



Mrs. Carrie Mae McNair

April 13, 1921 - August 9, 2021

Carrie Mae Ellerbe McNair, age 100, died August 9, 2021, in her home after five years of declining health.

Born April 13, 1921, in Richmond County, N.C., she was the eighth of nine children born to William A. and Mollie Covington Ellerbe. All her life, she proudly called herself a farmer's daughter. She graduated from Peabody High School in Montgomery County, N.C., in 1938. She moved to Durham to attend DeShazor's Beauty College, from which she graduated in 1946.

Also in 1946, she married Elwood E. McNair, a returning World War II veteran. The couple joined Mount Vernon Baptist Church and both were lifelong members. They had two children, Eltonza M. Brown and Carlton D. McNair.

Mrs. McNair was a cosmetologist for several years and then became a cafeteria worker in the Durham City School System. A lifelong learner, she later took a job as office clerk at Burton Elementary School. She then took a position at North Carolina Central University as a statistical assistant for what was then called the Academic Skills Center. She retired from that position in 1983.

Mrs. McNair was a skilled genealogist and amateur historian and was an excellent seamstress. At Mount Vernon Baptist Church, she was a leader in

the Youth Church and for more than 40 years taught the Daughters of Ruth Sunday school class. She helped lead the Youth and Young Adult missionary departments; was secretary to the Missionary Circle; and was a longtime member of the board of the church's credit union. She was a church trustee and served on various committees. She acted as an unofficial historian of the church for decades. She was active in the Mount Vernon and Durham County Baptist missionary unions. And she served on civic boards and volunteered for community groups, and was president of her neighborhood's Community Benevolence Club.

She was noted for faithfully sending birthday cards to family members.

Mrs. McNair's husband preceded her in death in 1964. She is survived by her daughter, Eltonza (Paul), and son, Carlton, both of Durham, N.C.; a daughter of the heart, Ann Simpson (Arlester) of Ellerbe, N.C.; a granddaughter, Caroline Brown Johnson (Jamil) of Durham, N.C.; five great-grandchildren, Christen, Paul Anthony, Caleb, Olivia and Elizabeth Johnson, all of Durham, N.C.; and several nieces, nephews and cousins.

The funeral will be held Friday, August 13, 2021, at noon at Mount Vernon Baptist Church, 1007 S. Roxboro St. with the Reverend Jerome J. Washington, delivering the eulogy.

Due to COVID restrictions, masks are required and seating is limited.

To view the Celebration of Life Service for Mrs. Carrie Mae McNair through Zoom Live Stream:

Please click the link below to join the webinar,

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87864201426?>

Webinar ID: 878 6420 1426

Passcode: 425082

Cards can be sent to the family at 603 McNair Street, Durham, North Carolina 27707.

The family offers special thanks to Durham County Meals On Wheels, whose volunteers faithfully served Mrs. McNair for several years.

Mrs. Carrie Mae McNair will be laid to rest in Beechwood Cemetery.

Cemetery Details

Beechwood Cemetery

3300 Fayetteville St
Durham, NC 27707
(919) 560-4154

Previous Events

Viewing

AUG 13. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Mount Vernon Baptist Church
1007 S Roxboro St
Durham, NC 27707
(919) 688-1823
churchoffice@mvbcdurham.org
<http://mvbcdurham.org>

Celebration of Life

AUG 13. 12:00 PM (ET)

Mount Vernon Baptist Church
1007 S Roxboro St
Durham, NC 27707

Tribute Wall



“ *View and Download the Funeral Program*

Scarborough & Hargett Celebration of Life Center, Inc. - August 17, 2021 at 03:09 PM



“ *Mrs. Carrie Mae McNair*

October 05, 2023 at 11:31 AM



“ *Eltonza, Paul and Carlton,*

I was saddened to learn of the passing of Mrs. McNair. She was the secretary at Burton Elementary where I attended, and we were co-workers at NCCU Academic Skill Center. I was surprised to see her as she welcomed me as her co-worker at NCCU. I was truly blessed to reconnect with her, and be mentored by the BEST, and who exemplified commitment, hard work, gracious, and kindness. Your smile and thoughtfulness will always remain in my heart. Precious memories will always remain, Janie McMillan



Janie McMillan - September 05, 2021 at 02:59 PM



“ *Prayers for family and friends of my dear friend and Missionary, Carrie McNair. She was a great missionary, servant of God. We attended so many missionary events together. From Catherine Ferrell*

Catherine Ferrell - August 14, 2021 at 09:09 PM

KF

“ Carlton,
I was saddened to hear of your mother's passing. My prayers are extended to you and your sister.
With sympathy,
Katrina Goldston Farrar
HHS Class of 1968



Katrina Goldston Farrar - August 14, 2021 at 06:45 PM

AC

“ Arthur & Vonnie Carrington (former members of Mount Vernon Baptist. ...now residents of Alton, IL.)

