



## Earnestine Dunton

April 13, 1939 - February 14, 2026

Earnestine Dunton, 86, of Chattanooga, passed away Saturday, February 14, 2026, at her residence.

Earnestine Player Dunton, affectionately known as “Tine” was the third of eight children born to the late Oliver and Isabell Player on April 13, 1939. Earnestine attended East 5th Street Elementary and Junior High School and graduated from Howard School, Class of 1957. At an early age Earnestine accepted Christ and was baptized by Rev, J.C. Clark of Gethsemane Baptist Church, that was the beginning of her spiritual growth.

As an adult, Earnestine joined Mt. Canaan Baptist Church, under the pastorate of Rev. Melvin Jordan, where she continued serving and singing in the choir. She officially moved her membership to Second Missionary Baptist Church in 2017 and remained devoted and a faithful member until her health declined.

During her marriage, she was blessed with three sons: Jeffrey, Ivan, and Shawn Corey. As a devoted homemaker, Earnestine dedicated herself to maturing and guiding her boys through their formative years.

Earnestine was employed by Miller Brothers in downtown Chattanooga. She was also employed at Memorial hospital for 34 years. Earnestine had a special heart for the elderly, after styling their hair and polishing their nails,

bringing dignity and joy to those served. She also visited Friendship Haven monthly, providing freshly baked pound cakes and ice cream to celebrate the residents' birthdays, a gesture that reflected her sincere generosity and loving spirit.

Earnestine was preceded in death by her parents, and her siblings, Constance Player, William Player, Mary Slaughter and James Player. Earnestine transitioned from Earth to Glory on Saturday, February 14, 2026.

She leaves to cherish her precious memories to her sons Jeffrey Dunton (Toi), Ivan, and Shawn Corey Dunton, a host of grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Her sisters: Evelyn P. Lovelady of Chattanooga, TN, Olivia Wilson (Harry) of Las Vegas, NV, and Carolyn Pollard (Gary) of Kent, WA; along with a host of nieces, nephews, extended family, dear friends, and especially her goddaughter (Kaylina Summers).

She will lie-in-state on Wednesday, February 25, 2026, from 1-5 p.m. at Taylor Funeral Home. Funeral service will be Thursday, February 26, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. at Second Missionary Baptist Church with Dr. Ernest L. Reid, Jr. as the Eulogist.

# Previous Events

## Lie-In-State

FEB **25**. 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

Taylor Funeral Home  
3417 Wilcox Boulevard  
Chattanooga, TN 37411-1076

## Funeral Service

FEB **26**. 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM (ET)

Second Missionary Baptist Church  
2305 East 3rd Street  
Chattanooga, TN 37404-2799

# Tribute Wall



“ *My condolences to the family of this beautiful angel who God allowed to glow among us. It’s an honor and privilege to call her a friend. I pray that God provides peace and comfort during this difficult time.* ”

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**Thera Beaman** - March 04 at 02:01 PM



“ *Lillie S. Roshell lit a candle in memory of Earnestine Dunton* ”

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**Lillie S. Roshell** - February 27 at 12:55 AM



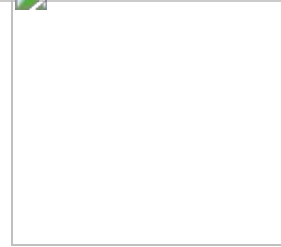
“ *Cindy Smith lit a candle in memory of Earnestine Dunton* ”

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**Cindy Smith** - February 26 at 08:58 PM



“ *My condolences to the family. May God's peace provide you with the comfort that you are needing during this time. Always remembering her beautiful smile and her kind spirit. You are in my thoughts and prayers.*  
*Carol Bell- Johnson*

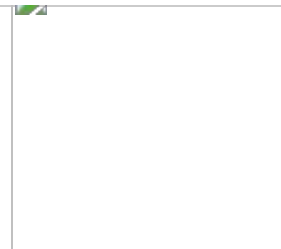


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**Carol Johnson** - February 26 at 01:58 PM



“ *Janet Wordlaw lit a candle in memory of Earnestine Dunton*



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**Janet Wordlaw** - February 25 at 10:45 PM



“ *My Condolences to The Family !!*

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**Pamela Perry** - February 25 at 10:43 PM



“*Mrs. Tine, as we affectionately called her, was always a true sweetheart and one of our beloved church mother figures growing up at Mt. Canaan. I have such fond memories of her beautiful voice in the choir and the joy of hearing her sing when she led songs. She loved her sons—Jeffrey, Ivan, and Corey—and her grandchildren and family. Her warmth, grace, and love touched so many lives. She will be greatly missed by all who knew her. My heartfelt condolences to her sons, grandchildren, Ms. Lovelady, and the entire family. May God give you strength, peace, and comfort now and in the days ahead. With love and sympathy, Karitsa Mosley Jones*

