



## Mrs. Lillian Minor Bell

July 14, 1936 - June 13, 2025

Lillian Marie Minor Bell, daughter of the late Abie and Arbell Minor, was born on July 14, 1936, in Edward, North Carolina. She was the youngest of twelve children. On Friday, June 13, 2025, Lillian peacefully departed this earthly life and entered eternal rest.

Lillian accepted Christ at an early age and began her spiritual journey as a member of Bethel Missionary Baptist Church in Edward, NC. She and her brother would walk to Sunday school, where she also sang in the church choir. Over the years, she remained devoted to her faith, attending Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church regularly and faithfully returning to her home church every 2nd Sunday. After relocating back to Beaufort County, she frequently visited other churches in the community.

She rededicated her life to the Lord and served faithfully on the Usher Board, as treasurer, and as a dedicated volunteer for various programs including the Kitchen Committee, Harvest Day, Women's Day, and many others, until her health declined.

Lillian was a proud graduate of S.W. Snowden High School, Class of 1954, in Aurora, NC, and went on to attend Elizabeth City State University. She later worked with commitment and distinction for 22 years as a Civil Service employee at the Marine Corps Air Station in Cherry Point, NC.

She was united in marriage to Mahue Smith, and from this union came four beloved children: Kerry, Tyrone, Jerome, and Lenette.

Lillian was a woman of grace, elegance, and creativity. She found joy in

cooking—especially her signature seven-layer pineapple coconut cake—sewing, decorating, flower arranging, and tending to her flower garden. A perfectionist by nature, she took special pride in her ironing—everything had to have a crease—and in keeping a spotless home. She had a deep love for scriptures, enjoyed listening to gospel music, and delighted in personal care, from her styled hair, defined make-up and polished nails to her favorite lipstick and perfume. Her show of endearment was often shown by saying, “I love you more” or “I love you to pieces!”

Lillian’s wisdom was often shared through memorable sayings: “Don’t take no wooden nickels” (Don’t accept anything that doesn’t add value to your life). “Every closed eye ain’t sleep.” (Things are not always as they appear to be). “A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush.” (What you have is more valuable than what you might gain). “Actions speak louder than words.” (Believe what people do, not just what they say).

On July 21, 1979, she married the love of her life, Donald Rea Bell. Their life together was filled with joy and affection, and she lovingly embraced the nickname “Sassy Mae”—a reflection of her vibrant spirit and outspoken nature. Donald preceded her in death on March 29, 2006.

She was preceded in death by her son, Kerry Hue Smith; grandson, Deon King Smith; brothers, Jay Gould, Otis, Napoleon, and Monroe, and sisters, Addie, Madeline, and Ethel Berniece.

She leaves to cherish her memories her children, Tyrone Smith of Edward, NC, Jerome Smith of Greenville, NC, and Lenette Chapman (Irvin) of Winterville, NC; 14 grandchildren; 26 great-grandchildren; 2 great-great-grandchildren; bonus children, Val and Bruce; bonus grandchildren, Brandon and Kevin; god-daughter, Gail Moore; god-grandson, Christian Moore; a host of nieces and nephews from Beaufort and Pamlico counties; a special friend, Serena Parmely; a cherished daughter-in-love, Cynthia Coffey. Her legacy will live on in the hearts of all who knew and loved her.

# Cemetery Details

## Minor Family Cemetery

Edward, NC

# Previous Events

## Walk Thru

JUN 20. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Congleton Funeral Home and Cremations  
3205 E. 10th Street  
Greenville, NC 27858

## Viewing/Visitation

JUN 21. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

New Bern Eastern Missionary Baptist Association  
885 NC 306 Highway N.  
Grantsboro, NC 28529

## Celebration of Life Service

JUN 21. 3:00 PM (ET)

New Bern Eastern Missionary Baptist Association  
885 NC 306 Highway N.  
Grantsboro, NC 28529

