



## Mrs. Lavada G Williams-Gutierrez

November 13, 1929 - February 4, 2017

Lavada Georgie Addie Perry was born on November 13, 1929 to her beloved parents the late Bishop Chester Allen Arthur Perry, Sr and Lavada Sue Perry in Oakland, California.

She was the fourth child born to this union of five children, all who preceded her in death (Clarabelle, Odell, Emma Lee and Chester Perry, Jr.). In 1934 her parents moved to Richmond California and raised their family there. They became members of McGlothen Temple COGIC, where she was very active in her father's mission work, which would later become a hidden passion of hers.

With the inspiration of the Holy Spirit and through a belief in the power of prayer, she witnessed how her father lead the members of his church to pray and fast for the permit to build a church. Thus began the extension of her parent's commitment to Christ in the building of Perry Temple Church of God in Christ in 1948 at 3443 Market Street, Oakland, California.

Lavada graduated from Richmond High School and in 1949 married Roy Willis Williams, Jr (who proceeded her in death) and to this union eight children were added.

In 1953 they purchased their first home on Balfour Avenue. As a young couple, they sometimes struggled to pay the mortgage, but God always provided so that they would always have the resources to welcome the saints and many friends for meals and housing. In the early sixties, Roy and Lavada were especially honored to welcome into their home the founder of the Church of God In Christ; Bishop C.H. Mason who further blessed this home as only he could. This home of 63 years was also the very place the Lord peacefully called Lavada home early in the morning on February 4, 2017.

Lavada proved to be a unique individual with amazing commitment and focus. There seemed to be nothing she could not do and if she didn't want to do something, she committed to that, as well. Her smile and positive attitude many times was fuel to those lives she touched - letting people know you can make it and her helping hand would help

you get there.

She was a savvy businesswoman and eventually ventured into the field of owning real estate. Throughout her life she has owned numerous properties for the sole purpose of providing housing for her family and others. She did this while also working her way up at the United States Postal Service. Inspired by the work of Christ to feed and clothe those in need, she also taught her children the importance of extending help to those in need. This did not just include a free meal or an encouraging word, she gave monetarily to help many organizations, churches, local and world missions, so the ministry of Christ could carry on.

Throughout her life, her passion for ministry outweighed any interest of public recognition. However In 1981 she became and was recognize as a United States Inventor when she obtained a U.S. Patent for a specialized Food Container invention, certified by the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks.

One of her great passions in life was caring for many people, in whatever way they needed. She just wanted to touch as many lives as she could, whether it was a family member or stranger she gave of herself for others.

In approximately 1993, Mother Louise Perrodine, noticed the many ways she was involved in ministry and her passion for the ministry of helps and missions. She encouraged her to obtain her Evangelist Missionary license in the Church of God in Christ, which she did. She felt any and all obstacles could be overcome with prayer, hard work and persistence, which was evident as she

lead projects such as raising money for the widows of the church, personally feeding the hungry, to purchasing property to construct Perry Temple's first and only much needed parking lot.

On November 15, 2014 Mayor Jean Quan officially declared that day as Lavada G. (Perry) Williams-Gilltrerez Day, for her work and commitment to the city of Oakland.

While her first Job was at the local cannery , her long-term vocation was completed as the Superintendent of Registry, at the United States Postal Service (she elected to work at night so she could be there when her children left and came home from school and also so she could be in attendance at their school functions, etc.). For 34 years, she successfully managed employees and earned everyone's respect as a strong leader within the USPS. Eventually, four of her children followed in her footsteps and began careers working and retiring from the postal service.

In 1990 she married her best friend Rufus (Dartello) Gutierrez, affectionately known as Dart.

Dartello proved to be a devoted, loving husband. He loved her and her entire family and they loved him too. Dartello was there through many joys and sorrow of family life and all who knew him loved how he loved Lavada. They traveled the world together, whether it was camping with the Happy Rollers or on one of their many cruises to tropical islands or Paris France, London England and even parts of Canada, they were together enjoying life, together.

Through the years, the family grew and enjoyed family reunion trips, from Disneyland to annual trips to R-Ranch at the Lake, and of course the annual Christmas-Eve dinner. Lavada enjoyed life and remained a strong matriarch in making sure the family stayed together. With God's grace and her example of unconditional love, all families anticipated spending time with each other.

At church, she was known as Mother Gutierrez. Through business, she was known as Mrs. Gutierrez. Other names, of course, were Mom, Mamma, Mother, and Granctlmother. The most cherished name that she was most proud of was - The Great Mother! And to her family, she will always be The Great Mother. Her greatness was not just in her words, but also in her actions. Her greatness was not just in her ability to recite and expound on scripture, but in the sermon she lived while here on earth.

Since her passing, the family has been trying to grasp their own sense of transition to life, on earth, without such a phenomenal woman and matriarch to lead the family. She often ended the phone calls with "See you tomorrow, Lord Bless." As everyone moved away from the city, or just became involved in family life, she would end phone calls with "I love you much" and we would respond, "I love you more." Now, the Great Mother is enjoying her Great Reward. As she rests in Peace, we know that she leaves a legacy of hope, determination and belief in oneself and abilities despite circumstance.

In this garden of life, she touched many through the gift of giving, listening and prayer. May her legacy continue to remind us that we are not far removed from God's presence. Made in the image of God, she reminds us that life's challenges are only an impetus for finding greater purpose in God.

She leaves to cherish many fond memories, a loving husband of 27 years, Rufus Dartello Gutierrez, Her half sister; Eunice Perry-Severe of Canada, Her children; Roy W. Williams,

111, of Berkeley, CA; Gerald J. Kelley (Perine) of Killeen, TX, Gwendolyn McClure of Garner, NC, Linda

D. Chatman of Oakland CA, Lavada M. Thompson (Ronald. Sr) of Castro Valley , CA. Phillip M.

Kelley of Pittsburgh, CA, Celeste D. Bosley of Sacramento, CA, and Chester A.A. Williams of Berkeley, CA. 40 grandchildren, 13 great grandchildren, many cousins, nieces.nephews, and a host of other relatives, friends and the Perry Temple Church Family.

# Cemetery

---

**Rolling Hills Memorial Park**  
4100 Hilltop Drive  
Richmond, CA, 94803

# Events

---

**FEB 11 Visitation 11:00AM - 04:00PM**  
Fouche's Hudson Funeral Home  
3665 Telegraph Avenue, Oakland, CA, US, 94609

**FEB 13 Service 10:00AM**  
Perry Temple COGIC  
3443 Market St., Oakland, CA, US, 94608

# Comments

---



“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



**Celeste Bosley** - August 24, 2017 at 12:43 PM

---



“ Crystal Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mrs. Lavada G Williams-Gutierrez.



February 10, 2017 at 11:30 PM

---



“ Cousins Belinda, Tanisha, Aaron and Morgan purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Mrs. Lavada G Williams-Gutierrez.



**Cousins Belinda, Tanisha, Aaron and Morgan** - February 10, 2017 at 04:50 PM