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**Karitsa M. Jones** - February 25 at 10:40 PM



“*I send my love and blessings to a beautiful person who has gone on to be with the Lord. Your kindness, strength, and love will never be forgotten. The seeds you planted in the lives of others will continue to grow for generations. May you rest peacefully and God reward you for every sacrifice, every prayer, and every act of kindness and love you gave so freely. You will always be remembered, always be honored, and always be loved, I love and miss you so much KAY*

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**Katilyn Summers** - February 25 at 09:23 PM



“ Mrs. Dunton was a very special soul. I called her my other mom. She was always dressed to perfection, and had an angelic voice for singing. She will truly be missed. Jeffrey, Ivan, and Corey, I am so sorry for your loss, and just know that she will forever be in our hearts. 🙏

Tammy Mitchell - February 25 at 09:15 PM



“ Dedra Partridge lit a candle in memory of Earnestine Dunton

Dedra Partridge - February 25 at 08:46 PM



“ My condolences.

Mary Marshall - February 25 at 07:23 PM



“ My condolences.

Mary Marshall - February 25 at 07:23 PM

DW

“ I will miss my friend she was always my go to person when I needed to talk. I am going to truly miss u time

Denise williams - February 25 at 06:54 PM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Earnestine Dunton.



February 25 at 04:20 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Earnestine Dunton.

February 25 at 04:20 PM

JK

“ Jacqueline Knight lit a candle in memory of Earnestine Dunton



Jacqueline Knight - February 25 at 12:52 PM

JM

“ *Mother Dunton, will always be in my her. She encourage me, and she was my Spiritual Mother, and Friend.  
Take your rest.*

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**Janice Mitchell** - February 25 at 11:57 AM



“ *Cheryl Locke lit a candle in memory of Earnestine Dunton*

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**Cheryl Locke** - February 25 at 01:09 AM

CR

“ *MY CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILY.  
CHERYL ROWE*

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**cheryl rowe** - February 23 at 11:44 PM

VH

“ *To the Dunton family my warm heart condolences with love. She will truly be missed my mama friend and redhat sister. I saw you a month ago and my heart is sad but heaven surly got a sweet angel. I will miss our times setting on your porch and to see your smile lite up when I bring Bryson to see you. I will always keep you in my heart the sweetest lady I know. Take your rest and I will see you when it's my time. Love you Ronnie* ❤️❤️❤️❤️

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**Veronica Hunter** - February 22 at 07:41 PM

R

“ Evelyn & family, we are thinking of you and wishing you moments of peace and comfort as you remember someone who was so close to you & our family.

*Sending healing prayers and comforting hugs.*

*Love Ronald, Rosalind & Harris Family*

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**Rosalind Harris** - February 22 at 10:27 AM



“ Joann Ballard lit a candle in memory of Earnestine Dunton



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**Joann Ballard** - February 22 at 02:24 AM

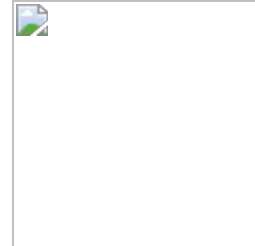


“ My deepest condolences to the family of Mrs. Earnestine Dunton, may the Lord give you strength and comfort.

*Tine as I use to call her, she would laugh.*

*Earnestine always had smile on her face, a pep in her step and was a sharp dresser.*

*Rest in Glory, Mrs Earnestine Dunton*



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**Joann Ballard** - February 22 at 02:11 AM



“ My deepest sympathy goes out to the family at this difficult time. Wishing you peace and comfort.

*Gwen W Moore and Family*



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**Gwen Moore** - February 22 at 12:16 AM

CR

“ *my condolences to the Family.* ”

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**cheryl rowe** - February 21 at 09:16 PM

AP

“ *Ann Jones Pierre purchased the Large Basket Garden for the family of Earnestine Dunton.* ”



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**Ann Jones Pierre** - February 21 at 03:56 PM

AP

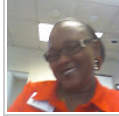
“ *Ann Jones Pierre planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Earnestine Dunton.* ”

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**Ann Jones Pierre** - February 21 at 03:56 PM

S

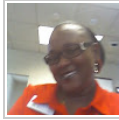
“ *Sonya Stiggers lit a candle in memory of Earnestine Dunton* ”

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**Sonya Stiggers** - February 21 at 02:22 AM



