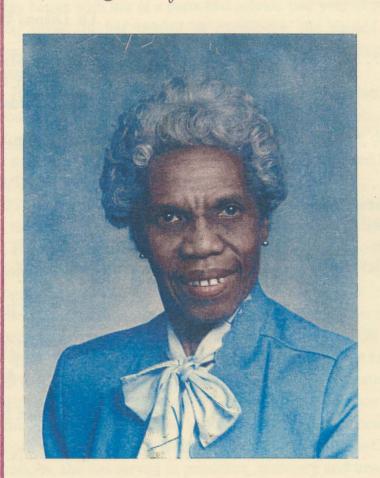
# Celebration of Life for

# Mrs. Gladys Psernice Weaver Neal Psailey



June 25, 1918



September 21, 2009

Saturday, September 27, 2009 11:00 A.M.

EDWARD J. SPENCER AND PATTIE J. SPENCER MEMORIAL CHAPEL

824 North Main Street Mount Airy, North Carolina

## ORDER OF SERVICE

## Interment Skyline Memory Gardens — Mount Airy, North Carolina

Music
Processional (Congregation Standing)
Words of Comfort
Music
Prayer
Old Testament
Old Testament
New Testament
Congregational Hymn
Tribute
Music "A Prayer For Gladys Bailey" by Mrs. Dorothy Thompson (2006) Tracey Greenwood
A New Beginning
Benediction
Recessional(Congregation Standing)
Committal/Benediction
Interment
The Final Flight

## Gladys Bernice Weaver Neal Bailey

The younger of two children, her journey began at birth in Rentisville, Muskogee County, Oklahoma. Their father, Squire W. Weaver, Sr., died when she was less than two years old. Her mother, Beulah Juanita Sample Weaver Onque, was the most influencing factor in her life. She taught her respect for truth and right, respect for others, reverence for God, acceptance of death as a part of life's cycle and many other valuable lessons. Her teachings were more by example than precept and her philosophy of life was very practical: Let your inner beliefs be reflected in the way you live EVERYDAY.

Following the goals of her mother, completing her education was strongly instilled in her. The educational journey began with life at a parochial school, one year of public school, and Mary Allen Junior College, Crockett, Texas. In her pursuit of excellence she earned a B.S. Degree from Langston University, Oklahoma. She began her career in 1939 when she taught in grades one through four in McCurtain County, Oklahoma. She taught there until 1942.

From 1944-46, she taught grades one through four at Westfield School. From 1948-50 she taught grades one through three in Surry County and Mount Airy Schools. She taught grades five and six from 1950-65 at J.J. Jones High School and, in 1965, began her teaching duties at South Main School. In 1974 she was elected as Mount Airy School Teacher of the Year. She ended her teaching career of a span of over 40 years, at B.H. Tharrington Elementary School in 1978.

In 1955 she received her M.S. degree from A&T College, Greensboro. She did further study for certification in the field of exceptionality with emphasis on mental retardation at Appalachian State University, Boone. Following her certification she was an originator in the area of special education organizing workshops for teachers throughout the area where ideas and concepts could be shared. Her participation in a special program at the N.C. Advancement School aided her in learning to use all kinds of creative, innovative methods and techniques to stimulate, motivate and measure the children's progress.

She became involved in professional organization in 1959 with the Carolina Teachers Association. She served on the successful campaign of Libby Koontz for the national presidency. She served as secretary of the local association of the North Carolina Teachers Association and member of the Committee on Elections in the Western District and became president in 1961. She has served as CTA western district director, member of the NCTA-CTA executive board, chairman of the Local Projects Committee, regional member of the Committee on Conditions of Work and member of the State Credentials Committee. After the merger of the organizations, she has served as president, secretary and treasurer of the city NCAE and ACT, treasurer of ACT District Four and chairman of the NCAE Elections Committee.

November 1983 The Mount Airy Board of Commissioners created a bit of history appointing Mrs. Gladys Bailey to the Mount Airy Library Board as the first Black ever appointed to the board. Other civic involvement included Board Member of the Surry Arts Council, Volunteer Surry County Red Cross Blood Drive and supporter of the Dobson Food Pantry, The Children's Home, Habitat, Sandy Level Community Council, Barium Springs Children Home, Edmarc Children Home and many others.