# Tribute Wall



“ *View and Download the Funeral Program*

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**Congleton Memorial Mortuary** - June 21, 2025 at 03:24 PM

HP

“ *It's so hard to lose a Mom. In your memories you'll always see her smile and hear her laugh. In your heart you'll always keep her special love.*

*Wishing you and your family God's Comfort and Peace,*

*Hazel P. Smith and Family*

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**Hazel P.Smith** - June 23, 2025 at 12:27 PM

YM

“ *Mrs. Lillian was such a special and lovely lady. She was graceful and caring, a precious jewel. She will be missed. My condolences to the family.*

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**Yulonda Moore-Hayes** - June 21, 2025 at 08:30 PM

CS

“ *Cecily Sene lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Lillian Minor Bell*



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**Cecily Sene** - June 21, 2025 at 04:56 PM

SC

“ *Skyla Carney lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Lillian Minor Bell*



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**Skyla Carney** - June 21, 2025 at 09:07 AM

RW

“ *Ramona W Williams lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Lillian Minor Bell*



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**Ramona W Williams** - June 20, 2025 at 08:20 PM

DW

“ *To the Family- we're praying you're comforted by memories and held close in God's love as you grieve.*



*The Family of the Late Linwood B. Moore, Jr.*

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**Detra Williams** - June 20, 2025 at 11:55 AM

TA

“ Lenette, Tyrome & Jerome, your mother, my Auntie...she was perfect! Not being faultless or flawless, but by being the fun loving, sassy talking, telling us to check your attire...don't be going out with rough dry clothes on...starch & iron your clothes & put a crease in them too! 🙌 Oh gosh...and makeup...she would say, take that shine off your face, run that powder sponge over it & put on some lipstick. For me, it was to take the shine off my face, for her, it was used to tone down her brightness. 😊 Finally her contagious affection of love. She always loved to give & receive a hug & a kiss. A kiss on the lips too! 🙌 When the pandemic hit, I told her, look Gal (we talked like that to each other), we can't be kissing on the lips for a while, so we shifted to a kiss on the head, then to the cheek. No matter whenever I saw her, I had to give her a kiss & if I was slow about it, she would say...you didn't kiss me! 💋 Oh, how I miss her so much already. I told her I would & I love her to pieces, she said, I know, but you gonna be alright because you know I'm alright & at peace & I love you to pieces too Reet! 😭👍 Rest in Peace Auntie, just as you told me you would! 💖🙏 Thank you Lennette, Tyrome & Jerome for sharing your mommie with me. I pray God strengthen you all in every way like only He can as you all journey through the rest of your life as a motherless child! Trust God...He will do it, He has & is doing it for me since I became a motherless child almost fifteen years ago. I Love each of you & I'm Always here for ya!

Peace & Blessings💙💖💖💙

Theresa (“Reet”) McCabe Adkins



Theresa Adkins - June 20, 2025 at 08:18 AM

DE

“ To Lynette and family,  
My sincere condolences to all. May God comfort each of you at this time and the days ahead. May it also add comfort in knowing that our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Sincerely  
Deborah Hall Ebron

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**Deborah Hall Ebron** - June 19, 2025 at 07:35 PM

UM

“ To the family please know that you're in our prayers and thoughts and we're praying for y'all and we love y'all so much. Know that God is in control and will give you peace. Cousins I'm truly sorry for your loss but keep trusting in God hold onto his unchanging hands...I love y'all. Your cousin Ursula Minor Moore and Family...



