



## Mildred Parish Massey

June 6, 1924 - February 16, 2015

Live Stream will take place on Thursday, February 26, 2015 at 11:00 AM.

Watch webcast for Mildred Parish Massey: <https://new.livestream.com/allente/mpleoakland>

Mildred Parish Massey, 90, surrounded by family, passed away peacefully in Oakland, California on Monday, Feb 16, 2015. Born June 6, 1924 in El Paso, Texas, she is predeceased by her father, William Calhoun Parish, her mother, Willie Edith Parish and her sister, Juanita Franklin.

Mildred attended Douglass elementary and high schools in El Paso where she was the Manager of the Douglass High School basketball team. She played the saxophone in the band and marched in the Sun Bowl Parade. Mildred won a scholarship to Tillotson College in Austin, TX and transferred to Southern University in Baton Rouge, LA to study business administration. When pledging a sorority, she learned that her friend could not join due to her darker skin color. She immediately withdrew her application and asked Mary McLeod Bethune to come to the campus to help change this discriminatory policy, which succeeded. Mildred moved to Portsmouth, VA and was hired as Registrar and secretary to the President of Norfolk division of Virginia State College, now Norfolk State University.

Upon Mildred's return to El Paso, she broke many racial barriers as the first

African American to be hired in key positions. She worked at the USO and was the first black clerical worker at Ft. Bliss, Texas in the Postal Locator. While working, she attended Texas Western College (now the University of Texas at El Paso) and was one of 12 students to integrate Texas Western. Mildred was an active member of the Eastern Star Lodge, Phyllis Wheatley Club, the NAACP and Myrtle Ave. Methodist Church.

In 1960, Mildred moved to San Fernando, CA where once again she broke many racial barriers in the workplace as the first African American to work at the Raymond Lamp Company, Assistant Manager of Lerner Dress store in Panorama City, CA, Manager of the Rembrandt Sign Co. in San Fernando, CA and as an Administrative Assistant at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Sylmar, CA. Mildred worked three jobs simultaneously to take care of her aging father and 3 daughters.

In 1975, Mildred moved to Oakland, CA and worked for the Social Security Administration until her retirement in 1986. She helped found and manage her daughter's business, The W.C. Parish Co., dba Lee Associates until her second retirement in 1998 when she moved to Sun City, Arizona. In 2010, she returned to Oakland where she resided at Grand Lake Gardens until her death.

Mildred enjoyed traveling abroad and within the United States, watching The Price is Right, Wheel of Fortune, and Family Feud everyday. She was an avid fan of Steph Curry and the Golden State Warriors. She was a frequent attendee at the Oakland Symphony with her friend Mr. Ed Bussey, and she loved music and playing bridge. She spent time on her iPhone and iPad sending texts, emails and photos staying connected to her family and friends.

Mildred was known for her beautiful green eyes, her radiant smile, quick wit

and great sense of humor. She was intrigued by the beauty of butterflies and more than anything, loved being with her family and friends.

Mildred is survived by her 3 daughters, Congresswoman Barbara Lee, Mrs. Mildred Whitfield (Calvin), and Mrs. Beverly Hardy (Martin), her sister, Mrs. Lois Murell, 7 grandchildren, 16 great-grand children and 1 great-great grandchild.

A special thanks to her team of caring doctors, health care workers, and staff at Summit Hospital, her loving friends and staff at her home at Grand Lake Gardens, the Allen Temple Baptist church family and a host of friends who loved and assisted her in many ways.

A celebration of life will be held at Allen Temple Baptist Church, 8501 International Blvd, Oakland, CA on Thursday, February 26, 2015. Viewing from 10 to 11AM and services at 11 AM. Interment follows at Mountain View Cemetery, Oakland, California.

Flowers and/or donations to American Lung Association in California, (COPD Research and Education Memorial Gift for Mildred Parish Massey), 333 Hegenberger Road, Suite 450, Oakland, CA 94621.

# Cemetery Details

## Mountain View Cemetery

5000 Piedmont Avenue  
Oakland, CA 94611

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB **26**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (PT)

Allen Temple Baptist Church,  
8501 International Blvd  
Oakland, CA

## Service

FEB **26**. 11:00 AM (PT)

Allen Temple Baptist Church,  
8501 International Blvd  
Oakland, CA

# Tribute Wall



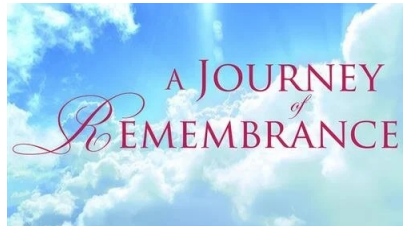
“ Harris Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Mildred Parish Massey