Mrs. Bailey was a member of Edward Webb Memorial Presbyterian Church for over 65 years. She has been a Sunday school teacher, youth advisor, superintendent of vacation school, president of United Presbyterian Women, and a member of the board of trustees, deacon, musician, elder and at her death, the Clerk of the Session. She was president of the Yadkin Presbyterial from 1964-67 and secretary of the Catawaba Synodical. Upon reunion of the Presbyterian Church U.S.A., she served on the transition Team for Presbytery B, holding various positions; various committees in Salem Presbytery and Salem Presbyterian Women.

She was united in marriage to Tom Edward Neal (deceased), and from this union two daughters were born.

As a teacher, she gave freely of her love, patience and understanding; hoped and trusted to be able to help create a better self-image for her students; motivated and encouraged them to become useful citizens.

Because of these attributes, she became "Mother" to three special young ladies: Mrs. Mary "Margreet" Woody Walker; Mrs. Elaine "Pinocchio" Forrest Riddick and Mrs. Kathleen "Kathi" Lightfoot.

Preceded in death: Squire W. Weaver, Sr., Father

Beulah Juanita Sample Weaver Onque, Mother

Joseph C. Bailey, Husband Squire W. Weaver, Jr., Brother

James A. "Scotty" Scott, Son-In-Law

**Survivors** 

Daughters: LaDonna N. (James) McCarther, Mount Airy, NC

Cheryl Yellow Fawn Scott, of the home

Step-daughter: Orian Captain, Omaha, Nebraska

Grandchildren: Kimberly S. (Curtis) Campbell, Franklin, Tenn.

Krishna S. (Dorian) McKoy, Raleigh, NC James A. "Jaimi" Scott, Jr., Statesville, NC Kara S. Scales, Warner Robins, Georgia Jonathan Lightfoot, Pembroke, NC

Step Grandchildren: Alfredia (Charles) Gaines, Mt. Airy, NC

James A. (Shona) McCarther II, Flemington, New Jersey

Janell (Cedric) Richardson, Detroit, Michigan

Great Grandchildren: Britton Scott & Sydney Elyse Campbell, Franklin, Tennessee

Bailey Scott Scales, Warner Robins, Georgia James A. "Tre" Scott III, Statesville, NC

Step-great grandchildren: Tamara Gaines, Wilson, NC

Raquel McKoy, Ashanti McKoy, Kaliah McKoy, and

Fatima McKoy all of Winston-Salem, NC Matthew & Jordan McCarther, New York/Penn.

Kharri Hunter & Meagan Richardson, Detroit, Michigan

4 Step-great-great grandchildren, Nieces, Nephews, Cousins and numerous extended family members and friends.

#### FLOWER ATTENDANTS

Ladies of Edward Webb Memorial Presbyterian Church, U.S.A. Barnyard Breakfast Bunch

#### JUNIOR HONORARY FLOWER GIRL ATTENDANT

Great Granddaughter - Sydney Campbell

#### HONORARY FLOWER ATTENDANTS

Mrs. Annette Lindsey Ms. Jayme Love Mrs. Amanda Latimar Mrs. Frances Brown Mrs. Teressa Spencer Mrs. Regina Brim

#### CASKET ATTENDANTS

Mr. James A. "Jaimi" Scott Mr. Curtis Campbell Mr. Jonathan Lightfoot Mr. Harvey Lee Lindso

Mr. Curtis Campbell Mr. Dorian McKoy Mr. Harvey Lee Lindsey Mr. Taylor "Teddy" Latimar

Mr. Charles Gaines Mr. Sanchez Iarvis

**JUNIOR HONORARY CASKET ATTENDANTS** 

Great Grandsons

Britton Campbell

Bailey Scales

James A. Tre' Scott, III

HONORARY CASKET ATTENDANTS

Mr. Robert Galloway

Mr. Corey Brim
Mr. C.W. Webster

Mr. James A. McCarther, Sr.

Mr. Edward "Eddie" Spencer

Mr. Ronald Jessup

#### Perhaps God Is A Poet

Author Unknown

Perhaps God is a "Poet" who writes with Words of flesh and bones and leaf and flower.

Every hour of every day, "Words" pour out of The Poet's heart, and every word is "Beautiful" and true and worth the telling.

