Obsequies
for
Coeany R. Drummer
Song of Life

Tell me not in mournful numbers
Life is but an empty dream.
For the soul is dead that slumbers
And things are not what they seem.

Life is real, life is earnest
And the grave is not its goal.
Dust thou art, to dust returneth,
Was not spoken of the soul.

Not enjoyment and not sorrow
Is our destined end or way.
But to act that each tomorrow
Finds us further than today.

Art is long and time is fleeting
And our hearts though stout and brave
Stilled like muffled drums are beating
Funeral marches to the grave.

In this big broad field of battle
In this bivouac of life.
Be not like a dumb driven cattle
Be a hero in the strife.

Lives of great men all remind us,
We can make our lives sublime.
And departing leave behind us,
Footprints on the sands of time.

A Journey

It's a journey...that I propose...I am not the guide...nor technical assistant...I will be your fellow passenger.

Though the rail has been ridden...winter clouds cover, autumn's exuberant guild...we must provide our own guideposts.

I have heard...from previous visitors...the road washes out sometimes...and passengers are compelled...to continue groping...or turn back...I am not afraid.

I am not afraid...of rough spots...or lonely times...I don't fear...the success of this endeavor...I am...in a space...not to be discovered...but invented...

I promise you nothing...I accept your promise...of the same we are simply riding...a wave...that may carry...or crash.

It's a journey...and I want...to go...

—Nikki Giovanni
"Also, now behold, my witness is in heaven, and my record is on high.” —Job 16:19

In Celebration of the Life of

Coeany R. Drummer
1917 — 1992

Saturday, August 8, 1992
11:00 a.m.

Quinn Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church
10998 Southland Boulevard
Forest Park, Ohio

Reverend Donald H. Jordan, Sr.
Pastor/Officiating
Coeany Edwina Ransom Drummer was born August 10, 1917, the daughter of Grady Earl and Casilee Warfield Ransom in Indianapolis, Indiana. She departed this life August 5, 1992 at Deaconness Hospital, Cincinnati, Ohio.

She was a graduate of Crispus Attucks High School, Indianapolis, Indiana and Wilberforce University, Wilberforce, Ohio.

She was united in marriage to the late Reverend Charles E. Drummer, Sr. on June 22, 1945. She became the loving mother to four children, Charles Jr., Edwina, Harold B. and Phyllis E. To this union was born one daughter, Coeaney.

Mrs. Drummer retired from the Cincinnati Public School System, having taught at Rockdale School and Westwood Elementary. She was the first Afro-American to teach at Westwood Elementary and the first to retire from that school.

A member of the Quinn Chapel A.M.E. Church, Forest Park, Ohio, she served as a Stewardess, President of the Ruth White Missionary Society and has distinguished herself as Chairperson of several outstanding programs of the church; having instituted the very successful Annual Style Extravaganza, Missionary Fellowship Dinners and a leader in the Health Fair and the marvelous Quinn Retreats.

From her youth, she served in the Y.P.D. Department, holding several offices as she progressed to the Adult Division, where she would serve as President of the South Ohio Conference Branch, and ultimately as the Third Episcopal District President. She would hold that office for eight years, and during her tenure, thousands of dollars were sent to South Africa, monies were sent to build a Teacher’s College Dormitory in Liberia, the Campus Ministries Building was dedicated at Wilberforce University, and the matriculation to Christian Living Program was established. This program awards scholarships to senior high school students.

She was a member of the Golden Link Chapter #91, Order of the Golden Circle, P.H.A., where she served as Past Worthy Matron; a life member of the Women’s Missionary Society; she was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1982 of the Third Episcopal District, WMS; a life member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, of the Oak Crest Board of Church Women United; and various other groups and organizations, both in the religious and civic communities.

