



Nola Jane Shepard Wilford was born June 15, 1918, the fifth of eight children born to George Shepard and Anna Batton Shepard, and departed this life on March 23, 2012 at the age of 93 years.

Nola Jane, as she was lovingly called by her family and friends, gave her life to God at an early age. She was a lifelong member of the Lost Creek Missionary Baptist Church. She was a founding member of the Lost Creek Community Grove.

Nola Jane was always a caring, loving and giving person whose greatest passion in life was love of family. She was gentle, soft spoken and kind in the loving care she gave to senior members of her family as they grew older. She was preceded in death by her siblings: Maynard, Ulysses, Henrietta, Otto, George Ramsey, Felix and Reva, and over the years, she became the matriarch, the last living member of this Shepard clan.

In 1946, she was joined in marriage to Homer Wilford, with whom she lived and loved, and diligently cared for until his death in 1995. Having no children of her own, Nola Jane always gave generously of her time and fortune to the support and encouragement of several children of her siblings, and later to their children as well, some of whom were reared by her and her husband in their home in lost creek.

Nola Jane Shepard Wilford was loved and respected by all who knew her, including her former employers, school chums, friends and neighbors across the United States. She will be sadly missed by the hundreds who knew her, and especially by family who knew her best, who enjoyed the warmth of her smile and touch. She will live on forever in our hearts and memories.

She is survived by nieces and nephews in family order of deceased siblings: Allen (Norma) Anderson; Eugene (Cynthia) Gardner, Hermine Gardner Cherry, Dorothy Gardner (Tony)

McGee, June Gardner Ellington, Sylvester Gardner; Angela Shepard (Ross) Tyler, Cecelia Jayne Shepard, Richard Shepard; Tommy (Carolyn) Allen; Vicky Shepard, Pamela Shepard (Don) Llanos, Serena Shepard (Luther) Dempsey; Donna Shepard Ross (Delridge Powell), James (Kathy) Shepard, Milo (Toya) Shepard, Mark (Mirchaye) Shepard. Surviving also are a host of great nephews and nieces, and many other relatives and friends throughout the country.

The family wishes to express its gratitude for the love, care, and sacrifices made by Allen and Norma Anderson, and June Ellington, who all cared for Nola, as her health declined.

Memorial Viewing will be held on Friday evening, March 30, 2012, from 5:00pm – 8:00pm in the Sanctuary of The Mount Pilgrim Baptist Church, located at Tippecanoe and North 21st Streets, Terre Haute, Indiana. Limited viewing will be possible prior to the opening of Memorial Services on Saturday, March 31, to be held at 1:00 pm at the Lost Creek Baptist Church.