



Mary Irene Gregory

April 2, 2018

Mary Irene Gregory, 88, founded Black Nurses Association

Mary Irene Gregory, a noted Toledo health care leader and registered nurse, died April 2, at her home in Portland, Or. She was 88.

Mrs. Gregory was born on Feb. 1, 1930, the only child of Louise and Richard Booker, in Marion, Ind. When she was a teenager, her family moved to Toledo, where she graduated from Libbey High School in 1948. In 1951, she became the first African-American to graduate from the former St. Vincent School of Nursing. As a nurse and surgery technician instructor, Mrs. Gregory spent 40 years working at St. Vincent Hospital and Med Ctr. While there, her duties including consulting and teaching, and public health promotion. She also founded Ohio's Black Nurses Association and was a board member of the Lucas County Health Dept. She also worked with TV station Channel 13 to roll out a mobile health unit.

In 2008, Mrs. Gregory was among the first inductees of Ohio's African American Legacy Project, which honors prominent African Americans. Outside her professional life, Mrs. Gregory enjoyed making quilts, crafts and clothes and was a member of the Sew 'n' Sews. She also was an active member and supporter of Ascension Lutheran Church and was a patron of the arts. She was an active member of the noted sorority Alpha Kappa Alpha. Survivors are her three children Chris and Theresa Gregory, both of Toledo, and Leslie Gregory of Portland, OR; grandchildren Auston of Toledo, James

(Kandi) of Tyler, Texas; Christian of Stockholm, Sweden; and Jordan of Portland, OR; great-grandson Alan. She is predeceased by her first husband of 28 years, Raymond Gregory, as well as her second husband of 10 years, Joe Powell as well as her son, James. She is also survived by her special friend Frank Coombs.

A viewing will take place from 6-9 p.m. Thursday, April 26, at Dale-Riggs Funeral Home, 572 Nebraska Ave. with AKA rites at 7 p.m. A viewing will also take place at 10 a.m. Friday, April 27, followed by a service at noon, in Warren AME Church, 915 Collingwood Blvd.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Heart Association or right2healthus.org.

Tribute Wall

RW

“ Trez, I'm so sorry to hear of the passing of your mother. My condolences to you and your family in this time of grief. May God bless you with His peace that passes all understanding, uphold you with His Spirit, and strengthen you until we are all called Home by His Grace. In Jesus precious Name, Amen.

Reed Wheeler - April 26, 2018 at 02:28 PM

RL

“ Trez, Our sincere condolences to you and your family .

Randy & Bin Lewandowski

Randy & Bin Lewandowski - April 25, 2018 at 03:20 PM

DS

“ My deepest sympathy on your loss of Mary, She was a colleague and friend of my husband, Dr. Gerald Stark, and through him, she also became my friend. She was a special lady, and she will be missed.

Doris Stark

Doris Stark - April 25, 2018 at 09:18 AM

RK

“ My sister, Mary Jo (Marks) Lotte, was a classmate at St. Vincent's and dear friend. She passed away in Dec. They can now enjoy each other again. Sorry for your loss.

Rosemary (Marks), Koziarski - April 24, 2018 at 03:54 PM

JH

“*Mrs. Gregory was an enthusiastic teacher to many student nurses. Her spirit and friendliness was spontaneous. She was class advisor to our nursing class who graduated from St. V's in 1973. May she rest in peace. Joyce Hammer*

Joyce Hammer - April 24, 2018 at 02:34 PM