And when each "Poem" is "Perfect" and there is no more which ought to be The "Poet" gently takes the Words back into His Heart, where they are safe "forever."

Professional Services Directed by SPENCER FUNERAL HOME STAFF

824 N. Main Street Mount Airy, NC 27030

(336) 786-4161

(336) 786-4162

(336) 786-4163

Fax (336) 789-8914

#### A TRIBUTE TO GLADYS BAILEY

Chairman of the Board of The Gang on the Hill

Our family came to Mount Airy in the winter of 1967. Millie was a native of the area, Mike was a year old, and David was beginning a career as a Special Agent with the SBI, Contacts in the area were important, and calm, sane people were highly sought after to reinforce the dignity of the Granite City.

Enter Gladys Bailey. The number of hats she wore in town could not be counted. Educator, musician, politician, community leader, church leader, historian, tireless volunteer, blessed family member, and on the list goes. Getting to know her and the family was an important step in finding out where the stones were in the creek, and which ones you needed to step on to cross safely.

What was it that drew you to Gladys Bailey time and time again for advice and conversation? How was it that you just could not say "no" to her? Was it the twinkle in her eyes, the slight crackle in her voice that reminded you of your own mother, the wit of a master comic that could change even the most serious subject into a "make you feel good" moment? It was all of these, combined with the fact that Gladys would tell you the truth, and you could trust the answers she gave until the end of time.

With all the hats she wore it was hard to tell which one she prized. We believe it was family . . . her position as Chairman of the Board of the Gang on the Hill. Kings and kingdoms could all pass away, but the leader of the Gang on the Hill was still standing. Health issues, wars, economic changes, hospital expansion, new schools and anything else could challenge the rest of us, but not Gladys Bailey. She was the same strong woman throughout it all.

The Beal Family is blessed to count Gladys Bailey as a friend. We believe that these few lines from the Rudyard Kipling poem "L'Envoi" were written for Gladys:

"And only the Master shall praise us, and only the Master shall blame; And no one shall work for money, and no one shall work for fame; But each for the joy of working, and each in his separate star, Shall draw the thing as he sees it, for the God of Things as They Are!"

Thanks Be to God for Gladys Bailey.

The David Beal Family

### "Remembering Our Friend"

Mrs. Gladys Neal Bailey

Just as night sets Our tears run dry. Seeing the memories as the Hours pass by. Under the stars, we wait until we All will be together again. So many good times we shared. Everyone remembers the Positive influence left in their Hearts to stay for Eternity to never be forgotten. Before we know, we All will be Nearer to Thee. Embracing one another, speaking about the times Spent apart-and now Together.

> -Juanita Helton March -Perry E. March

Big Mom - you have touched so many lives with your love and care for others. We thank you for being instrumental in creating the Barney and Breakfast Bunch (The Bible Study Group).

Down through the years at 8:30 am sat the pace for the remainder week.

We thank God for you being in our life.

-The Barney and Breakfast



Many people have the goal in life to leave this world a better place. Gladys W. Bailey achieved this goal and is admired for her many contributions. While these are numerous, nothing is more important than her loving family and friends who she leaves behind.

Those who had the privilege to know and love her, are honored because she was a part of their lives. She provided them with wonderful memories, a passion for life and the desire to also leave this world a better place. For this, we thank God for blessing us with the life of Gladys W. Bailey.

Sincerely,
Dr. Deborah Friedman
Surry Community College
President

#### Remembering a Lady of Distinction

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

Matthew 5:16

The family of Sylvester and Crissie McCarther became acquainted with Mrs. Gladys Neil Bailey many years ago when her mother (Mrs. BJ Onque) taught some of the children at Ridge Westfield Elementary School. We began to know Mrs. Bailey as we later walked the halls of Jones High School and saw the way she modeled the role of teacher. She began working with others of us as she played the piano or the Jones High School Chorus. Mrs. Bailey was always someone we admired and respected from afar. She exemplified the characteristics of a lady and her silver hair and youthful appearance seemed to set her apart.

