

In Loving Memory of
Angelina Marie Berry



March 20, 1913 ~ July 2, 2011

Funeral Services
Friday , July 8, 2011
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish
10:00 A.M.

Angelina Marie Berry

Angelina Marie Berry, also known as “Angel”, was born to Andre and Florina Greaux, on March 20, 1913, in Frenchtown, St. Thomas. Her brothers were Henry and Jean. Her family moved to Barette Hill on the Northside when she was just six years old.

As a young child, Angelina developed a love for books and learning. She attended Monroe School where she earned straight “A’s”. So confident in her academic abilities, her teachers asked her to help tutor the younger children. She often told the story of how she walked to school barefoot so her shoes would last longer. We know that she cherished her accomplishments at school when recently the family found one of her report cards, which she had carefully saved for nearly 85 years. After the 6th grade, she reluctantly left school to help care for her baby brother because her mother was ill. Although her formal education ended much earlier than she might have liked, she remained an avid reader and a great mathematician until her eyesight faded many years later.

On February 21, 1928, at the tender age of 15, she married Louis “Elphege” Berry. Their marriage lasted until Louis passed away on February 18th, 1985, just a few days before their 58th anniversary. Their marriage resulted in 15 children, 9 boys and 6 girls, including a set of twins, Michael and Angela, numbers 13 and 14! Mom told a funny story about that particular birth when Mr. Joseph Sibilly visited her in the hospital to congratulate her and said, “You weren’t satisfied with the first dozen, now you’re starting to make them by twos.” Mom’s mothering extends into three more generations with thirty-three grandchildren, forty-three great-grandchildren, and six great-great-grandchildren. During her lifetime, Mom was twice named Mother of the Year. The first was in 1966, by the Christian Family Movement of St. Thomas and then again in 1991 by the late Senator Lorraine L. Berry.

Throughout our lives, we could always count on Mom to have an assortment of great food and goodies ready whenever we stopped by for a visit. She was especially known for her delicious cakes. Mom amazed us with the story about the very first cake she ever made. Keep in mind the times. She did not have an oven, an electric mixer, or a Duncan Hines cake mix. Mom had to create her cake and her baking oven from scratch! She, Dad and the boys dug a hole in the back yard, cut some wood, burned it inside the hole and made coal. She placed a large cast iron pot filled with the cake ingredients inside the hole. Keep in mind, she had no tools to rely on but she did have her intuition and natural intelligence. Dad covered the pot with a sheet of galvanize and put more of the hot coals on top. To the delight of her children who all sat around watching and waiting patiently, it worked!! Amazingly, Mom got her cake, and a five pound cake at that!!! Think about that the next time WAPA pulls the plug and you want a cake.

Angelina loved to garden, working alongside her husband and children to cultivate the soil and produce enough fruits, vegetables, and seasonings to feed their family and sell at market. Back then, the only transportation they had to market was a donkey. The boys would set out at four o’clock in the morning to sell and help the family make a living. Many years later, Angelina took over the marketing of her produce and became an avid business woman. She was keenly aware of the ways to make her produce the most attractive to the customers. She enjoyed this tremendously since it gave her the opportunity to meet all types of people. The life of a St. Thomas farmer was a lot of hard work, but Angelina’s easy smile told the world, it was “No big thing!”

Mom loved to travel and did so many times, especially to see her daughter, Val, in New Jersey, her son, Mike, in Virginia and her brother, Henry, in New York. She also visited Pennsylvania, took a road trip up the New England coast, Maryland, Washington D.C., Puerto Rico, St. Croix, and even St. Barths. On one of her earlier trips, she bought her very first yellow and black pantsuit.

Despite her daughters numerous attempts to convince her to pass it down to them, she flatly refused. It still hangs in her closet today. We recently found several diaries mom kept which told of every trip detailing the places, dates, and events showing us how much her travels meant to her.

Mom loved to dress in bright red. It was, after all, her signature color. When she wore red, she felt and looked beautiful! Today, she is dressed in her finest red outfit, the way we will always remember her, bright and beautiful.

In her final years, Mom was always so easy to take care of in spite of her advancing Alzheimer's disease. She was always so kind and gentle and still kept her sense of humor to the very end. We all have lots of fond memories. Here are a few. We will always remember how, when she needed attention, she would loudly call out, "INSIDE"???? She loved to sit and do word-search puzzles. As a longtime fan of QVC shopping channel, we remember the huge pile of gifts she would order for every single member of her family at Christmas time....which always were given along with one of her own specially made sweetbreads. Even as she forgot our names and events, we smiled because she still could remember all the ingredients in making a good johnnycake!