She was a woman of great confidence and determination. She believed in family values and was a loyal and devoted congregant of the Quinn Chapel A.M.E. Church. She gave of her time, her sustenance, and her leadership in the building of the Kingdom of God on earth. A loyalist, she was a confidante to her pastor, and often times they would reason together on the direction of her chosen church, always amicably, yet pointedly frank and direct. Whatever decision was made, she could always be counted on to support it vocally and make any sacrifice financially that was called for.
African Methodism was part of her soul, spirit and being. Serving many years as a helpmate to her late husband, Dr. Charles E. Drummer, Sr., she was a most distinguished “First Lady” wherever they went. Upon uniting with Quinn, she found an atmosphere created by the servants that God had placed in that vineyard, which allowed for free expression and movement, for creativity and ingenuity, for self-expression and commitment to excellence; and because of her love, kindness and her strong faith, she became, by popular consensus of Quinn Chapel, its pastoral family, the official boards and its loyal and vibrant membership’s, “First Lady.” She demonstrated, by her sensitivity to the people she was privileged to serve, her worthiness; but more than this, she always exemplified her strong faith and belief in the Lord Jesus Christ whom she hailed as her Saviour for she understood that, “He alone is worthy to be praised.”

She loved her family, her church, her God. She served them all well. We thank God for her life — all that we are, all we hope to be, we owe to her. May God keep us all worthy of her love, her loyalty, her devotion, her memory.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Reverend Dr. Charles E. Drummer, Sr.; one son, Harold B. Drummer; one daughter, Phyllis E. Drummer; and three brothers, Vernon, Rudy and Homer Ransom.

She leaves to cherish her memory: three loving children, Coeany Drummer Bryant of Cincinnati, Ohio, Edwina Drummer Coleman of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and Charles E. Drummer, Jr. of Dover, Delaware; uncles, Rease Warfield of Glendale, Ohio and David Ransom of Indianapolis, Indiana; aunts, Anna Warfield of Glendale, Ohio, Roberta Ransom, Clara Burrell, Lizzie Ransom, all of Indianapolis, Indiana and Emma Beanum of Romulus, Michigan; one brother, Charles Ransom of Indianapolis, Indiana; sons-in-law, James Bryant of Cincinnati, Ohio and Andrew Coleman of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; two daughters-in-law, Oneaster D. Drummer of Cincinnati, Ohio and Helen Drummer of Dover, Delaware; 12 grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; nieces, nephews, cousins and a host of other relatives and friends.

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A Mother’s Farewell to Her Children

When I must leave you for a little while,
Please do not grieve and shed many tears,
And hug your sorrow to you through the years.
But start out bravely with a gallant smile;
And for my sake and in His name
Live on and do all things the same.
Feed not your loneliness on empty days,
But fill each waking hour in useful ways.
Reach out your hand in comfort and in cheer,
And I in turn will comfort you and hold you near.
And never, never be afraid to die,
For I am waiting for you in the sky!
The Order of Service

Reverend Donald H. Jordan, Sr., Presiding

The Prelude .................................. The Musicians

The Chiming of the Hour — 11:00 a.m.

The Hymn of Confidence ................. The Choir and Congregation
“Blessed Assurance”

The Prayer of Invocation............... Dr. Jefferson W. Henderson
Associate Minister, Quinn Chapel A.M.E. Church

The Sacred Scriptures .................... Reverend LaMar T. Ellis
Associate Minister, Quinn Chapel A.M.E. Church
The Old Testament — Genesis 22:1-8
The New Testament — St. John 17:22-26

The Hymn of Faith ......................... Robert Gazaway Celestial Choir
“Even Me”

The Church Speaks ...................... Mrs. Lajuanna Miller
Acting President, Quinn Chapel A.M.E. Church,
Missionary Society

Reverend Taylor T. Thompson
Pastor, Allen Temple A.M.E. Church

Dr. Donald E. Newberry
Pastor, Lee Chapel A.M.E. Church

The Solo .................................. Ms. Esther Anderson
“Whatever It Takes”

The Family Tribute ...................... Reverend Charles E. Drummer, Jr.
Presiding Elder (Son of Deceased)

Moments of Meditation .................. The Musicians
“Softly and Tenderly”
(a time to reflect, a time to pray, a time to give thanks to God for allowing
Coeany R. Drummer to touch all of our lives and for her indomitable
spirit to lift us and give us courage for the journey)

Reflections of the Chief Pastors ......... Bishop Richard A. Hildebrand
Prelate, Third Episcopal District
(1984-1992) Retired

Bishop Henry Belin
Prelate, Third Episcopal District
(1992- )

The Song of Fulfillment ................. Robert Gazaway Celestial Choir
“Whispering Hope”
The Eulogy .................................. Reverend Donald H. Jordan, Sr.
"I Want Her to Be With Me"
"Father, I will, that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me,
where I am, that they may behold my glory, which, thou hast given me before
the foundations of the world." —St. John 17:24

The Hymn of Acceptance ............................. All
"The Lord's Prayer"

The Benediction .................................. Pastor Jordan

In the Name of the Triune God, may the spirit of missions enter
every heart. This we ask in Jesus Name.

