



Mrs. Annie Bell Lawson Gooden

February 14, 1924 - March 28, 2023

Annie Bell Lawson Gooden, "Sister" went home to be with our Lord and Savior on Tuesday, March 28, 2023 in Sumter, South Carolina. Born in Sumter County, she was a daughter of the late Ephesian Lawson and Susan Jones Lawson. She lived a blessed life caring for and serving her family, friends and community. She was 99 years old.

Annie, affectionately known as "Sister" and wife of the late Reverend James O'neil Gooden, raised her family in Sumter and began her career in Sumter School District 17, where she honed her skills to become a dedicated homemaker and caregiver. She started and continued her Christian journey at Orangehill A.M.E. Church in Wedgefield, SC, Enon Baptist Church, and Cannon Baptist, both in Sumter. Mrs. Gooden was also the First Lady at First Baptist Church where her husband the late Reverend James O'neil Gooden pastored in Vance, SC. When Annie wasn't caring for others, or spending time on her projects, she could be found beautifying her home. Not a day went by, where she didn't talk about how much home meant to her-- it was her sanctuary and a safe space and an important achievement in life. Sister will be greatly missed.

Annie was preceded in death by her parents, Ephesian Lawson and Susan Jones Lawson; husband, Reverend James O'Neil Gooden; brother Ephesian "Sonny Boy"; sisters, Emma and Delores; and great-granddaughter Nya.

Sister's precious memories will be cherished by her three daughters, Vermel Gillett, Pearl Gooden both of Sumter, SC and Susan Farmer, Columbia, SC; four grandchildren: Chrystal Farmer, Arlington, VA, James Reginald Gooden, Sumter, SC, Kisha Jenkins, Alexandria, VA and Kenrick Kevin Gillett, Sr., Sumter, SC; four great-grandchildren, Brelan Sierson, Chase Gooden, Tylek McCray and Kenrick Kevin Gillett, Jr.; and her chosen sister, Mary Anderson of Sumter, SC and a host of loving nieces, nephews and friends dear to her heart .

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to: The Lupus Foundation of America (www.lupus.org/) or the ALS Association (www.als.org).

Professional services rendered by the Palmer Memorial Chapel, Sumter.

Previous Events

Graveside Service

APR 1. 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM (ET)

Hillside Memorial Park
2561 Cains Mill Rd.
Sumter, SC 29150

Hillside correct address is: 2561 Cains Mill Rd. Sumter, SC

Tribute Wall



“ *Mrs. Annie Bell Lawson Gooden*

October 04, 2023 at 11:33 AM



“ *SIP Aunt Annie Bell!*
~Love Trista Overby



Trista Overby - July 19, 2023 at 01:13 AM



“ *Aunt Annie bell we will miss you Melvin & Louise*

Louise Keith - March 31, 2023 at 11:10 PM



“ *Louise Keith lit a candle in memory of Annie Lawson Gooden*



Louise Keith - March 31, 2023 at 11:06 PM



“ *MY HEARTFELT CONDOLENCES TO YOU
[REGGIE] AND YOUR FAMILY!!! MISS
ANNIE WAS LOVE AND SHE WILL BE
MISSED!!!*



Jessie Myers - March 31, 2023 at 10:21 PM