



## Theopa Jean Overton

September 26, 2014

T. Jean Overton was born on July 16, 1928 to the union of Elree and Harry Hudson in Woodruff County,

Arkansas. The family moved to St. Louis, Missouri in 1936.

A fond memory Jean has as a child was going to the baseball park with her father on a Sunday afternoon

and watching Satchel Paige and Cool Papa Bell of the Negro Baseball League.

She attended Sumner High School and graduated two years early at the age of 16 with honors. Her first

job was with the St. Louis Argus at the age of 17 as a roving newspaper reporter in the mid 1940's. Jean

came to Toledo in 1949 to attend the University of Toledo.

By 1952, she became the first female African American Radio Broadcaster in Northwest Ohio. She

worked for WTOD and WSPD and also at WTLG in Bowling Green, Ohio as Manager for the Toledo

outlet. Later Jean was a big part of the Hines Farm Family in Swanton, Ohio.

On March 5, 1958, Jean married William 'Bill' Overton at Third Baptist Church in Toledo. In the mid

1960's the family produced a magazine called "Cosmo Digest" where she was the editor. It was a

family affair with their sons helping in the print shop and selling the magazine

at various locations in

Toledo. In 1982, Jean and her husband started the first minority owned public relations firm called

"Cosmo Agency".

Mrs. Overton became the Executive Director of Model Cities Neighborhood Association, also known as

MNRA, Model Neighborhood Resident Association in 1969. Under her leadership, the program grew to

help people in eleven counties in Northwestern Ohio. During this time she founded the Sickle Cell

Anemia Association. She has always found ways to help others and was a champion for children and

health issues.

In the early 1970's she broke the "glass ceiling" by becoming a very popular host to her own television

show called "Community Showcase", broadcast on WTOL, Channel 11. By the mid 1970's, Jean was

appointed by Governor John J. Gilligan to the State of Ohio Health Commission and she went on to

become the first African American woman to chair for that same board.

The Northwest Ohio Black Media Association presented Jean with the Life-Time Achievement Award in

2002. She never bragged about being the first in many fields. In 2004, a park was named in her honor in

North Toledo.

Jean loved the northend and proved it many times over with action and not talk. Her last endeavor was

Stickney Banquet Hall to give back to the northend. community

Her last years were filled with fun and laughter and being with family and friends. One of her favorite

bible verses was John 3:16.

In the early morning of September 26, 2014, God called her home with her family by her side. She leaves to cherish her memory, sons: Nelson and Renee, Tunnell and Angela and Duval Overton of Toledo Ohio. Step children, Sheldon of Toledo and Shelia Counce of Georgia. Ten grandchildren and five great-grand children and a host of nieces and nephews living in St. Louis, Missouri and across the United States.

Jean Overton is preceded in death by stepson Melton Overton, stepdaughter Mary Calendar and brother Theopolis Hudson of St. Louis, Missouri and husband Bill Overton.

The family of the late Theopa Jean Overton acknowledges with sincere appreciation, your understanding, your prayers and all acts of kindness shown at the celebration of the life of mother T. Jean Overton

Services will be held Saturday at 11:00am followed by wake service at 10:00am True Vine Baptist Church, Rev Jerome Greham officiant. Family and friends will meet at Forest Cemetery Monday at 10:00 for burial.

Arrangement entrusted to Dale-Riggs Funeral Home [www.dalefh.com](http://www.dalefh.com) .

# Tribute Wall

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“ Love you Grandma, You will be dearly missed. Thanx for everything you done for me. God is definitely an angel Love you.

Sheldon Overton - October 02, 2014 at 10:09 AM

"C

“ May the lovings arms of Jesus comfort you and hold you up during this time.

"cjt" - October 01, 2014 at 08:46 PM

BO

*I love and miss you dearly Grandma. Heaven is getting a beautiful angel.*

*Bryan Overton*

Bryan Overton - October 02, 2014 at 09:59 AM