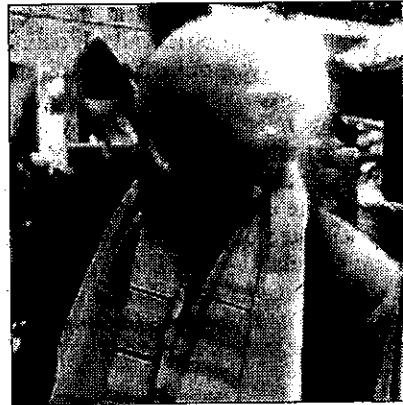


## Mildred Estelle Shavers Kington



GHR 3-1-2012

Mildred Estelle Shavers Kington, 88, of Baltimore, Md., died Feb. 20, 2012, at home surrounded by her family.

Funeral services were held at Gwynn Oak United Methodist Church in Baltimore on Saturday, Feb. 25. Services were to continue on DeKalb, Texas. In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made in her name to the Robert and Laura Shavers Scholarship Fund, Fisk University, Office of Institutional Advancement, Cravath Hall, 1000 17th Ave. North, Nashville, Tenn., 37208 or online at [www.fisk.edu/onlinegiving/giving](http://www.fisk.edu/onlinegiving/giving), or to the Scholarship Fund In Memory of Mildred Shavers Kington, Wayne State University Development, Beecher House, 5475 Woodward Ave., Detroit, Mich., 48202.

She was born May 19, 1923, in DeKalb, Texas, the tenth child of 11 born to Robert and Laura Shavers in the Garland Community outside of DeKalb. She was born a fourth-generation Texan in a community founded by freed slaves after the Civil War. Both of her parents were the children of slaves and were each the first in their families to attend college, and they later taught in the DeKalb area.

Mildred graduated from Texarkana High School in 1940, then attended what is now Huston-Tillotson University in Austin, Texas. There, she was an active member of the college's basketball team. After interrupting her college education to work at defense plants in both Texas and Detroit during World War II, she transferred to Wayne State University's School of Education in Detroit and graduated in 1949 with a concentration in home economics. She then attended Michigan State University to obtain a second concentration in early childhood education. She later taught home economics and special education in public schools in Jackson, Mich.; Staten Island and Harlem, New York City; and Baltimore, Md. She married Dr. Garfield D. Kington, whose classmate in medical school had married one of her sisters, and they settled in Baltimore in 1958.

She left her teaching career to raise her five children, but remained deeply involved in the community. She helped establish and run community centers and summer camps and was very active in political and civic affairs. She was the founding president of the Committee for the Preservation of Orchard Street Church, which was part of the Underground Railroad and is now home of the Baltimore Urban League. For more than 20 years she served on the board of Garrison Boulevard United Methodist Church, a predecessor to Gwynn Oak United Methodist Church.

She is survived by her husband; their five children, Gregory A. Kington of Los Altos, Calif.; Gail Kington Lloyd of Pittsburgh, Penn.; Douglas R. Kington of Baltimore, MD; Dr. Raynard S. Kington of Grinnell; and Emerson A. Kington of Boston, Mass.; five grandchildren; her twin sister, Myrtle S. Downs of Detroit, Mich.; two other sisters, Genevieve Benton of DeKalb, Texas, and Mattie Johnson of Nashville, Tenn.; one brother, Lt. Col. (Ret.) Iverson Shavers of DeKalb; and numerous other relations.