It was not until some 32 years ago when our brother, James, fell in love with and married her daughter, LaDonna, that we came to know Mrs. Bailey as family. We no longer admired her from afar, but had a renewed love and respect for this lady of distinction. She was "Big Mama." She was a "big lady" of character, integrity, virtue, personality, and dignity. We never heard her say a harsh word about anyone and always had outstretched hands to help others. She had a strength and wisdom that will continue to provide encouragement and guidance to us all. We spoke to her about always seemingly being in control of all the events that occurred in her life. She was a prepared person. She once said, "I get up every day, dress as though I have someplace to go, and prepare for the day ahead. After arising, I look to the East and say this is the day that the Lord hath made and I will rejoice and be glad in it." "Big Mama" believed and lived her life having learned so well the meaning of Philippians 4:11 - in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. She was content because of her personal relationship with God. It was that inner spirit that gave her an outward glow and a positive attitude about life and living. It was because of that mindset and love of God that the beauty of her character touched our family and impacted our lives. She leaves behind a legacy for all who knew her to emulate. We hold her memory in the highest esteem.

Her youthfulness, smile, and desire to continue to push forward, without complaint, will always be a source of inspiration. "Big Mama" lived her life to the fullest. For those of us who remain, let us live so that when we too must take our chamber in the silent hall of death, we will be prepared by having lived a life of distinction with God in control. Let us so live that we can hear our Savior say, Well Done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord. (Matthew 25:21)

With love, The Brother and Sisters of James A. McCarther

### To "TOTY 2", My Friend

When I think of Gladys, two things come to mind, friend and teacher. Her picture is beside the definition of "friend" in the dictionary. A friend shows unconditional love, someone who has faith in you even when you don't have it in yourself, feels the pain when you hurt, celebrates your good times with you, and is there with a smile and encouragement when the times get tough. Her picture is also beside the definition of "teacher" in the dictionary. I had the honor and pleasure of working at Rockford Street School, South Main Elementary, and B.H. Tharrington Elementary with Gladys, (fondly known as TOTY 2, Teacher of the Year 2, I was TOTY 1). Some folks though we had the Teacher of the Year election planned or rigged.

Gladys was a teacher any child would have been fortunate to have had. Her students were taught more than reading, writing, and arithmetic. They were taught life-long lessons and they were taught these lessons with love and compassion. Her passion for teaching was evident daily, when she entered her classroom and brought smiles to the faces of children hungry for love and learning. They walked away with both. These wonderful traits were not only evident in her professional life, but her personal life as well. Gladys (TOTY 2) was a teacher, friend, and a ROCK to her family. Her family has dealt with many hardships, illnesses, pain, and loss, but through each and every crisis, I saw strength only God can give, rise up in her and spread to each of her family members. She truly has a sweet presence and gift of comfort in the face of crisis and gives strength to all that surround her. I feel blessed beyond measure to have TOTY 2 as my close friend, I will treasure all the laughs, stories, and times we shared. Life is sweeter for having had her as my life-long friend. Although we both have slowed down, our life-long lessons will live forever in those we touched.

All my love! TOTY1, Cherie Acker

#### Gladys Neal Bailey alias Mama Neal

As I think of my relationship with My Mama Neal, I see us on a journey. We started early in my life so I was able to get connected in a very special way. She allowed me to form an unbreakable bond to her and at the same time formally engrafted me into the Neal Bailey family. I have had the awesome privilege of fellowshipping with one of the most honorable women in the world. Gal 6:6 says, Let him who is taught the word share in all good things with him who teaches.

At the seasons came and went, spring, summer, fall and winter so does our life. We are taught in seasons. Spring our innocent youth-summer our turbulent teens years-fall matured adults-and winter our seasoned seniors. So my relationship with Mama Neal was much like these seasons. I had the wonderful experience of traveling in time with Mrs. Gladys Neal Bailey. A teacher by calling-but also by trade she taught me in my innocent youth. One example remember well is vacation bible school. Proverbs 22:6 says, Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it. In my youth I was introduced to joy, peace, long suffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self control. Little did I know that I would meet and need these strong attributes in life as we continued our journey. My turbulent teen years were joyous and challenging but with Mama Neal's gentle, loving, guidance I made it thorough. She was my Hero. She keep me and many others in the middle of the road. She never gave up, she believed in me. As life continued I had to grow up quickly. My season adulthood came earlier than one would expect. My fall of maturity took some time to cultivate. So with many letters, trips to visit, phone calls from afar, counseling sessions, much prayer and I am sure some fasting, I entered into womanhood. She gently, lovingly, guided, and shaped my strong character as it is today. She didn't judge, criticize, or manipulate. She simply was always eager, kind, and willing to listen. As I too grow into my winter season, I look back with much pride, gratitude, and thankfulness to have been chosen to be called student, daughter, and friend. Our journey has been one of a kind to me.

