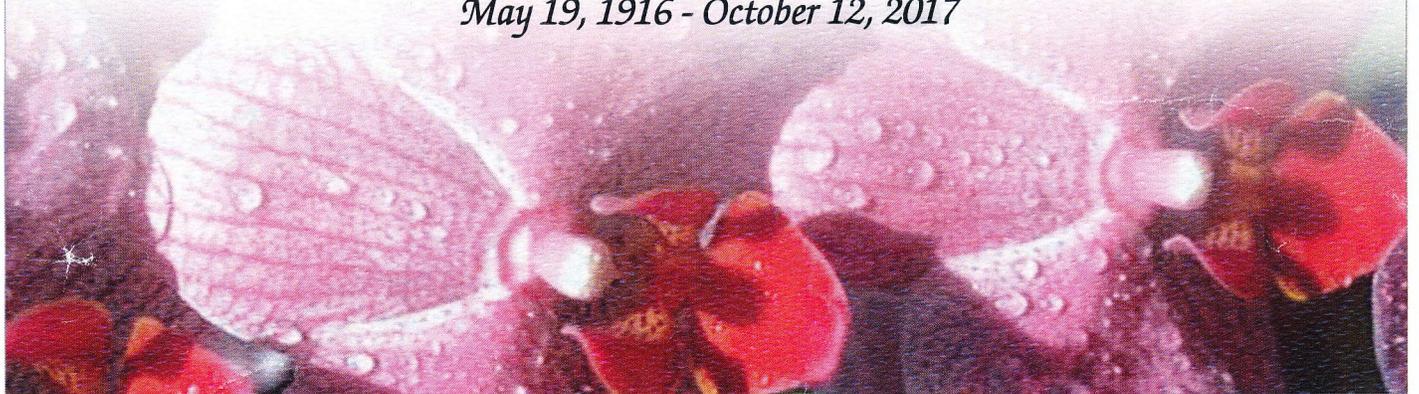


THE CELEBRATION  
*of*  
A LIFE WELL LIVED



*Divian Bridgesforth Smith*

*May 19, 1916 - October 12, 2017*



# *Vivian Louise Bridgeforth Smith*

Vivian Louise Bridgeforth Smith was born on May 19, 1916, in Limestone County in the home of her grandparents, George and Jennie Bridgeforth. The daughter of Bascom Bridgeforth and Rassic Townsend Bridgeforth, she was born in the family home which was located on the Tennessee River in Tanner, Alabama, in the area called Beulah Land.

Her grandparents, George and Jennie, were born into slavery and became prosperous landowners and farmers. They are the beginning of the Limestone County Bridgeforth lineage.

Vivian was the fourth child born to Rassic and Bascom Bridgeforth. She was one of six children and outlived them all. She was very, very close to her parents and was devastated at their deaths: Rassic in 1963 and Bascom in 1974. Recently when asked "What did you think of your mother?" she responded, "Oh Mama was everything."

She lived much of her life in Alabama and never wanted to leave although she did for 29 years when her husband, the late Ural Smith, Sr., found work in Indianapolis. There they lived and reared two children, Ural Smith, Jr. and Shirley Ann Smith Lynch. During the time they lived in Indianapolis, she made frequent trips to visit the farm and arranged for her children to spend summers there. She delighted in those summers—the family times spent with her brothers, Ember and William Frost who resided there, her sister, Bessie, who returned often from Cleveland with her family and, most of all her parents. Long mourning the loss of her two other brothers, Townsend and Price who had died years earlier, she made it her business to annually decorate their gravesites as well as those of her grandparents, located behind Lakeview United Methodist Church.

As soon as retirement years approached, she was determined to move back to Alabama. In 1983, they built a home and settled on the land of her birth. She was overjoyed to move back to the area surrounded by her family where she could manage her property, plant fruit trees, garden, and prepare food for her children and their children, which she was avid about doing. Many a day she and Ural Sr. would sit in their chairs, breaking green beans and slicing apples and filling freezer bags to be ready when the children came. She cared for Ural Smith, Sr. when his health declined in 1995 until his death in 2000.

