

### *Pallbearers*

Gerald Smith  
Manu Smith  
Kenneth McCann II

Aaron Bessant  
Darryl Bessant  
Harry Turner

### *Honorary Pallbearers*

Corey McCann  
Brandon McCann  
Kenneth McCann

James Smith  
William Bessant II

### *Flower Bearers*

Friends of the Family

### *Interment*

Detroit Memorial Park - East  
4280 E. 13 Mile Road, Warren, MI

### *Arrangements Entrusted To*

### *Swanson Funeral Home, Inc.*

#### Northwest Chapel

14751 W. McNichols  
Detroit, MI 48235  
(313) 272-9000

#### Boulevard Chapel

806 E. Grand Blvd.  
Detroit, MI 48207  
(313) 923-1122

### *Acknowledgment Of Appreciation*

The family of the late **Viola Gertrude Bessant McCann** would like to thank everyone for their expressions of love, so beautifully demonstrated by your prayers, cards, comforting words and other acts of kindness. Please remember each of us in prayer. A more personal acknowledgment will be made very soon.

God Bless You and We Love You.

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July 8, 1918 - December 13, 1998

## *Service Of Memory* *Celebrating The Life Of*



## *Viola Gertrude* *Bessant McCann*

Service to be held

**Saturday, December 19, 1998**  
1:30 P.M. Family Hour • 2:00 P.M. Funeral

In the chapel of the  
**Swanson Funeral Home, Inc.**  
14751 W. McNichols Ave. • Detroit, MI 48221

Rev. Rodney W. Parnell, Pastor  
Jehovah Jireh Baptist Church  
*Officiating*



# *Viola Gertrude Bessant McCann*



**Viola Gertrude Bessant McCann** was born on July 8, 1918 in St. Mary's, Georgia to the late union of Lawrence and Nora Bessant.

During her early childhood, the family moved to Waycross, Georgia. As she matured into her teen years, she developed excellent culinary skills, which she became well known for later in life, and was designated as the cook for the family. Viola attended Central High School in Waycross, Georgia, where she was well recognized for her mathematical genius. She later enrolled in Albany Normal College and was a student for almost two years.

While education was important, what Viola desired most of all was her own family and children. However, the doctors at that time, told her mother that having children would not be possible due to her medical problems.

During her early adult life, she relocated to Detroit, Michigan, where she worked in factories during World

War II. Viola was also a young activist, and she became heavily engaged in the integration of the Sojourner Truth Projects, which at that time required the assistance of the Detroit Police Department.

In 1945, Viola met and was united in holy matrimony to Frank McCann and to her great surprise and joy her prayers were answered as, over the next 11 years she gave birth to five children.

Viola dedicated her entire life to God and her family, and she loved people. She had a motto for life, that simply said, "It was better to give than to receive." Whatever Viola had, she would freely give if she knew someone else was in need. And give...she did!! Whether it was money, food, clothes, babysitting or spiritual advice.

In her later years, Viola dedicated herself to increasing her faith in God, through much meditation and prayer. She was an avid reader of the word of God, and knew Jesus Christ as her Lord and personal Savior. Viola's faith in God, as well as her reliance upon the word of God, certainly enabled her to contend with the illness that challenged her since 1997. For Viola never complained, she never stopped giving nor did she fail to exhibit a genuine concern for others right up until the afternoon of December 13, 1998, when she was summoned by her heavenly father from labor to her reward.

She leaves to rejoice in her memory one son, Kenneth McCann; two daughters, Ina McCann and LaVerne Smith; one son-in-law, James Smith; one daughter-in-law, Lenore McCann; two stepdaughters, Velma Jackson and Frankie Harris; three sisters, Jannie Miller, Ethel Mills, and Louise Cone; two sisters-in-law, Ina Bessant and Gerrie Bessant; one brother-in-law, Rev. Benjamin Cone Jr.; seven grandchildren, Gerald, Manu, Kenneth Jr., Maizah, Katrina, Corey, Brandon; two great-grandchildren, Kenicka and Kenneth III; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and special friends.