



Bessie Spears

February 21, 2008

Bessie Spears, age 78, passed away peacefully on February 21, 2008 at Hospice of Northwest Ohio, Toledo.

A native of West Point, Mississippi, she was born November 27, 1929 to Ora and Neveada (Pulley) Smith.

She was preceded in death by both parents and brother Flim Smith.

She was the widow of Jesse Knighten and Willie W. Spears. A devout Christian, she was the mother and a charter member of Northwestern Missionary Baptist Church.

She is survived by sons Robert (Shelia) Smith of Granger, Indiana, Willie (Laverne) Knighten Sr. of Toledo and Elvin (Maydell) Spears of Monroe, Louisiana, daughters Jessie Vance of Toledo and Margret (Dr. Peter) Manning of the Republic of Singapore, Nine grandchildren, sixteen great grandchildren and one great great grandson first cousin B.B. King and a host of nieces, nephews and friends.

She shared her southern hospitality with everyone who entered her home and she loved to cook especially her Sunday dinners.

All services will be held at Dale-Riggs Funeral Home Chapel, 572 Nebraska Avenue Toledo, Ohio. Visitation will be Wednesday February 27th from 4p.m. until 6p.m. The wake will begin at 11a.m. Thursday February 28th with the funeral immediately following at 12 noon. Officiating will be Rev. Willie Knighten, Sr. interment will be at Woodlawn Cemetery, Toledo, Ohio.

The family would like to express its heartfelt appreciation and thanks to all the doctors and nurses at St. Vincent Mercy Medical Center and Hospice of Northwest Ohio on Detroit Avenue for the skilled and compassionate care given to our mother during her illness.