Without a formal education, she negotiated the lease of the land she inherited from her father, bought adjoining acreage when it became available and made investments enabling them to pay cash for every home they purchased. Her first home is still located on Church Street in Decatur and they subsequently bought and sold two homes in Indianapolis and lastly built their retirement home in Beulah Land. That home was destroyed in the April 27, 2011, tornado. Living alone at the time at the age of 94, she was thrown from the house along with her favorite rocking chair which landed on top of her. She constantly praised the Lord for allowing her to survive. As was her way, she insisted on re-building to ensure that her descendants would have a home on the land formerly held by her grandparents.

Recently residing in Riverside Senior Living in Decatur, Alabama, she regaled the staff and residents with her many recollections—some true and some not quite so.

She is survived by her son, Ural Smith, Jr. (Lelia) Tanner, AL; daughter, Shirley Ann Smith Lynch (Jesse) Indianapolis, IN; three grandchildren, Melissa Smith Turner, (Timothy), Marietta GA, Judge Sheryl Lynch and Cory Lynch, Indianapolis, IN; seven great-grandchildren, Arianna Lynch, Cory Lynch, II, Alexis Turner DeWet (Logan), Atlantis Lynch, Aaron Bridgeforth Turner, Joshua Bridgeforth Turner and Zachary Bridgeforth Turner.

# Order of Service

1:00 P.M.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2017

## Lakeview United Methodist Church

9130 Lucas Ferry Road ♦ Tanner, Alabama 35671

PASTOR DENNIS JONES, OFFICIANT

REVEREND WILLIE BYRD, EULOGIST



Processional

Selection ..... Choir

Welcome and Prayer ..... Pastor Dennis Jones

Scripture Reading

Old Testament ..... Mrs. Barbara Bridgeforth Long

New Testament ..... Mrs. Delois Bridgeforth Peoples

Solo ..... Ms. Denise Williams

Acknowledgements ..... Ms. Celesta Bridgeforth

Obituary ..... Read Silently

Eulogy ..... Reverend Willie Byrd

*Pastor, Grace Missionary Baptist Church*

Selection ..... Choir

Closing Prayer ..... Joshua Bridgeforth Turner

Mortician ..... Royal Funeral Home, Inc. - Mason Chapel

Recessional

*Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates.*

*-Proverbs 31:31*

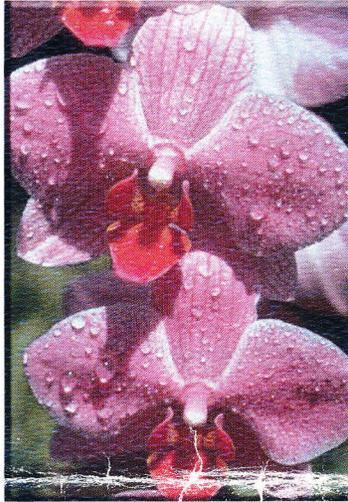
---

## *Flower Bearers*

Melissa Smith Turner ♦ Sheryl Lynch ♦ Alexis Turner DeWet  
Arianna Lynch ♦ Atlantis Lynch

## *Callbearers*

Cory Lynch ♦ Aaron Turner ♦ Joshua Turner ♦ Zachary Turner  
Carlton Bridgeforth ♦ Kyle Bridgeforth ♦ Cory Lynch, II



801  
At  
Bridgeforth Dr  
Athens, AL  
3  
Mrs. Johnson  
Private

## *Interment*

### *Bridgeforth Cemetery*

LAKEVIEW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
Tanner, Alabama

## *Acknowledgement*

The family of Vivian Bridgeforth Smith acknowledges all expressions of sympathy shown during this difficult time in our lives. We are grateful for the cards, flowers, visits and all of the many acts of kindness, especially your prayers, shown during our time of mourning. Your thoughtfulness is appreciated and will never be forgotten.



FINAL ARRANGEMENTS ENTRUSTED TO:

*Royal Funeral Home, Mason Chapel*  
718 Brownsferry Street Athens, Alabama 35611  
256-232-4822 [www.royalfh.com](http://www.royalfh.com)

*"When only memories remain, let them be beautiful."*

---