"Offering our sincere condolences and prayers to the McNair family in the passing of your loved one who was such a beautiful woman of God. May God's comfort and peace sustain you during this difficult time." 🙏

Arthur & Vonnie Carrington - August 14, 2021 at 05:59 PM

FW

“ To the family of Mrs. Carrie Mae McNair, I send my sincere condolences. My prayer is that God will surround you all with His love, peace and comfort both now and in the days come.



Floretta L. Walls - August 13, 2021 at 07:17 PM

VW

“ We have known Sister Carrie McNair most of all our lives. She was an amazing woman of God. Her knowledge and words of wisdom were always passed on to anyone who cared to listen to her--and we did. Sister McNair was very articulate when she spoke, and her amazing memory was outstanding even during her waning years of life! If ever we needed to know anything about the history of the Church and the Durham community, Sister McNair was our "go to" person. We shall miss her sorely. We pray for comfort and peace for the entire family in the days to come. With love and sympathy....



Jairus and Velma Wilson

Velma and Jairus Wilson - August 13, 2021 at 01:08 PM

DD

“ I knew Mrs. McNair for a short stent while living next door with my mother-in-law, Mrs. Harper. Mrs. McNair was the most active person in the neighborhood, maintaining her yard in tip-top shape, and always greeting passersby. Her loving family cared for her, and shared laughs about the rapidly changing world. I admire Mrs. McNair and will miss her smile and her personality. Blessings to the family. What a wonderful legacy! - Dr. Askia and Erika Dunnon.

Dr. Askia Dunnon - August 13, 2021 at 11:26 AM

AH

“ *To the Family of Mrs. Carrie Mae Ellerbe McNair. We were saddened to hear of your Mother's passing. Heartfelt Condolences to the Family. Please remember that God is too wise to make a mistake and too Holy to do anything wrong. Prayer is the key, but it takes Faith to unlock the door. We met Mrs. McNair over 50 years ago and we thought that she was one of the sweeties ladies that we had ever met. Every time that we saw her over the years, she was the same sweet lady. It was as if she had known us for many years. We do not believe that she ever met a stranger. We thank God for sending Mrs. McNair our way so she could show us by example how to love everybody and help as many people that is humanly possible. We believe that she has helped thousands of the young and old by making a difference in our lives. My wife was one of her students in the Daughters of Ruth Sunday School class. She said that she was an excellent teacher. The fact that God saw fit to send Mrs. McNair our way. Durham and the State of NC will never be the same. Mrs. McNair loved her family so much that she traced her family tree over five generations (Ancestry) and our family are connected which means that we are related. My family,(the McCalls and McPhatters. We say to the family, we love you and we will continue to pray for you.*

Rev. Albert Deaconess Dorothy Huey

Albert Huey - August 13, 2021 at 10:47 AM

CH

“ *There are so many memories and stories that could be shared, which is one of the things I will miss. Praying for strength for the entire family. Earth's loss is Heaven's gain.*

Coretta Hunter - August 11, 2021 at 09:49 PM

RD

“ *Ruth Drye lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Carrie Mae McNair*



Ruth Drye - August 11, 2021 at 07:45 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mrs. Carrie Mae McNair.*



August 11, 2021 at 03:58 PM

RH

“ *Rose Mary Cole Howell lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Carrie Mae McNair*



Rose Mary Cole Howell - August 11, 2021 at 11:33 AM

HS

“ *RIP Aunt Carrie..I will always cherish the memories of you visiting my mother.. ❤️
Hilda Seberry*



Hilda Seberry - August 10, 2021 at 04:27 PM

TH

“ *The Seberry Family --- Ann, Gene, Hilda, lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Carrie Mae McNair*



The Seberry family --- Ann, Gene, Hilda, - August 10, 2021 at 09:04 AM

TF

“ *The Seberry Family lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Carrie Mae McNair*



The Seberry family - August 10, 2021 at 09:02 AM

TH

Aunt Carrie will truly be missed. She was family oriented and always willing to talk with family to give family history. She was always kind and soft spoken. We loved her dearly.

The Seberry family --- Ann, Gene, Hilda, - August 10, 2021 at 09:09 AM

TF

The Seberry family---Ann, Gene, Hilda, Jimmy

The Seberry family - August 10, 2021 at 02:13 PM

AU

The Davenports would like to express our condolences to the McNair family. What a powerful woman of God! She lead by example. Very proud to say she was my Young Adult Director. She held many positions in the Durham County Missionary Union. A very knowledgeable person. Deacon Segrid Davenport

audreydavenporthudson - August 11, 2021 at 10:08 PM

PM

“ I only met her once, but she generously provided family tree information from Uncle Walter McNair (my grandmother Effie Jane McNair-McCall's brother). At the time, the information covered 4 generations. I am currently working on family history and I was able to use the data she provided to complete most of Uncle Walter's tree.

My prayers and blessings are with the family during this time and always.

Priscilla McMillian G/D of Effie McNair - August 10, 2021 at 07:24 AM

PM

“ Priscilla McMillian G/D Of Effie McNair lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Carrie Mae McNair



Priscilla McMillian G/D of Effie McNair - August 10, 2021 at 07:14 AM