

*Special Thanks To*

*Mr. Richard Nance*

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*Select Specialty Hospital*

*Medical Center of Plano*

*Life Care Center of Plano*

*Temple & Sons Funeral Home*

*Trice Hill Cemetery*

*B & B Catering*

*A Celebration of Life*



*Lillian Audry Gardner*

*May 14, 1925—July 12, 2021*

*St. John Missionary Baptist Church  
2501 N. Kelsey Avenue, Oklahoma City, OK*



## BORN FLAWLESS

Lillian Audry (Abram) Gardner, aka “Mimi,” was born in the town of Ardmore, Oklahoma, to parents Robert and Angeline Abram. Lillian was the 11<sup>th</sup> addition in what would become an incredible line of 13 siblings, later making her “Aunt Lillian” to so many. Lillian grew up in Corinth Baptist Church in Ardmore, where she first gave her life to Christ.

Lillian attended Douglas High School in Oklahoma City. After graduating, Lillian began working and taking command of her adult life, as she was known for being headstrong and determined, while exhibiting grace and a selfless spirit. On April 12, 1947, Lillian embarked on her next journey in life when she married Asray Gardner, a U.S. Army veteran who worked at Tinker Air Force base in Oklahoma. From this blissful union, Lillian and Asray had two daughters, Awanda Faye and Janice Yvonne. Her eldest daughter Awanda later married Donald Roy Sidle and they had two daughters, Ayanna and Asha, who affectionately chose to call their incomparable grandmother “Mimi.”

Lillian was a woman who knew exactly what she wanted. Long before starting her family she was career minded and independent. Lillian had an impressive career of almost forty years as a surgical nurse at the former Oklahoma Memorial Hospital, where she later retired. After retirement, Lillian remained active and continued to work in retail settings where she could command a room with her very presence. Retirement allowed Mimi more time to focus on Awanda, and her granddaughters, Ayanna and Asha. Mimi was present at every one of their graduations, hosted many birthday parties, kept them during the summers through their high school years, and helped put them through college, graduate school, and law school. Mimi (along with her dear, late brother W.B.), strongly believed in higher education; and Mimi was Asha and Ayanna’s biggest cheerleader in their pursuits for higher education. Both Mimi and W.B. were always present at the end of every graduation stage—the kind of support that would shape Asha and Ayanna’s lives forever.

Lillian was also an avid sports fan of almost every sport (with football and baseball being her favorites). Mimi loved to take Ayanna and Asha to watch the former Oklahoma 89ers baseball games.







She was also a talented member of a bowling league (with the trophies to prove it!) And Mimi was blessed with the true gift of hospitality. As such, Mimi loved to socialize and she never met a stranger that came to her house. Mimi also loved family picnics and gatherings and was one of the best cooks on Earth!

But above all, Lillian was a devoted Christian and a dedicated servant and long time member of St. John Missionary Baptist Church, before becoming ill in 2013. Even after her condition worsened, Lillian's unwavering faith in the Lord carried her through.

Back in 2013, Mimi's family brought her to Texas after she developed dementia. Awanda was able to build so many new and precious memories with her beloved Mother during these years. Mimi spent the last four years of her life at the Life Care Center of Plano, where Asha coordinated and oversaw her care. During weekly visits, Mimi and Asha would play games, watch Hallmark movies, get "manicures," read, and sing songs. The lifetime bond between Mimi and her granddaughters was undeniable.

After a long fought battle, Lillian passed away on July 12, 2021 in Plano, Texas, at the age of 96. She was preceded in death by her parents, Robert and Angeline, daughter Janice Yvonne Gardner, late husband Asray Gardner, her dear beloved niece Mona Hunt, a dear grandnephew Byron Kerford, and all of her beloved siblings: *Adell, Eva, Eddie Mae, Emma Lee, Charley, Lucille, Mammie Lou, Alberta, Lourine, James, Opal, and W.B.*

Lillian is survived by her ever-loving daughter Awanda Gardner Sidle and two eternally grateful granddaughters Ayanna Tamasha Sidle and Asha Tania Sidle; devoted nephews Mickey (Lisa) Partridge, Tommy (Tiffany) Abram, Ron Abram, Billy Benson, devoted nieces Sherry (Milton) Curry, Michelle (Sean) Abram-Hogan, Peggy Abram Brown, Sandra (Patrick) Foster and Willie Jean (Russell) Morgan; beloved grandnephews Eddie Hunt Jr., Ryan Curry, Trey Brown, and Raymond Hart; devoted grandnieces Lynne Sherrie Kerford, Crystal Abram Garcia, Mariah Abram, Lauren Ashton Abram, Kristen Abram, and Alicia Brown; life-long friends Pearl Abram Issacs, Betty Wilson, and Ghita Williams, and Mr. Richard Nance among others.





## *Order of Service*

### *Photo Tribute 1*

*Welcome— Rev. M.L. Jemison*

*Praise Song— Hallelujah You're Worthy*

*Reading— Rev. Lawrence Kirk (Revelations 2:10)*

*Prayer*

*Praise Song— Saints Go Marching In*

*Sermon— Reverend M.L. Jemison,*

*Pastor, St. John Missionary Baptist Church*

### *Photo Tribute 2*

*Tributes/Reflections*

*Celebration Song – By and By*

*Closing Prayer—Rev. M.L. Jemison*

*Video Tribute*

*Final Viewing/Song— Oh Happy Day*

*Funeral Services under the Professional Direction  
of Temple and Sons, Inc.*

### *Burial*

*Burial will follow at Trice Hill Cemetery where Lillian will be laid to eternal rest next to her daughter Janice and her former husband Asray. Private reception to follow.*