



Ethel Lee Gamble, affectionately known as “Lee”, was born in Jackson, (Butts County) Georgia, on June 21, 1933, the first day of summer. Ethel was the oldest child of Charlie and Anna Mae Lawson Foster. She departed this life Wednesday, January 21, 2015, five years to the day of her mother Anna’s passing.

As a child, Ethel attended Israel CME Church, in Jackson, Georgia. She sang in the church choir and was assistant to the superintendant of Sunday School. She was a 1951 graduate of Henderson High School and while in high school, she was a member of the Glee Club. Ethel excelled in basketball, receiving the Babe Ruth Award for Sportsmanship. After graduation, Ethel attended the College of Business in Atlanta, GA., and became an assistant at the J. Aston Dillard Funeral Home Georgia. A loving and devoted homemaker, she served as a noon monitor at Mary Haddow Elementary School; and an assistant with the Red Cross “Learn to Swim” program. During the Youngstown City School Teachers Strike, Ethel helped to organize the Concerned Parents Group. She was also a member of the PTA at Lincoln and Warren Richey Elementary Schools and North Jr. High School. In 1979 she became the President of the East High School Band Boosters. Under Ethel’s presidency, she was instrumental in raising money for new band uniforms, the first new uniforms since 1954. Ethel remained active with East High School even after her children graduated. She enjoyed gardening and being with her beloved family.

During the 1950’s, Ethel moved to Youngstown and became the secretary of St. Peter’s Baptist Church on North Avenue. During that time, Ethel met her husband Ralph Gamble Jr. They were united in holy matrimony on January 14, 1961. In the early 1960’s, Ethel attended Phillips Chapel CME Church. In 1968, Ethel joined Price Memorial AME Zion Church under the pastorate of the late Rev. Rufus M. Jones. She served as a Sunday School teacher, Vacation Bible School teacher and a Den Mother for Boy Scout Troop Pack 31.

Ethel became a community activist in the 1970’s, and became a member of the NAACP. Throughout the 1980’s, Ethel assisted her husband who was a

precinct committee man. They worked the election polls and encouraged members of the East Side (Second Ward) to get out and vote.

She leaves to cherish her memory, her children, Sherri L. Gamble of Canandaigua, NY; Ralph "Randy" Gamble III of Manassas, VA; and Sonya A. Gamble of Suffolk, VA; a granddaughter, Mia A. Gamble of Manassas, VA; a sister, Mildred A. Davis of Youngstown; a brother, Bill Foster of Boardman; an uncle, Willie Fred Lawson of Youngstown; her oldest cousin, Ruth Stodghill of Atlanta, GA; nieces, Teresa J. (Antonio) Reid of University Hgts., Teaza Ingram of Youngstown, Connie Lewis of Dacatur, GA and Courtney Steward of Norfolk, VA; nephew, Timothy Law; godson, Rosevelt "Tre" Lewis III; and a host of cousins, including June (Corrine) Lawson of Youngstown, other family and friends.

Besides her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Ralph Jr., who passed away July 17, 2005; a brother, Charlie Foster Jr.; a sister, Clara Foster; and a niece Teresa L. Law.

Friends may view on Sunday, February 1st from 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m. at the L. E. Black, Phillips & Holden Funeral Home. Visitation will be Monday, February 2, 2015 from 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon at the Price Memorial AME Zion Church. Funeral Services will follow immediately at 12:00 p.m.