



Mr. Lester Lee Gardner

May 13, 1935 - February 28, 2017

God is the Liberator of those who freedom cannot release, the Physician of those who medicine cannot cure and the Comforter of those who time cannot comfort.

On Tuesday, February 28, 2017 at 12:35 pm, the Liberator, Physician and Comforter allowed the death angel to enter the home of Lester Lee Gardner and permitted his storm to pass over him, releasing him from his pain and suffering.

Lester Lee Gardner, the second child of the late Bishop James W. and Viola Hilliard Gardner, was born on May 13, 1935 in Brooklyn, New York. He attended Public School #35 where his teachers saw his gift of music and he was selected to attend the prestigious High School of Music and Arts in New York. After graduating from high school he attended City College of New York and received a Bachelor of Arts degree in music. While in college, he played with the New York Symphony Orchestra which included several performances at Carnegie Hall. After graduation, Lester worked for the New York State Department of Labor and continued his education to pursue his Master's Degree in music. While pursuing his Master's degree, he was drafted into the United States Army where he was recognized for his musical talent and became a part of the Entertainment Division, giving him the opportunity to travel extensively while entertaining the military troops and civilians in Europe

and the United States. After his tour, he received an honorable discharge and returned to the New York State Department of Labor. He worked there until his retirement.

While in Brooklyn, New York, Lester was a member of Saint Mary Church of Christ, Disciples of Christ, where his father was the Pastor. He served as the Director of Music. Under Lester's direction, the Angelic Choir received many accolades and appeared on Gospel Time, a television program. Choir members knew of his sincere dedication to his music and they took rehearsals very seriously.

On one of his trips to North Carolina, he was introduced to Zenora (Zee) and that was the beginning of a beautiful relationship. They were married in New York and later made their home in Greenville, NC.

Lester joined Sycamore Hill Missionary Baptist Church under the leadership of Dr. Howard W. Parker, Jr. He served in the music department as pianist and he regularly attended Sunday School.

Lester enjoyed life and music was his antidote during his illness. He worked hard and encouraged others to include music as a part of their lives. He felt that music expressed the words that cannot be spoken.

He leaves to cherish his memory his devoted and loving wife, Zenora, two daughters, Terina and Darylana Gardner of Columbia, South Carolina, two sons, Charles Langley of New York and Walter Bolden of Greenville, North Carolina; one Grandson, Karrington Gardner of Columbia, South Carolina: one brother, James Gardner, Jr. (Selma) of Teaneck, New Jersey, one sister, Barbara Gardner-Brown (Wheeler) of Greenville, North Carolina, one Aunt, Mrs. Emma Gardner, of Warsaw, North Carolina one sister-in-law, Gayle Hardy of Greenville, North Carolina and many nieces, nephews, cousins and

friends.

For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands eternal in the heavens.
(2 Corinthians 5: 1)

Cemetery Details

Homestead Memorial Gardens

4251 E. 10th Street
Greenville, NC 27858

Previous Events

Service

MAR 5. 1:30 PM (ET)

Sycamore Hill Missionary Baptist Church
1001 Hooker Road
Greenville, NC 27834

Tribute Wall



“ *Mr. Lester Lee Gardner*

October 06, 2023 at 05:52 AM



“ *Selma Gardner lit a candle in memory of Mr. Lester Lee Gardner*



selma gardner - March 14, 2017 at 02:03 PM



“ *Selma Gardner sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Lester Lee Gardner*



Selma Gardner - March 14, 2017 at 12:45 PM



X

selma gardner - March 14, 2017 at 01:06 PM



*To The Family of Lester,
May each of take comfort in knowing that Lester has ascended into
Heaven as an angel. Now each of have him your special to watch over
you.*

*Love, sister-in-law.
Selma Gardner*

selma gardner - March 14, 2017 at 01:51 PM

SG

To The Gardner Family,

May each of you take comfort.in knowing that Lester,.has ascended into Heaven as a lovely Angel. Now each of you.have his special.Angelship of watching.over you.

Love,

Selma Gardner (Sister-In-Law)

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selma gardner - March 14, 2017 at 02:13 PM

CS

“ *Congleton Funeral Home And Staff sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Lester Lee Gardner*



Congleton Funeral Home and Staff - March 11, 2017 at 03:11 PM

JY

“ *My deepest condolences to the family.*



James"Boot" Yarrell - March 06, 2017 at 06:18 PM

JD

“ *So sorry to hear the loss of your brother, our thoughts are with you and your family. Wishing you and your family peace to bring comfort, courage to face the days ahead and loving memories to forever hold in your heart. From the Davis Family*

Johnny Davis - March 05, 2017 at 11:39 AM

SP

“ Such a joy to have known Cousin Lester -- articulate, meticulous in appearance and presentation, just a real "Gardner" man. We treasure his legacy and honor his memory by living the remainder of our lives to the fullest with dignity and humility.

The Gardner-Pritchard Family

Sarah Gardner Pritchard - March 04, 2017 at 09:01 PM



“ Brother Lester Gardner was a faithful member of Sunday School who shared his biblical knowledge with each of us during the discussion of the lesson. I will be indebted to him for making me a better teacher. He was always ready to challenge and correct me as a teacher which made me better. However, I will always remember him for insisting on being called Brother Gardner instead of Mr. Gardner. He told me that we are brother and sister in Christ therefore we should address each other as brother and sister. He told me that brother and sister denotes love between people in which Christ commands us to do which is love one another as Christ as love us. Brother Gardner truly was my brother in Christ and I will always cherish his friendship but most of all cherish his brotherly love shown to me every time we interact.



Anthony Miller - March 04, 2017 at 05:06 PM

SG

“ Shirley Gardner sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Lester Lee Gardner



Shirley Gardner - March 04, 2017 at 10:19 AM

GD

“ *Gerelene Fleming Dixon lit a candle in memory of Mr. Lester Lee Gardner*



Gerelene Fleming Dixon - March 04, 2017 at 05:54 AM

TL

“ *the Perrys: Dorothy Jamaal Tammy, Logan, & Langdon purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Mr. Lester Lee Gardner.*



the Perrys: Dorothy Jamaal Tammy, Logan, & Langdon -
March 03, 2017 at 02:29 PM

EG

“ *Edna Gardner-Payton lit a candle in memory of Mr. Lester Lee Gardner*



Edna Gardner-Payton - March 03, 2017 at 01:34 PM

NT

“ *Nephew Terrence lit a candle in memory of Mr. Lester Lee Gardner*



Nephew Terrence - March 03, 2017 at 08:48 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mr. Lester Lee Gardner.*



March 03, 2017 at 08:46 AM



“ *Belinda Gardner-Bryant lit a candle in memory of Mr. Lester Lee Gardner*



Belinda Gardner-Bryant - March 02, 2017 at 06:56 PM



“ *Joi Gardner lit a candle in memory of Mr. Lester Lee Gardner*



Joi Gardner - March 02, 2017 at 05:13 PM



“ *My thoughts, prayers and much love to you Zee and the entire Gardner Family. May God continue his many Blessings now and always.*

Shirley Gardner

Shirley Gardner - March 02, 2017 at 03:11 PM

HW

“ We extend our deepest condolences to the family! I am deeply saddened to hear of brother Gardner's passing.

He was so inspirational in my early years as a contralto lead singer. He pushed and encouraged me so many times. Each time he saw me, he'd ask, "has your singing range changed?"

He will be missed by many!!

Helena Williams and Mary J Perry-Harris

Helena Williams - March 01, 2017 at 09:43 PM