*Lovely Ms. T I will miss seeing you. God Bless Angel. Love Marilyn Vaughan*

**Marilyn Vaughan** - February 25 at 01:30 AM

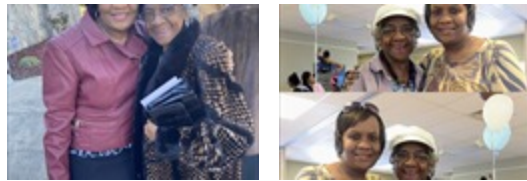


*My Condolences to the entire family. 🌸*

**Marilyn Vaughan** - February 25 at 01:32 AM

PN

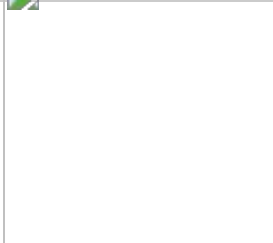
“ *My condolences!!! She was such a beautiful person!! She and my mom worked together at Memorial Hospital!! She was always so sweet when I would run into her!! RIP*



**Paula Renea Nance** - February 20 at 09:45 PM

CB

“ *CAROLYN BAILEY lit a candle in memory of Earnestine Dunton*



**CAROLYN BAILEY** - February 20 at 09:17 PM



“ *Ms. Earnestine was a pleasant spirit. Her smile and kindness will be missed. Prayers for comfort and strength to the Dunton Family.*

**Robin T Carr** - February 20 at 03:14 PM



“ *Patricia Kennedy Dunton lit a candle in memory of Earnestine Dunton*

Patricia Kennedy Dunton - February 20 at 01:06 AM



“ *Condolences and prayers going up to the entire Dunton Family, My dear friend Mrs. Ernestine Dunton was a jewel, I the sweetest lady ever, just like a big sister and mom all in one, the last time I saw her was around Thanksgiving she was her happy bubbly self that's how I would like to remember her, love you my friend take your rest until I see you again, Heaven's gaining a Godly women thst can sing and dress too, 🙏 RIP❤️❤️*

Alfreda Austin - February 19 at 08:23 PM



“ *Ms. Dunton was a special lady. I met her while doing volunteer work at Memorial Hospital. I only have fond memories of her and our time together. My love and condolences to the family. May she rest in peace.*

*Love,*

*Pamela E Bowles*

Pamela Bowles - February 19 at 06:32 PM

A

“ *My Prayers are with the Dunton Family, Ms. Earnestine was definitely God sent and always was a person that encouraged and gave in silence, she'll definitely be missed. thank you for sharing your Mother. Guys thank you for sharing your Mother.*

*Love,  
Alethea Bonner*

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**Alethea Bonner** - February 19 at 04:03 PM



“ *Dean Swindle lit a candle in memory of Earnestine Dunton*

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**Dean Swindle** - February 19 at 02:44 PM



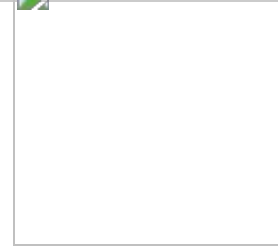
“ *Marva Taylor lit a candle in memory of Earnestine Dunton*

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**Marva Taylor** - February 19 at 02:39 PM



“ *Marva Taylor lit a candle in memory of Earnestine Dunton*



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**Marva Taylor** - February 19 at 02:38 PM



“ *Tine always had a pleasant smile and greeted you with a delightful gentle hello when she met you. She was always a joy to be around left you with a laughter of being in her presence...my condolences goes out to her family.*

*L. Wright*

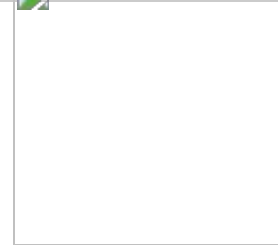
*L*

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**Dean Swindle** - February 19 at 02:37 PM



“ *With memory.*



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**Ann Pierre** - February 19 at 12:13 PM



“ *"Tine" always had a smile and was a dedicated worker, Her ability to dress was always classy.*

*A wonderful spirit. Ann Pierre*

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**Ann Pierre** - February 19 at 12:12 PM

BS

“ *Brenda S lit a candle in memory of Earnestine Dunton*

**Brenda S** - February 19 at 05:01 AM

LH

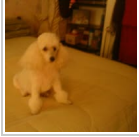
“ *Laretta Harriso lit a candle in memory of Earnestine Dunton*

**Laretta Harriso** - February 19 at 04:16 AM



“ *My Condolences to the Family. Velma and Gregory Magruder*

**Velma Adams** - February 18 at 11:48 PM



“ *My Sister in Christ.  
Heartfelt prayer being offered to Almighty God  
for strength at this time to family. God is the  
source of it all.  
Be encouraged and strengthen by his power  
divine.  
Elizabeth Hayes &  
Peggy A. Mack,*

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**Elizabeth Hayes** - February 18 at 10:22 PM