Harris Funeral Home - February 27, 2015 at 10:55 PM



“ Harris Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Mildred Parish Massey



Harris Funeral Home - February 24, 2015 at 01:41 AM

AH

*The tribute video is so beautiful, warm and shows lots of Love...God bless you Ms Mildred...your legacy will be remembered forever with Love!!!*

Alison Houston - February 24, 2015 at 10:10 AM

KR

*God Bless Ms Massey and family.*

Kevin Richardson - February 25, 2015 at 06:42 PM

CG

*You will be missed "Grammy"...my memories of us laughing until we'd have tears in our eyes will be forever cherished..! Love Chris*

**Chris Green** - February 26, 2015 at 09:34 AM

CF

*TO THE FAMILY OF MS. MASSEY & A DEAR FRIEND OF MS. (FRANCIS HILLS OF EL PASO, TEXAS) MY THOUGHTS & PRAYERS ARE WITH YOU. CHARLSETTA W. FINLEY*

**Charlsetta W. Finley** - February 26, 2015 at 11:33 AM



*Beautiful tribute. Condolences to the family - know that she is at peace and she lived life with a brilliant spirit!! Praying for you all. Love, Pamela Y. Price*

**Pamela Y. Price** - February 26, 2015 at 12:03 PM

MM

*This tribute to Mildred is so beautiful and heartwarming. I first met Mildred back in 1990 at Barbara's then office in Sacramento. I will forever remember Mildred's kindheartedness, welcoming smile and generous nature. She was truly a joy to be around. Mildred is loved by so many. She will be missed. Mishka Migacz*

**Mishka Migacz** - February 28, 2015 at 09:57 AM



“ 36 files added to the album Memorable Pictures



**Harris Funeral Home** - March 09, 2015 at 11:35 PM

HC

“ <http://youtu.be/6qLy6zwJS6g>

Harris Legacy Center - March 09, 2015 at 09:36 PM

BH

“ *May her soul and all the souls of the faithfully departed through the mercy of God, rest in peace! Our condolences and prayers to the family.*

*Gerald & Brenda Hardy*

Brenda Hardy - February 26, 2015 at 10:25 AM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Mildred Parish Massey.*



February 26, 2015 at 09:11 AM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Mildred Parish Massey.*



February 25, 2015 at 09:34 PM

HE

“ Howard Egeman purchased the Basket Full of Wishes for the family of Mildred Parish Massey.



Howard Egeman - February 25, 2015 at 06:23 PM

SL

“ Sheila Jackson Lee purchased the Strength & So lace Spray for the family of Mildred Parish Massey.



Sheila Jackson Lee - February 25, 2015 at 05:43 PM

HA

“ Haris H El Amin purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Mildred Parish Massey.



Haris H El Amin - February 25, 2015 at 01:20 PM

SC

“ Simon Castellanos lit a candle in memory of Mildred Parish Massey



Simon Castellanos - February 25, 2015 at 12:38 PM



“ *Fruit Abounds was purchased for the family of Mildred Parish Massey.*



February 25, 2015 at 12:30 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Mildred Parish Massey.*



February 25, 2015 at 12:24 PM



“ *Aon Cornerstone Family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Mildred Parish Massey.*



**Aon Cornerstone Family** - February 25, 2015 at 09:45 AM



“ *1 file added to the album Video Remarks of Condolence to Barbara Lee from The Congressional Black Caucus*



**Harris Funeral Home** - February 24, 2015 at 10:06 PM

BK

“ Beverly King purchased the *We Share Your Loss Sympathy Gift Basket* for the family of Mildred Parish Massey.



---

**Beverly King** - February 24, 2015 at 09:58 PM

BH

“ Bill Haney purchased the *Blue Caribbean Bouquet* for the family of Mildred Parish Massey.



---

**Bill Haney** - February 24, 2015 at 07:52 PM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Mildred Parish Massey.



---

February 24, 2015 at 06:54 PM

TF

“ The Dickerson Family purchased the *Heavenly Sentiments Spray* for the family of Mildred Parish Massey.