The Recessional ................................. Clergy, Bearers, Family and Friends
"When We All Get to Heaven"

---The Entombment---

The Cemetery of Spring Grove Mausoleum
Cincinnati, Ohio

The family will receive friends at the church,
immediately following the Entombment.

---The Active Pallbearers---

Wilmot Allen ........................... Robert Coleman
Alphonso Meriweather .............. Don Sykes
Duane Mason ............................ Roy Mitchell
Robert Ross ............................. Lewis Ramey

---The Honorary Pallbearers---

Frank G. Wardlowe
Howard Melvin
Sellie Woods
The Ministers and
The Officers of Quinn Chapel A.M.E. Church

---The Flowerbearers---

The Missionary Society of Quinn Chapel A.M.E. Church
The Stewardess Board of Quinn Chapel A.M.E. Church
The Minister’s Wives
Golden Link Chapter, O.E.S.
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority
The Committal Service
Reverend Donald H. Jordan, Sr., Officiating

—The Supplication—

Man that is born of a woman hath but a short time to live, and is full of misery. He cometh up and is cut down like a flower; he fleeth as it were a shadow, and never continueth in one stay.

In the midst of life we are in death, of whom may we seek for succor, but of thee, O Lord, who for our sins are justly displeased.

Yet, O Lord God most holy, O Lord most mighty, O holy and merciful Saviour, deliver us not into the bitter pains of eternal death.

Thou knowest, O Lord the secrets of our hearts, shut not thy merciful ears to our prayers, but spare us, Lord most holy, O God most mighty, O holy and merciful Saviour, thou most worthy judge eternal, suffer us not, at our last hour, for any pains of death, to fall from thee.

—The Committal—

Forasmuch as it has pleased Almighty God, in his wise providence, to take out of the world, the soul of Coeany R. Drummer, we therefore commit her body to the final resting place, ashes to ashes, dust to dust, looking for the general resurrection in the last day, and the life of the world to come, through our Lord Jesus Christ; at whose second coming in glorious majesty to judge the world, the earth and the sea shall give up their dead, and the corruptible bodies of those who sleep in him shall be changed, and make like unto his own glorious body according to the mighty working whereby he is able to subdue all things unto himself.

—The Final Prayer—

O merciful God, the father of Our Lord, Jesus Christ, who is the resurrection of life, in whom whosoever believeth, shall live, though he die, and whosoever liveth and believeth in him shall not die eternally. We meek beseech thee, O father, to raise us from the death of sin unto the life of righteousness, that when we shall depart this life, we may rest in him; and at the general resurrection at the last day, may be found acceptable in thy sight, and receive that blessing which thy well-beloved son shall then pronounce to all that love and fear thee saying, "Come ye blessed of the world." Grant this we beseech thee, O merciful father, through Jesus Christ, our Mediator and Redeemer. Amen.

—The Solemn Benediction—

—The Acknowledgement—

We wish to express our sincere thanks and appreciation to our many friends and neighbors for the great outpouring of kindness extended to us during our bereavement. She served her church and community and we pray that her memory will always be a part of us and all those who loved her. We thank God for each of you.

—The Family—

My Thanks!

People everywhere in life
    from every walk and station,
From every town and city
    and every state and nation
Have given me so many things
    intangible and dear,
I couldn’t begin to count them all
    or even make them clear...
I only know I owe so much
    to people everywhere
And when I put my thoughts in verse
    it’s just a way to share
The musings of a thankful heart,
    a heart much like your own,
For nothing that I think or write
    is mine and mine alone...
So if you found some beauty
    in any word or line,
It’s just “Your Soul’s Reflection”
    in “Proximity with Mine.”

Helen Steiner Rice

CLOSE THE BOOK — BUT REMEMBER THE STORY