We can proudly say that Mom devoted her entire life to her marriage and to motherhood and did an outstanding job at both. She accomplished so much in her lifetime. Just look around this church and think about the legacy of her family. She had the distinction of being the oldest French woman in the entire Northside. For 98 years, we were blessed to have her here in our lives. We love you, Mom.

May you rest in peace.



Survivors

Sons

Joseph Berry
Lawrence Berry
Arthur Berry
Cyril Berry
Emile Berry
Francis Berry
Milton Berry
Michael Berry

Daughters

Marie Val Berry
Evdanie Querrard
Noreen LaPlace
Angela Bryan
Ellen Gillott

Daughters-in-Law

Maria Berry
Marguerite Berry
Gloria Berry
Velma Berry
Clely Berry
Ann Berry
Carol Berry

Sons-in-Law

Emanuel La Place
Teddy Bryan

Brother

Jean Greaux

Grandchildren

Karen Mc Garry
Lisa Farr
Andre Berry
Kenneth Berry
Stephanie Rowe
Patrick Querrard
Patricia Le Goff
Lucia Berry
Trecia Berry
Sharon Berry
Janelle Berry
Lawrence Querrard, Jr.
John Berry
Christopher Berry
Gregory Berry
Joanne Greaux
Emile Berry, Jr.
Shawn Berry
Catherine Querrard
Steven LaPlace
Robert LaPlace
Rick Berry
Keith Berry
Jason Berry
Michael Berry
Christopher Berry

Desirae Querrard

Dean Bryan
Vince Bryan
Aimee Gillott
Justin Gillott
Jerry Berry
Michael Berry

Great Grandchildren

Amanda Lewis
Brandy Lewis
Andre Berry
Justin Berry
Conrad Berry
Cydney Berry
Kacie Mc Garry
Christopher Mc Garry
Conlin Mc Garry
Logan Stepp
Elisa Farr
Rachael Farr
Jakari Jacobs
Kimisha Jacobs
Kevaughna Rowe
Rhea Rodriguez
Zackarie LeGoff
Curran Duke
Benjamin Duke
Dylan Duke
Alexandra Querrard
Allison Querrard
Connor Querrard
Jonathan Berry
Andrew Berry
Nicole Berry
Jonathan Bryan
Rachel Berry
Melanie Bengoa
Kelcie Bengoa
Lauren Bengoa
Rodney Querrard, Jr.
Ryan Querrard
Darren LaPlace
Shelby Kapp
Spencer Kapp
Emma LaPlace
Ella LaPlace
Zavier LaPlace
Alexander Berry
Juanito Berry
Kiera Berry
Jacob Querrard

Great-Great Grandchildren

Jerradyhn Farr-St. Fleur
Jezziyan Farr-St. Fleur
Charlton Washington
Kayden Adams
Kyler Adams
Chase Rodriguez

Pallbearers

Vince Bryan
Rick Berry
Gregory Berry
Steven LaPlace
Kenneth Berry
Lawrence Querrard, Jr.
Christopher A. Berry
Michael A. Berry

Honorary Pallbearers

Joseph, Lawrence, Arthur, Cyril, Emile, Francis, Milton & Michael Berry. Patrick Querrard, Zackarie Le Goff, Emanuel La Place, Teddy & Dean Bryan, Emile Jr. & Shawn Berry, John Berry, Robert LaPlace, Shawn Querrard, Keith & Jason Berry, Christopher L. Berry, Andre Berry, Jr., Justin Gillott & Jean Greaux

Special Cousins

Thelma Questel
Mary Bryan
Louis Berry
George & Ann Berry
Elmira Sitosky
Joseph Berry

Special Friends

Cecile Bryan
Andrea Bryan
Elmira Querrard
Audrey Quetel
Yvonne Bryan
Rita King
Hugette Jacques

Many other family members & friends too numerous to mention.

Preceded in Death

Father- Andre "Ben Ben" Greaux
Mother- Florina Aubain Greaux
Husband- Elphege "Alfred" Berry
Son- Andre Berry
Daughter- Emelda "Millie" Querrard
Grandson- Kevin Berry
Brother- Henry "Ohrie" Greaux