

A Tribute to My Mother

My Dearest Kate,

You’ve been with me all my life, and I’m going to miss you. You were a wonderful mother, and a good provider for my brother and me. I know it wasn’t easy as a very young mother, left alone with two little children. You worked as a maid, and then long hours at Fort Jackson during World War II. I am eternally grateful to you and your parents –“Daddy” West and “Mother” Henrietta- for the lovely home you made.

Kate, you taught me important values and skills for everyday life: to love God and family; to be kind, dependable, independent; and to share whatever I earned (especially with my brother, because it was just the two of us). You modeled how to work hard, and always try to save something; you taught me how to cook and clean so I could earn a little money to spend as I chose; and taught me to sew my own skirts for school. You sacrificed to send Willie and me to private piano lessons (although I ultimately told you to stop wasting your money on me); and gave us 5 or 10 cents a week so we could go to the movies at Carver Theater on Tuesdays and Saturdays, with the other neighborhood children. Mama, you were so good to us.

On vacations and during retirement, we took so many trips together... to places like Chicago, Williamsburg, Philadelphia, the Worlds’ Fair in Knoxville, Baltimore, Orlando, and Martha’s Vineyard. I even convinced you to get on a cruise ship with me to go to The Bahamas.

When you were so very sick, I brought you home so I could care for you. It was never a burden to care for you. I just kept saying, “Thank you, Jesus, for giving me a good mother.” Thank you, Lord, for letting her live to be 99 years old, to see her 100th year. I’m going to miss you, Katie. Though my soul says, Yes, Lord, Yes, I’m going to miss you so much.

Until we meet again,

*Always Your Loving Daughter,
“Dot”*



A Tribute to Our Grandmother

Dear Grandma,
You have been an angel to our family. I will always remember you as petite-- but also strong and wise- a woman, who epitomizes the quality ascribed to GOD, as loving-kindness. Truly you have shown our family and so many others what love looks like in action. I'm so very grateful for your prayers on my behalf, and your presence at all the important events in my life. I thank you for all those hours in the kitchen cooking homemade dinners and desserts for our immediate family; for every greeting card sent for every holiday & birthday; for the weekly allowances during my high school days, and that “much too expensive” debutante ball gown; for every letter with “a ‘lil money to help” sent to me while I was an undergrad at UVA (always with the taxes included). I thank you for the many conversations and trips, and for laughter we’ve enjoyed through the years. I thank you for giving me my Dad, and continuing to love and welcome my mother. Most of all, for your patience with me. Even though I’ll miss you terribly, I know that you are well now, and so it is well with me. I pray that God will bless me with a double portion of your sweet spirit, and that you will continue to watch over us. I know you will.

*Love Always,
Karen*

Grandmama..... Loved, that is how you always made me feel. How to Love (as God does) unconditionally, was your example and instruction. Your light, your smile, your way of seeing the best in me always, your quick wit, your hands that held, fed so many on Sundays and Holidays...You never forgot a birthday or holiday and made my path through life so much easier. All of these things I will never forget, and in your honor, I will strive to continue be a vessel for all of the Love you shared with me, Tonya, and the boys.

*Love you Grandma,
Billy*

As I sit down to write this message to you, many thoughts flood my mind, but the words do not flow. I shake my head in awe when I think of all that you have seen, heard, experienced, and accomplished in your century-long lifetime of living. The changes that you have seen; so many things that made you laugh, cry, and pray...Yes, there was always prayer for you. I have watched you pray your way, the family’s way, and yes, definitely my way, through so many of life’s situations. I try to think what I’ll miss most about you, and there is no ONE particular thing: I will miss your smile, your laugh, your quick wit, and the way that you always put others first. Even in your last days of life, while you were bedridden, your first and last thoughts included others. It was so precious the way you would always ask “Have the children eaten? Has everyone else eaten?” before you would settle down to eat your meals. Grandma, you may not have made an even 100 years on this earth, but you and your legacy will continue to be ONE OF A KIND!

*Your Loving Granddaughter,
Janet*

#LoveAndMissMyGrandma #GrandmasPrayers
#SomeGladMorningCameAndGrandmaFlewAwayHome

