Dean) Sheppard** - February 06, 2021 at 09:59 PM

GS

*Kool-Aid*

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**Geri (Dean) Sheppard** - February 06, 2021 at 10:00 PM

JM

“ Sending many heartfelt condolences to the family. From James and Helen Mays of Atlanta by way of Washington, Georgia



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**James & Helen Mays** - February 06, 2021 at 08:13 PM

BF

*For many years living on Tyler Street, I had always thought Mable was my Auntie. Her children were all small. When she had surgery and came home in a body cast, she would read to me, not KNOWING she was preparing me for a young lady etiquette. She also taught me recipes as I would fix her children lunches. I will never ever forget the love she expressed to so many of us. Love you dearly. Rest In Heavenly Peace 📖🙏*

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**Betty Ferrell-Echols** - February 08, 2021 at 09:19 AM



“ *Magnificent Life Spray was purchased for the family of Mabel Gartrell.*



February 06, 2021 at 06:28 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Mabel Gartrell.*



February 06, 2021 at 04:26 PM



“ *Phillip (Beanie) Todd purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Mabel Gartrell.*



**Phillip (Beanie) Todd** - February 06, 2021 at 03:25 PM



“ *Tonya Howard sent a virtual gift in memory of Mabel Gartrell*



**Tonya Howard** - February 05, 2021 at 05:32 PM

TH

“ Tonya Howard sent a virtual gift in memory of Mabel Gartrell



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**Tonya Howard** - February 05, 2021 at 05:32 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mabel Gartrell.



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February 05, 2021 at 05:30 PM

DR

“ A mother is a wondrous thing! How blessed you were to have your wonderful Mrs. Gartrell, who took care of and loved so many as a mother, grandmother, foster mother and as your family's own "Harriett Tubman!" Carat Aurelia and Carateer Ken, we are saddened by her death, and grieve with you and your family. Please accept our condolences and prayers that all of you will heal well.

*Blessings,*

*The Detroit Carats*

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**Diane Reeder** - February 05, 2021 at 05:04 PM

TH

“ Tonya Howard lit a candle in memory of Mabel Gartrell



Tonya Howard - February 05, 2021 at 04:32 PM

TH

Words cannot explain the heartache I feel right now. Fighting back tears is a constant struggle. But I know that our Loving Father in Heaven has called you home and now you are able to smile down on us and be our guardian angel. I am so thankful that you took me in and you accepted me into your family to raise me as one of your own. I could have ended up anywhere else in the world but our Father in Heaven knew exactly right where to place me. He placed with a wonderful, kindhearted, unconditional loving woman whom for one most importantly introduced me to our Father in Heaven, whom taught me to be a respectful young lady, showed me how to love and have a big heart, taught me how to be independent, and inspired me to make something out of my life. For that reason I stand here today as a young independent woman, a loving and caring mother and a soon wife to be. Honestly I don't know where else I would be if it wasn't for you taking me into your home and accepting me into your family. I'll never forget what you said to me when you looked me in my eyes and you held me and said that you always loved me as if I were your own daughter. You really changed my life when you spoke those words to me. I knew right then in there that I was in the right place at the right time. I knew right there that you were my second mother. People always say to remember only the good memories of our deceased loved ones....but I will remember all of the memories; the good, the bad, and the ugly. It is because of those memories that made me the woman I am today. I wouldn't regret or change anything about it. Granny you were the structure to my life when I was a lost little girl that came from a broken home. You were there to fill that void of a mother's care when I didn't have my own mother. Because of you Granny I grew a big heart of my own. I will never forget you and your spirit will live long thru my heart and thru my family as well forever. So many more words I can put in here but it will take a decades worth to fill in here. So I will leave here with saying Granny I love you forever and may the Good Lord bless your soul. Rest peacefully in Heaven. My guardian angel, Granny.

Tonya Howard - February 05, 2021 at 05:08 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mabel Gartrell.*



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February 05, 2021 at 02:45 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mabel Gartrell.*



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February 04, 2021 at 10:29 AM



“ *George Gartrell lit a candle in memory of Mabel Gartrell*



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**George Gartrell** - February 04, 2021 at 08:34 AM



“ *Auntie Mabel,*

*You will be truly missed I remember you having all the kids help you with the garage sales on Saturday mornings. Love you RIH*

*Timeaco Solomon*

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**Timeaco Solomon** - February 03, 2021 at 08:28 PM

KH

“ Granny,

*Granny is what I have always affectionately called you for you remind me of my granny. From the first time I came to your home, I could feel the love and warmth spewing from your heart. And yes, the holiday home cooked meals made it that much more inviting. You and Auntie Jan would burn in the kitchen.*

*I will always remember our car ride together to GA. I laughed so hard when you asked me "Do you ever stop talking?" 😊😊😊.*

*Karen also remembers you and her time at the casino.*

*You are deeply loved and will be greatly missed, but I take comfort in knowing that you are now resting in peace.*

*Sending my prayers to the Jamerson Family. 🙏🙏🙏. Amen*

*Sincerity,*

*Kim Hunt and Family*

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**Kim Hunt** - February 03, 2021 at 07:57 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mabel Gartrell.



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February 03, 2021 at 04:59 PM

PH

“ Mabel,

*You will be dearly missed. I only have fond memories of your great cooking, visiting your home and spending time with your family during my growing up years. You were the link to our "village." I loved stopping by to visit when home from college. You always encouraged me to do my best and finish school.*

*Your home always had the feel of Southern hospitality and the love for all mankind; especially Georgians.*

*Your memory remains eternal.*

*Love,*

*Phillip, Marche' and Joshua Heath  
Hainesport, NJ*

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**Phillip W. Heath** - February 03, 2021 at 11:33 AM

LF

“ Love, The Heath Family purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of Mabel Gartrell.



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**Love, The Heath Family** - February 03, 2021 at 10:22 AM

PW

“ Sending words of comfort and peace in the loss of your mom who I had the opportunity to meet through your cousin Geri. We reflect the best parts of our parents thanks to the loving way they raised us. Take comfort in your memories as you grieve.

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**Pam Wood** - February 03, 2021 at 09:21 AM

AL

*Mabel, as an aunt, none was ever a better one!! Jason and I loved you with all of our heart .and will forever have you in our hearts. Rest in heaven with our other loved ones that you have more than likely met by now. We will love and honor you here until we meet again.*

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**alma** - February 07, 2021 at 10:52 PM