Galatians 6:9-10 says, And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap, if we do not lose heart. Therefore, as we have opportunity let us do good to all especially to those who are of the household of faith.

In closing - - - this is how my journey with Mama Neal, this gentle giant of a lady was to me. She showed me these characters in her through the scriptures. This is how my journey with her was, I Corinthians 13:1-13 let me read it aloud to you.

It has been an absolute honor and a privilege to have known Mrs. Gladys Neal Bailey and to have sat at her feet. She was the mother I never had.

#### A Tribute to Gladys Bailey

By Carol Burke September 16, 2009

When I hear the beautiful anthem often sung at First Presbyterian Church, I think of BIG MAMA:

"Strengthen the faint-hearted Support the weak Help the afflicted HONOR ALL PEOPLE."

BIG MAMA has lived her life doing just that. She has been a bulwark of strength and love and a woman of strong Christian character who has shared herself with so many people.

She continues to share herself and her wisdom and her strength through:

- 1) Her family: her daughters and grand-children and great grand-children are a great legacy for BIG MAMA. Her daughters LaDonna and Cheryl both teachers and volunteers are following in their Mother's footsteps. They always bring positive action to our community and to our world.
- 2) Her church: Gladys has been a beacon of light for Edward G. Webb Presbyterian Church and the Salem Presbytery. Gladys is a true person of prayer, a Bible teacher, and and example for Christian women to follow.
- 3) Her profession as a teacher. Gladys taught and loved those who some thought could not learn. She developed models of learning that opened the hearts and minds of those she taught and their families. Her students and their families had a richer life because of Gladys.
- 4) Her many friends: We can always take heart that BIG MAMA is behind us --encouraging, pushing us onward, and THANKING us for whatever small part we are doing for humanity.

Gladys Bailey is a SAINT, and she and her GOOD work done in the name of Jesus, blessed by God and given to the work by the Holy Spirit will live forever.

I have been so blessed to KNOW and work with Gladys, and I will always love her.

# When I get to heaven I'll look for Grandma's hands." Bill Withers

I never thought I'd find anyone who would help me not miss my Mom so much until I met B.B. It had only been about a year since my Mom's death when I moved to North Carolina. I was missing my family, and I was in need of an adoptive family. then in stepped B.B. She welcomed me into her family with open arms and treated me as though I was her long lost daughter. She co-hosted a part with Cheryl to welcome me to Mount Airy before having even met me. It was a demonstration of wonderful hospitality which she showed me consistently up until the end.

It has been my privilege to be able to consult with B.B. regarding her care. Not only from a physician's perspective, but also from the perspective of someone who lost a Mom to the very same illness. I hope I was able to give her some comfort, just like she gave me comfort when I came to "Mayberry1".

When I get to heaven I'll look for my Mom and Dad, then I'll look for B.B.

Doctor Jen.

We have come together to celebrate the life of Mrs. Gladys Neal Bailey. This can only be a celebration because she was "larger than life."

To me she was a mom. She has been that to me for the past fifty four years.

I'm sure everyone that met her for whatever reason left with a story to tell. If everyone had a chance to tell of their experiences with her, we would be here for a very long time.

As for me, there are many memories and stories that I could share, but time will not permit.

Mom took me under her wing when I was in her sixth grade class. She has always been there to give me support in any way needed.

She gave me the name Mar-greet, which was her version of Margaret.

Over the years we have shared a caring, loving relationship. She loved me for who I am. She would offer her advice but never force it on anyone. She let you know how she felt, but then she let you know that i you chose not to accept her advice she would love you just the same.

Ours was a relationship that was very strange to a lot of people. A relationship that allowed us to be on opposite sides of a room and know what the other was thinking. We would laugh a the strange looks when we would share food from the same plate. I will always remember the love that had been shown to me, not just from mom, but from the entire family!!! I thank God for this family that has accepted me as a part of them.