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**Ursula Moore** - June 19, 2025 at 04:22 PM

SY

“ So sorry for the loss of your mother, Mrs. LILLIAN.  
She was a Beautiful lady. She had such a beautiful smile and very humble lady. May God continue to give you. From Sandra Yates



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**Sandra Yates** - June 17, 2025 at 10:44 PM

DS

*Mrs Lillian, was truly a sweet woman of God, we often went to visit her, we were going on the day she took flight to be with the Lord. It was always good seeing and talking to her with that beautiful smile. My husband and her husband were really close. One day, I went to visit without him. I told her that I knew she loved him more than me, so I was coming in anyway, she told me to come in and sit down, so I did just that. She will be missed, but we Love her Still and Always will. 🙏*  
*🙏💜💜 R.I.P. 🌸*

Dr. Bishop Charles Smith & Sandra Smith - June 19, 2025 at 04:04 PM

LJ

“ *Lynette and the entire family, I extend my deepest and heartfelt condolences during your time of great loss. May God give you comfort and peace that surpasses all understanding.*

Lisa Guion Jobes - June 17, 2025 at 09:42 PM

AH

“ *Arbell  
To Linette, Jerome and Tyrone, I am so sorry for the loss of your beautiful mother. She was loved by all and will be missed. She may be gone but never forgotten. Aunt Lillian will always be in our hearts. 💜💜*



Arbell Minor Harrington - June 17, 2025 at 07:34 PM

AH

“ *Arbell Minor Harrington lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Lillian Minor Bell*



Arbell Minor Harrington - June 17, 2025 at 06:44 PM

PE

“ *Lynette & family, so sorry to hear about the passing of your dear beloved mom. May you find comfort in the many memories you have of her for these will keep her close in your hearts for the love of a mother is like no other and I know this loss is difficult for I have felt your pain. Thinking of you and sending strength and love. Peggy Bryan, C21 The Realty Group*

Peggy - June 17, 2025 at 04:19 PM

FJ

*To Lillian Minor family  
Earth has No Sorrow that Heaven cannot Heal Remember God is Always with you'll and Remember her Good Memories*

Flora Jones - June 17, 2025 at 05:45 PM

MH

“ *I've asked God to strengthen your hearts and give you the peace that surpasses all understanding. Much love for you cousins ❤️.  
Michelle Hamilton-Hill*



Michelle Hill - June 17, 2025 at 04:40 AM

HM

“ *Lillian and my parents were friends and they visited each other regularly! I was at her house like she was my Mama growing up! Great family friend! I thought she was the prettiest lady I had ever seen! She never called me by my name; she called me Lil Clara( which was my Mother's name! Always asked about her! Such a sweet soul!* 🙏🙏😭😭💕💕

Hannah Moore - June 16, 2025 at 04:48 PM

CS

“ Cecily Sene lit a candle in memory of Mrs.  
Lillian Minor Bell



Cecily Sene - June 16, 2025 at 12:40 PM

P1

“ Family you are all in our thoughts and  
prayers. Pamlico High Class of 1977



Pamlico High Class of 1977 - June 15, 2025 at 07:10 PM

LE

Thank you

Lenette - June 28, 2025 at 11:12 PM

EC

“ My sincere condolences to the family. Just  
know that I am praying for you. Rev. Esther G  
Cannon



Esther G Cannon - June 14, 2025 at 05:53 PM

LE

Thank you

Lenette - June 28, 2025 at 11:13 PM

EG

“ My Condolences And Prayers Are With The Family 🙏🙏🙏



Evangelist Gwen - June 14, 2025 at 10:38 AM

AP

Our Condolences are with you. And praying for God strength to carry you through. Lean on Jesus he won't let you down. 🙏🙏🙏

Annie Peed - June 14, 2025 at 09:42 PM

AK

Prayers lifted for the family; may her memory be a blessing.

Annette Keyes - June 18, 2025 at 04:02 PM

CS

Lynette, Tyrone, Jerome, so sorry to hear about your mom passing. She was a very sweet lady. Stay encouraged, praying for and with all of you.

Carol Sanders - June 20, 2025 at 02:28 PM

LE

Thank you

Lenette - June 28, 2025 at 11:14 PM

LE

Thank you all for taking a moment to encourage us during the most difficult time. God Bless each of you!

Lenette - June 28, 2025 at 11:15 PM