“ *Joyce Fears lit a candle in memory of  
Earnestine Dunton*



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**Joyce Fears** - February 18 at 09:04 PM



“ *The Walker family will truly miss her. She was  
a great neighbor, church member and friend.*

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**sandra wilkerson** - February 18 at 07:29 PM



“ *I remember my sister in Christmas singing ( Walking in the Light)  
well Sis. You are truly walking in the Light. I am going to miss you*  
🥹

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**Leola Phelps** - February 18 at 04:06 PM

SK

“ *Sharon Kennard lit a candle in memory of Ernestine Dunton*

Sharon Kennard - February 18 at 05:09 AM

SK

“ *My condolences to the family. Ernestine was a lovely lady always smiling. She will be greatly missed.*

Sharon Kennard - February 18 at 05:09 AM

KD

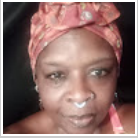
“ *Kimberly Davis lit a candle in memory of Ernestine Dunton*

Kimberly Davis - February 18 at 01:23 AM

LR

“ To the entire family, may you find peace and comfort in knowing you are not alone. We and many others share in your sorrow with Deepest Sympathy. Your loved one's memory has now become a treasure and is eternal. She will be missed but never forgotten. our prayers and thoughts will remain constant for you all at this difficult time. May your precious memories, divine faith in God and love of God be strength for you as you face the days ahead. We extend to you our heartfelt condolences. "In Christian Love", Beverly and Larry Rowe Sr. and Family

Larry Rowe - February 17 at 10:03 PM



“ Death takes the body. God takes the soul. Our mind holds the memories. Our heart keeps the love. Our faith let's us know we WILL meet again. Rest Tine ❤️

ROZ TURNER - February 17 at 08:44 PM

R

“ Rosalind Harris lit a candle in memory of Earnestine Dunton

Rosalind Harris - February 17 at 08:01 PM

R

“ My love goes out to the Dunton family. I pray God's blessing over you all. I will miss my big sister from another mother.

Love you all,  
Minister Rosalyn Smedley

Rosalyn Smedley Dodson - February 17 at 01:48 PM

D

“ My Condolences to the family and friends. May my Friend RIP. Ms.Ernistine was like a Mom to me.And one of the sweetest person that I had have known.so loving and caring about every one she came in contact with. I love her and she will always be in my heart ❤️ We love you Diane and Walter Jones and family 💔❤️🙏🙏🙏

Diane Jones - February 17 at 04:55 AM

MB

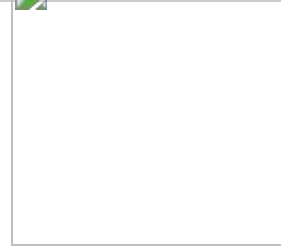
“ Marilyn Brown lit a candle in memory of Earnestine Dunton



Marilyn Brown - February 16 at 11:48 PM



“ *Cindy Smith lit a candle in memory of Earnestine Dunton*

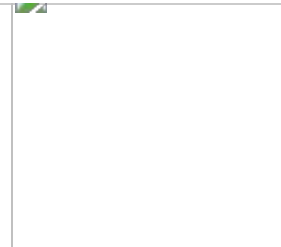


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**Cindy Smith** - February 16 at 11:33 PM



“ *I am sorry to hear of the passing of my dear friend to the family, you have my deepest sympathy . She was a great person, and I love to hear her sing rest well, my dear friend I'll see you in the morning 🙏🙏🙏*

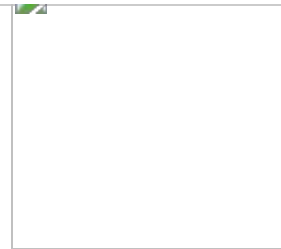


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**Shelia Lowery** - February 16 at 11:19 PM



“ *Shelia Lowery lit a candle in memory of Earnestine Dunton*

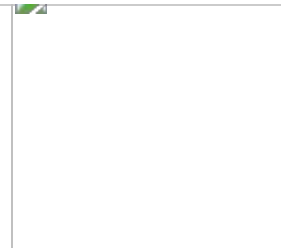


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**Shelia Lowery** - February 16 at 11:16 PM



“ *I will always remember Earnestine for her caring spirit, love for God and her family. There was never a dull moment when we talked on the phone. Forever in my heart .*



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**Dorothy Graves** - February 16 at 06:56 PM

HE

“ Praying that God will strengthen and keep each family member in tranquil peace as you celebrate the life of your dear loved one. Ernestine left her mark in time each time being in her presence. Rest in peace "sweet lady." Rev. Henrietta Erskine- SMBC

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**Henrietta Erskine** - February 16 at 04:09 PM