This is a memoir of “What I Remember”. I would like to start off by expressing my thoughts on my Mother and I will also mention my memories of my birth father too.

These two individuals gave me my life in its many wondrous opportunities and experiences.

They were innovators in a time when folks their communities were limited with the resources that we now have in this modern society. But regardless of the era, they struggled day by day trying to grow into upright citizens while raising children.

My parents had three children, a brilliant, beautiful daughter first and two extremely marvelous, handsome sons.

My father, a good man, joined the United States Air force when he became of age and married my mother, a shy, strong minded young woman, that same year. Back in those times, my grandmother, Mrs. Emma Streeter Bivens, an intelligent woman, a pastor’s wife and a community leader who had seven daughters and a son felt she needed to get her girls married in order to ensure that they would be taken care of throughout their life.

To make sure that her daughter, who was second to the last in birth order and was born with a blood disorder, was cared for appropriately, she made arrangements to wed my mother, Miss Barbara Florence Bivens to my father, Private Charles Alvin Mills as soon as they were of age.

She was wise enough to know that the military gave their soldiers and their families an excellent health care package.

Neither of the two knew each other very well. I believe my mother later said that she saw him walk by their house a few times and thought he was handsome. But that was the extent of their relationship prior to their marriage.

But regardless of how the matrimony took place, these two young people went out into the world as a team and accomplished so many miraculous feats together.

He eventually got several promotions in the United States Air Force to become a Tex Sergeant for his company before his life was taken from him in Bangkok, Thailand.

She became a parochial school teacher and became the second woman in her church to be nominated as a church elder. She became a community activist and acquired ownership of a non-profit nutritional organization that until this day provides funds for thousands of children in Georgia to help them receive healthy and nutritious meals during their young years.

There is so much more that can be mentioned regarding these two individuals life lessons that have and will inspire many people both young and old for generations. Both of them in their own way left behind philosophies for life improvements that could easily be a guide to help others who choose to follow in their footsteps.

They both are decease now. They left a legacy for hope, honor and peace for their family and their heirs.

It is my hope that we can learn from their triumphs and from their mistakes and use this knowledge to move forward while we continue our journey.