



Mary Cowell Penn

August 31, 2011

Mary Louise Cowell Penn, 78, passed away August 31, 2011 at her home. A life-long resident of Toledo, OH, she was born in 1933 to local businessman Stanley Cowell and Willie Hazel Cowell. Mary graduated from Whitney Vocational High School with honors in 1950. She attended the University of Toledo, majoring in Home Economics with a minor in English. She spent her second year of college at Hampton Institute, but returned to the University of Toledo to graduate. She married Robert W. Penn in September 1954 after he completed law school and passed the bar exam. She received her Bachelor's Degree from the University of Toledo in January 1955 where she was inducted into Sigma Alpha Omega, an honorary home economics society. Upon graduation, Mary became the first black female high school teacher in the Toledo Public Schools. She taught at Scott High School for 31/2 years and was a case worker, doing home studies for the licensure of home day care. She also taught adult education, consumer education, sewing, nutrition and taught for those waiting to get into public housing. In the 1980's she taught sewing techniques to the Cambodian Mung refugees through the Board of Education. Mary was an active member of Grace Presbyterian Church where she served as treasurer of the Women's Association. She was a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Toledo Opera Guild and the Links where she served as treasurer. Her hobbies included swimming, gardening and bridge. Her husband Robert was appointed to the bench as Toledo Municipal Court Judge in January 1984. Mary and Robert enjoyed traveling together and

visited many locations in Europe, the Middle East and various places in the continental U.S. She was preceded in death by parents Stanley and Willie Hazel Cowell. She leaves to cherish her memory Judge Robert Penn of 56 years; daughter, Crystal W. Penn of Philadelphia, PA; siblings, Dolores Finch of Toledo, OH, Stanley (Sylvia) of Delaware and Esther Cowell and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. Visitation will be held Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. preceding funeral services at 11:00 a.m. Grace Presbyterian Church 1171 Oakwood Avenue, Toledo, OH 43607, Rev. Langston C. Bannister officiant. Interment Ottawa Hills Memorial Park. Memorial donations can be made to Grace Presbyterian Church or the Toledo Symphony. www.dalafh.com

Tribute Wall

JO

“ *May the many enchanting years of fun, love and happiness you shared together with Mary and the rest of the family strengthen and uphold you and everyone in the family during this difficult time.* Jason & Comfort Ofori Toledo OH

Jason Ofori - September 19, 2011 at 01:54 PM

PC

“ *Sorry we can't be with you in your time of sorrow, just know that our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. The Stanley Family of Athens, Alabama*

Pamela David Coleman - September 06, 2011 at 02:38 PM

MC

“ *May God be with the family during these times. Please accept our sympathy, love and prayers. The Lytle family of Morganton, North Carolina*

Mary A. Lytle Carter - September 06, 2011 at 01:22 PM

KW

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with Judge Penn and his family. It was a privilege to know Mrs. Penn. She was beautiful, smart and generous. Rest in peace.*

karen wood - September 03, 2011 at 05:46 PM