



Mrs. Odessa Hill

June 1, 1926 - November 16, 2017

Odessa Hill was born on June 1, 1926 in Fordyce, Arkansas to parents, Frazell Harrell and Theola Hammock. Theola later joined hearts with Barry Todd, the two married and reared their family of three children. Having received Christ at a young age, Odessa and family attended the Greater Pleasant Hill Methodist Church, where Odessa's spiritual roots and foundation were laid.

The middle child of three, Odessa was very outgoing and quite independent. She loved adventure even as a young child through elementary to her high school years. Once finally graduating from Peake High School in Arkadelphia, Arkansas, Odessa took her first major venture and headed west to California where she served in the Youth Corps at the Naval Air. This experience would be one she would never forget; in fact it proved to Odessa just how independent she could be to make it on her own and she absolutely loved it!

Upon return to Arkansas, Odessa joined in holy matrimony her childhood sweetheart, Robert Ellis Hill Jr. of Hope, Arkansas. A young vibrant couple, Odessa enjoyed being a wife and a mother but also took great pride in being active within the Fordyce Social Club of her hometown. The Fordyce Social Club worked to create a strong community bond and made sure everyone stayed connected.

When Odessa relocated to California with her husband and two young children, she fully embraced her role as a mother and wife. The Hill family grew and blessed the world with five more beautiful children, making them a family of nine. With so much love, Odessa shifted her house into a home for all. There wasn't anyone who was a stranger to Odessa. She literally had an open door policy. Entering into the Hill home was sure to shower you with a fun time, some good home-cooked food, and even a life lesson or two. Odessa ensured her children participated in various activities. She oftentimes would be found shuffling her schedule, making sure not to miss what her children had going on.

One would think, what kind of woman could be a homemaker and still find time for self and a little fun, well Odessa did. A wife and mother of seven, but her personal self-care was the first order of business. She kept her hair and nails done, even until her dying day. And when Odessa wanted to really take it up a notch, she'd connect with her friends and travel a bit on a boat cruise or an occasional social gathering. To most, they were known as the Golden Girls.

Odessa continued her walk with Christ and joined the Trinity Baptist Church of Oakland, CA, and following the leadership of the late Pastor Arthur Moore, Odessa became a member of the King Solomon Baptist Church of Oakland, CA. Odessa remained there until 2016 when she joined her eldest daughter in fellowship at the Cornerstone Baptist Church of Oakland, CA under the leadership of Reverend Dr. Lester L. Cannon Sr., Pastor. Odessa loved the Cornerstone Fellowship and was honored with two living legend awards when turning ages 90 and 91.

With a smile that could light up a room, a warmth that could sooth the coldest of hearts, and a personality that could bring joy to all, Odessa was multigenerational, having lived over nine decades. She loved and could relate oh so well to even her grand and great grandchildren—whom she adored as her "rose buds." Odessa was affectionately known as Mama—for she truly nurtured many.

Such great strength and wisdom, Odessa would often say, "Scorn not the person who is down today, but give them a smile for their sorrow, for this old world is a cruel old world and you may be down tomorrow." Like Odessa's favorite flower, the tulip, her life blossomed in such a beautiful way that every season she brought about a refreshing as if it was spring.

A life well lived and a legacy to be remembered; Odessa is proceeded in death by her parents; Frazell Harrell, Theola Hammock-Todd (Barry Todd), husband; Robert Ellis Hill Jr., son; Terry Hill Sr., sister; Brazill Jiles, grandsons; Hakai Thurston and Keith Barber Jr., great-grandson; Anthony West Jr., aunt; May Allen Winfrey, favorite cousin; Clifton Hammock, and nieces; Shree and Dianne Cook, and lifelong friend; Phyllis Nutting. She leaves to cherish, her children; Walter Mitchell (Diane), Sandra Washington (James), Muriel Hill, Shelton Hill, Sheila Sadler, Roderick Ray Hill (Gina), grandchildren; Tijuan Nobles (James), Walter Mitchell Jr., Yolanda Mitchell, Javance Mitchell, and Andrea Collier, Adrian Barber (Janell), Rodney Williams, LaRhonda Threats (Archie), Terry A. Hill, and Chanee Hill, Asia, Roderick Hill Jr., and Manshae Hill; 22 great-grandchildren, three great-great grandchildren, one brother; Arthur Todd (Charles Sue) of Arkadelphia, Arkansas, brother-in law; Robert Thomas Hill (Sharon), sister-in law; Barbara Merrida, special cousins; Bernice McJimpson, Eloise Hammock, Pamela and Rickey Thompson, god-daughters; Annette Simmons and Kristoria "Sissy" Brice and a special recognition to her wonderful caregivers; Lorinetta Stewart, Kathy Wright, and Sara Lemus

Cemetery

St. Joseph's Cemetery

2540 Church Lane

San Pablo, CA, 94806

Events

DEC **Service** 11:00AM

1

Cornerstone Baptist Church

3535 38th ave, Oakland, CA, US, 94619