

Mrs. Lula Mae Gaines Harris

Mrs. Lula Mae Gaines Harris was born on November 29, 1927, in Sumter County, Georgia, to the late Mr. Ben Hargrove and the late Mrs. Inez Gaines Roberts.

She received her early education at Welcome Baptist Church School in Sumter County.

At an early age, Lula joined Old Corinth Baptist Church, where she faithfully served for many years. She was a dedicated member of the Usher Ministry and served for a time as President of the Board of Ushers. Lula was also a Life Member of Habakkuk Chapter #70, Order of the Eastern Star.

She was employed for 37 years in housekeeping at Georgia Southwestern College, now known as Georgia Southwestern State University. Her strong work ethic and commitment were evident throughout her years of service.

Affectionately known as “Bunch,” Lula loved her family and friends deeply. She had a special gift for storytelling, warming any room with her wit and humor as she shared cherished memories of loved ones who had passed decades ago. Lula was truly a living library of oral Black family history — a keeper of stories, lessons, and laughter that will forever echo in the hearts of those who were blessed to hear them.

On Tuesday, February 10, 2026, at the age of 98, Lula peacefully went home to be with her Savior.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Mr. James Harris; her son, Mr. Johnny Lee Mann; her brother, Mr. Richard Robert; and her sisters, Ms. Ozzie Mae Cooper and Ms. Betty Jean Singletary.

She leaves to cherish her memory: her sister, Ms. Eutha Dee Foster of Bronx, New York; her sisters-in-law: Mrs. Berdia (Otis) White, Ms. Rena Mae Walker and Ms. Velma Harris; her brother-in-law, Mr. Anno (Betty) Harris, all of Americus, Georgia; five grandchildren: Mr. Johnny Eugene Mann, Mr. Alphonso (Joy) Mann, Mr. Benjamin Mann, Mrs. Linda (Paul) McFadden, all of Newark, New Jersey, and Ms. Paula Jones of Americus, Georgia; a host of great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and cousins, including a devoted cousin, Mr. Johnnie Lee Gaines; along with other relatives and friends.

She also leaves behind devoted friends: Ms. Betty Shields, Ms. Mary Shields, Ms. Betty Newsome, Mrs. Josephine Cooper of Americus, Georgia, and Ms. Addie Pearl Josey of South Carolina. Her church family and her caregivers at Perfect Care also survive to honor her life and legacy.