---

**The Dickerson Family** - February 24, 2015 at 06:14 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mildred Parish Massey.*



---

February 24, 2015 at 05:53 PM



“ *A life well-lived, Mildred was an inspiration to all that she touched. With an ever present radiant smile, she was joy to be around with, to talk about the love of God, and to discuss what it requires to achieve a fulfilled life. We will miss her very much but must take comfort in the fact that she is now resting in God's kingdom. May her soul rest in peace.*  
*Igwekala Njoku*

---

**Col Igwekala Njoku (Ret)** - February 24, 2015 at 05:25 PM



“ *Heavenly Grace Spray was purchased for the family of Mildred Parish Massey.*



---

February 24, 2015 at 05:18 PM



“ *From Addisu, Nicole and the family at 50+1 purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Mildred Parish Massey.*



---

**From Addisu, Nicole and the family at 50+1** - February 24, 2015 at 02:32 PM

LN

“ Love, Diane Nine purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Mildred Parish Massey.



---

Love, Diane Nine - February 24, 2015 at 01:41 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mildred Parish Massey.



---

February 24, 2015 at 10:28 AM



“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Mildred Parish Massey.



---

February 24, 2015 at 08:22 AM

JU

“ Dear Barbara Lee and Family of Mildred Parish Massey, on behalf of the Alameda Labor Council, we want to express our deepest, heartfelt condolences at the passing of your mother, sister, aunt and grandmother to many. We treasure our loved ones when they are with us and are saddened when they leave us. But, we know her life will always be cherished and remembered. Warmest regards, Josie Camacho Executive Secretary Treasurer & Victor Uno IBEW 9th District Business Representative

---

**Josie Camacho & Victor Uno** - February 23, 2015 at 04:59 PM

HE

“ I will really miss Mildred. I got out of the Navy in 1973 and eventually got a job with Social Security in downtown Oakland. One of the most memorable people I met on the job was Mildred. When Barbara first ran for the Assembly in 1990 and we had strict Hatch Act restrictions, we in my office whispered to one another, Vote for Barbara Lee, she is Mildred's daughter. As I tell Barbara we supported her because we knew the kind of parent she had. Reading Barbara's book showed me how amazing Mildred was. I am truly blessed to have had the opportunity to work with her and to get to know her amazing daughter and family. As I tell my union leaders in AFGE, federal employees make the best parents and have the best children.

*RIP Mildred*

*Howard Egerman  
3216 Davis Street  
Oakland Ca. 94601  
510-261-4975*

*SSA Employee East Oakland SSA Office.*

---

**Howard Egerman** - February 23, 2015 at 04:16 PM

MH

“ *Mark, Mari, Eric and Martin Harris purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Mildred Parish Massey.*



---

**Mark, Mari, Eric and Martin Harris** - February 23, 2015 at 04:03 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Mildred Parish Massey.*



---

February 23, 2015 at 04:03 PM



“ *Secret Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Mildred Parish Massey.*



---

February 23, 2015 at 02:23 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Mildred Parish Massey.*



---

February 23, 2015 at 01:59 PM



“ *Heavenly and Harmony* was purchased for the family of Mildred Parish Massey.



---

February 23, 2015 at 01:31 PM



“ *Vivid Recollections* was purchased for the family of Mildred Parish Massey.



---

February 23, 2015 at 10:34 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Mildred Parish Massey.



---

February 22, 2015 at 08:50 AM



“ I have known Mildred and her family for many years, and her daughter Beverly is a longtime friend of mine. I cherish this friendship and connection. My husband Joe "Tic" Parker who passed away in 2007, always called Mildred "Queen Bee" and he had known her most of his life. Also our dear friend Andrew "Mucho" and wife Doris, are the ones we met Mildred and family through, as they were related. My sympathies, love and prayers got to Beverly and her sisters and all of this family, who I have loved for a very long time. Peace on your way Queen Bee", you will be a star in heaven too!...Ruth Parker

---

**Ruth Parker** - February 21, 2015 at 02:16 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mildred Parish Massey.



---

February 21, 2015 at 10:55 AM



“ Bill Haney sent a virtual gift in memory of Mildred Parish Massey



---

**Bill Haney** - February 21, 2015 at 09:57 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mildred Parish Massey.*



---

February 20, 2015 at 04:23 PM



“ *Sue Dotson lit a candle in memory of Mildred Parish Massey*



---

**Sue Dotson** - February 19, 2015 at 03:30 PM



*The family of Mildred Massey have our deepest sympathy and prayers from St. Louis, Mo.*

---

**Sue Dotson** - February 19, 2015 at 03:31 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mildred Parish Massey.*



---

February 19, 2015 at 03:20 PM

GB

“ *The Congressional Black Caucus of the 114th Congress extends its sincere and heartfelt condolences to the Massey Family. Stay strong in your faith and know that God never makes a mistake. He blessed you with a mother and grandmother for many, many years. We love you.*

*Congressman G. K. Butterfield, Chairman  
The Congressional Black Caucus*

---

**GK Butterfield** - February 18, 2015 at 06:52 PM