She has always had arms and a heart that was open to who ever needed a hug, a shoulder to lean on, a kind word of encouragement, or just a smile.

There was nothing phony about her. Her love and her concern has always genuine.

She was a very open and honest person that was loved by everyone who met her.

The world has been made so much better because of her. So many lives have been changed and so much hope given because of her.

Even though our hearts are heavy, they will never be empty, because all of the memories and love we have from her and for her will help us to continue on.

As time goes on and we think on this life that we were allowed to share, be thankful to God that He allowed our paths to cross.

Love forever, Mar-greet

# September 23, 2009

Educator, mentor, friend. These are just a few of the words that describe Gladys Bailey. She has been a major part of my life for most of my life. She was always there to encourage and support not only me but all of the members of Edward Webb Presbyterian Church; a church that she served faithfully and with distinction to the very end. A true bulwark of our church.

A wonderful daughter, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. I will miss her tremendously. But as hard as it is for me to let her go I know that she was truly ready to go and be with the Lord and reunite with loved ones who have gone on be for her. Her generosity, thoughtfulness, kindness, and goodness will serves as an inspiration to me always.

God Bless you Gladys Bailey and Happy Homegoing.

Teresa Roberts

## Life's Lesson

You see, It took Big Mamma to recognize the richness of a life fully lived. Where other and us may fell sadness, it was her who clarifies the process of dying as a spectacular close to a long and faithful life. We'd held that scene in our minds many time since, reflecting on the perseverance through so much of her life and what she taught us about pressing on. Even when the tide of life events arrived us threaten to pull us under.

What was her secret of long Gervaity?

What was her secret of Perseverance?

What was her secret to Pushing Onward and Upward?

How do you keep the faith? When you feel betrayed and belittled are even burden down. I believe that the lesson that "Big Mamma" taught us and others, not only how to survive Life's Hardship's, but she thrived in the midst of them. In Hebrews, Paul tell us to run the race set before us and not grow weary and keep the faith, to view the prize at the end is more worthy than all of our efforts and advances. I have no doubt who stands at the forefront of the group in her race. With the lessons of our lives she taught us to never give up the spirit of hope and endurance and with our Heavenly destination in mind, to enjoy every step along the way. The memory of "Big Mamma's" passing contains a lesson for all of us today. His mercies are every morning "Thank You" for his mercies in the most difficult days. His word reminds us, however, intense our pain of struggle may be there is nothing compared with the full substance of Heavens purpose in us for now, and the promise that we can REST FOREVER. "Big Mamma" you lived the truth. You truly will be missed, but you will always be with us in spirit.

We love you "Big Mamma" now and forever, Spencer Family and Staff

"Let's close the book but remember the story"

Safely Home

I am home in Heaven, dear ones; Oh, so happy and bright! There is perfect joy and beauty in this everlasting light.

All the pain and grief is over, every restless tossing passed; I am now at peace forever, safely home in Heaven at last.

Did you wonder I so calmly trod the valley of the shade? Oh, but Jesus' love illumined every dark and fearful glade.

And He came Himself to meet me in that way so hard to tread; And with Jesus' arm to lean on, could I have one doubt or dread?

Then you must nor grieve so sorely, for I love you dearly still; Try to look beyond earth's shadows, pray to trust our Father's Will.

There is work still waiting for you, so you must not idly stand: Do it now, while life remaineth—you shall rest in Jesus' land.

When that work is all completed, He will gently call you Home; Oh, the rapture of that meeting, oh, the joy to see you come!



## Family Acknowledgement

We are grateful for the many expression of sympathy, deeds of kindness, as well as for your presence, your prayers and your love. We wish to express our deep and sincere appreciation to everyone who remembers us. Special thanks to Dr. Roger Kerley, Dr. Waters, Dr. Kelly Flippin, and their staff, and the dedicated staff of Mountain Valley Transitions Support Program and the Mountain Valley Hospice & Palliative Care for their medical support, guidance, love and care provided to "Big Mama" during her illness. A heartfelt thanks to Mrs. Alfredia Gaines for being with us through the good times and bad, forever answering the call, no matter what time of day or night, and making sure things were done right for "Big Mama" whether in the hospital or at home.

The Family of— Mrs. Gladys Bernice Weaver Neal Bailey 724 Rockford Street Mount Airy, North Carolina 27030