



Gladys Marie (Sister) Strong

February 13, 1930 - August 10, 2019

Ms. Gladys Marie Strong was born on February 13, 1930 in Austin, Texas to Henry Ben Smith and Minnie Lee Martin.

Gladys became a mother in 1943 to Horace Smith. In her early years, she married Airforce Sr. Tech Sargent Thomas Strong while working as domestic help. That marriage took her on a journey to Okinawa, Japan and other various places. Later she became employed with Austin Independent School District as a bus driver, then became a bus monitor. In 1991 she retired from the school district. She became a member of Olivet Baptist Church as a child, and on June 3, 2018, she was recognized as a Mother of Olivet Baptist church.

To her family she was known as "Sister". Gladys enjoyed traveling with her sister JoAnn, music, dancing, playing Pokeno with her friends and family. But her favorite of all was hollering out Bingo!

She was preceded in death by her father Henry Ben Smith, her mother, Minnie Lee Martin and her brother Albert Smith Sr.

Gladys is survived by her 1 and only son Horace Smith, her sister JoAnn Smith Castle, 7 grandchildren, 15 great grandchildren, 5 great-great grandchildren, a host of nieces, nephews and friends.

Previous Events

Public Visitation

AUG 16. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Phillips-Upshaw & Richard Funeral Home Chapel
1410 E 12th Street
Austin, TX 78702

Celebration Service

AUG 17. 2:00 PM (CT)

Olivet Baptist Church
1179 San Bernard Street
Austin, TX 78702

