



Frances M. Crenshaw

July 6, 1929 - October 31, 2025

On July 6, 1929 in Pritchard, Alabama a baby girl was born to Leonard and Golden Alfa Tina Gilmer. To this union a brother was also born, Leonard Gilmer Jr. Mrs. Crenshaw graduated from Mobile County Training School and went on to Cosmetology School where she obtained a Cosmetology Certificate.

While singing in the choir, a young Jr. Deacon named Harry Crenshaw noticed her and ultimately married her. To this union five (5) children was born.

Mrs. Crenshaw was employed as ironer of clothes for her “counterparts” as a young girl of eleven or so. After moving up North she worked for J.C. Penny for a short stint and retired from the Board of Education after 31 years in the Chapter 1 Program.

She was very active in the Interdenominational Ministers and Minister’s Widows Association at both the State and local levels. She was the State President from 1984 – 1988. She was named Minister Wife of the Year. In 1990 she was crowned Queen of the Ohio State Association of Ministers Wives and the competition was fierce. It included 12 cities competing and Toledo won. She moved on to become the Advisor and Treasurer in later years.

At Jerusalem Baptist Church she served as the First Lady for 35 years. She also was a choir member, Adult Sunday School Teacher; won several State rallies in homecoming for Alabama, of course.

Rev. & Mrs. Crenshaw established a scholarship fund after the passing of one of their daughters called Crenshaw/Brown Scholarship Fund. The scholarships are still blessing people in the name of Jerusalem Baptist Church.

She also was a member of the Citywide Choir which was organized by the late Derrick Roberts. She really enjoyed teaching younger women about the Christian lifestyle and exemplifying it.

Mrs. Crenshaw also had a loving side to her. Her hobbies included traveling, cooking, shopping, and talking on the phone. She was a breast Cancer Survivor and gave generously to the cause. She also contributed to the Bureau of Native Americans, as well as many other organizations. She also visited the sick, fed the hungry and clothed the naked.

Mrs. Crenshaw is preceded in death by her loved ones: father, Leonard Gilmer Sr, mother Golden Alpha Tina Gilmer and brother, Leonard Jr. Her husband, the love of her life, Rev. Dr. Harry M. Crenshaw; Daughters, Vanessa (Herb) Davis and Marilyn Crenshaw, one grandson, O'Lajidai Crenshaw; 2 great grandsons: Onandajai and O'Mauryoi Crenshaw. Those left to celebrate her is son, Marvin Crenshaw; Daughters, Shirley, and Kay (Eddie C. Traylor) Crenshaw; 1 granddaughter, O'Shai Crenshaw, 1 great granddaughter, Onyai Crenshaw; 1 great grandson, O'Lajidai Wilson-Crenshaw; 2 great grandsons, Olajuwan and Omirion Crenshaw; God-daughter, Janice Frye and Sheila Buchanon Jefferson. A wonderful church family and city that loved her, helped and truly respected her.

Cemetery Details

Forest Cemetery

Previous Events

Wake Service

NOV 10. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Jerusalem Baptist Church
445 Dorr Street
Toledo, OH 43604

Visitation

NOV 11. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Jerusalem Baptist Church
445 Dorr Street
Toledo, OH 43604

Funeral Service

NOV 11. 11:00 AM (ET)

Jerusalem Baptist Church
445 Dorr Street
Toledo, OH 43604

Tribute Wall



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Frances M. Crenshaw.*



November 11, 2025 at 12:35 AM



“ *Tyrone & Sharese Williams planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Frances M. Crenshaw.*

Tyrone & Sharese Williams - November 11, 2025 at 12:35 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Frances M. Crenshaw.*



November 10, 2025 at 11:49 AM



“ *Pastor Malcolm Riley planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Frances M. Crenshaw.*

Pastor Malcolm Riley - November 10, 2025 at 11:49 AM

FM

“ My sincere condolences to the Crenshaw family and Jerusalem Baptist Church on the home going of our beloved Sister Frances Crenshaw. I remember her words of wisdom to me and her steadfast faithfulness to God and His Church .See you on the other side

Deacon Freddie Mason

Freddie Mason - November 08, 2025 at 07:58 AM

LF

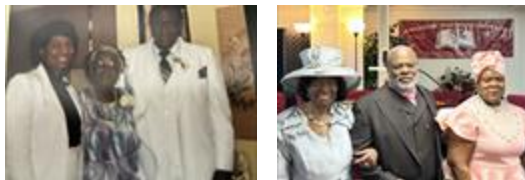
“ To the Crenshaw family was saddened to hear the passing of your mother. Rev and Mrs Crenshaw was a shining light for my Dad. He enjoyed the service and the sermons. She was the light in the family with her beautiful smile. God is strengthening you all daily and hold on to His hands



Linzy family - November 07, 2025 at 04:43 PM

AF

“ Condolences from Malcolm L Riley and family. Condolences from Abiding Faith Ministries



Amanda Fentress - November 06, 2025 at 05:24 PM

EW

To the Crenshaw family, from the family of Arthoree Wilson. We send our deepest condolences in the lost First lady Crenshaw. She and Arthoree shared a spiritual sisterhood for many years. Mother Crenshaw you will be missed. Gods grace and mercy to the family!
Sister Evelyn Wilson

Evelyn Faye Wilson - November 10, 2025 at 06:11 PM

SO

“*Mrs. Crenshaw was a blessing in my mother's life. Her beauty will never be forgotten, and her smile radiated any dark place in a person that she met lives.*
Chaplain Shiela Owens

Shiela Owens - November 06, 2025 at 04:24 PM



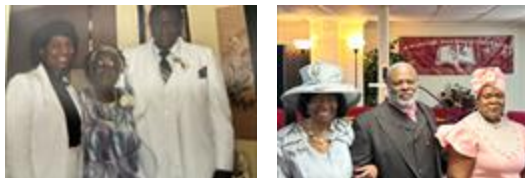
“*Lily and Rose Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Frances M. Crenshaw.*



November 06, 2025 at 10:30 AM

AF

“*Deepest condolences on behalf of Malcolm L Riley family and Abiding Faith Ministries*



Amanda Fentress - November 06, 2025 at 08:53 AM

GJ

“ *May your heart find comfort knowing that your love one is at home with the Lord*
Love Gwendolyn E.March Jones &Family



Gwendolyn E.March Jones - November 05, 2025 at 09:36 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Frances M. Crenshaw.*



November 05, 2025 at 06:47 PM