Grandmama,
When I think about your life and what it meant to me, my heart and my soul bursts with pride. There are not many people who can say that their grandmother lived to be 99, but our family was not ordinary and neither were you. I have so many memories that have come to me over the last few months as I tried to say what I felt knowing that everyday was now indeed a gift. I remember sleeping on the leather sleeper sofa on the weekends and you making me whatever I wanted for breakfast and buying me candy corn. Did Mom and Dad know that you let me leave it at your house so they wouldn’t know? I remember you and Granddaddy Etheridge shuttling me around town to all my events and rehearsals – always arriving way ahead of time so I wouldn’t have to wait (I try Moses and Micah LOL). Sunday mornings I would call you and Aunt Dot to come by the house to pick me up for Sunday School so my Mom could likely get a few minutes of downtime. Ohhhh and the many trips going to the PROGRESSIVE BAPTIST CONVENTION in ONE car for ONE week and SEVEN people!! When I was in high school, you came by our house one morning and said that you were going to buy a car that day. And later that day, we spoke and I asked how was your day and you said “I told you I was going to buy a car! It’s a RED Cadillac and I paid cash....I don’t wanna owe ‘dem people nothin.” You always remembered every birthday, Easter, Christmas, and Thanksgiving with a card and maybe a little something extra. The many times you called once I was married you always said “How are you doing?” and before I could finish my answer you would say “How’s Martin?” then later “How are all MY boys?” As a wife and mother, I now appreciate the thought and preparation you put into your household, our family, every meal and every holiday gathering and the way you made sure the fish was fresh out the grease because you would have it no other way. Grandma, I love you and I know you loved me in every word and action towards me and my family. You were a beautiful example of what I strive to be for God and my family. Rest well my Queen. Tell Daddy we said hello and y’all have a good time celebrating the journey.

*Love you always,
Audrey (Your Baby....now give me some of that good suga)*



The Order of Service

Rev. Dr. Michael A. Ross, Presiding

Prelude

Processional

Opening Hymn

I'll Fly Away

Scriptures

Old Testament

Psalms 23, King James Translation

Rev. Willie Wilson

New Testament

1 Corinthians 13, Message Translation

Rev. Helen Brown Washington

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Rev. Willistine LaGree

Tribute

Mr. Brandon Starks, Mr. Reginald Starks,
Mr. Moses Lane, and Mr. Micah Lane
Great-Grandsons

Reflections

Ms. Dinah Peterson, *Friend*
Mrs. Dorothy Gordon, *Deaconess*
Deacon JB Brown, *Former Chairman of New
Ebenezer Baptist Church Deacon's Ministry*
Rev. Karen V. Starks, *Eldest Granddaughter*

Resolutions & Acknowledgements

Tribute

Mrs. Lisa Ramos, *Cousin*

Selection

Ms. Janet Starks, *Granddaughter*

Tribute

Video Presentation

Words of Comfort

Rev. Dr. Michael A. Ross

Recessional

Goin' Up Yonder

Committal, Prayer, Benediction, Interment
Palmetto Cemetery, 5050 Fairfield Road, Columbia, SC 29203

Repast Location:
New Ebenezer Baptist Church Fellowship Hall, 1236 Gregg Street, Columbia, SC 29201



The Obituary - **KATIE LEE WEST (STARKS) ETHERIDGE** *Sweet, Loving, and Dressed to Impress*

Mrs. Katie Etheridge, was born in Ward, SC, on September 1, 1918. She transitioned from her earthly home, at her residence in Columbia, SC, in the loving care of her daughter and grandchildren, on Friday, February 2, 2018. She was the only child of the late Henrietta Wallace West and the late James West, and the eldest granddaughter of her paternal grandmother, Mrs. Elmira Barkley West (former "Mother" of New Ebenezer Baptist Church).

Mrs. Etheridge was educated in Columbia public schools. At age 9, Katie was baptized at the New Ebenezer Baptist Church (formerly located on Lady Street). For 90 years, she devoted her life to Christian service and the care of her family. She loved to sing, was a member of New Ebenezer's very first Junior Musical Choir and sang most of her adult life as a member of the Senior Musical Choir. Her legacy of Christian works include service as a Deaconess who regularly visited the sick in the community; a faithful member of Adult Sunday School; a member of the Senior Missionary; and Treasurer of the Elderly Ministry.

Mrs. Etheridge was initially employed as a domestic maid in prominent homes throughout Columbia. She also worked in the laundry section at Fort Jackson during World War II. In 1970, she continued her domestic career with the SC Department of Mental Health. While working at the 'Old Bull Street' State Hospital facility, Mrs. Etheridge received her Nursing Assistant's certificate in July of 1976 from the Columbia Vocational Institute. After 21 years of service to the State of South Carolina, she retired in 1986.

At a young age, Katie married Leroy Starks, and they had two children: Emma Lee (aka: "Dot"), and Willie Lee Starks. On January 18, 1952, she married Daniel Etheridge (of Batesburg, SC) and they enjoyed 44 happy years together. She was a member of the Order of Eastern Stars, Esther Chapter1, Ridgewood Lodge #630, for many years.

Katie loved cooking for the Friday night fish fry and Sunday's family dinner, sewing, coordinating her outfits from head to toe, and traveling throughout the US with her family—(especially with her grandchildren piled in the car). She even took her first cruise well past the age of 80. Additionally, she enjoyed fellowshiping and traveling with the "Golden Girls of New Ebenezer". One of her proudest accomplishments was to be featured on the cover of IMARA Magazine, as an active senior citizen (at age 86).

Mrs. Etheridge was preceded in death by her loving parents, devoted husband Daniel, and beloved son, Rev. Dr. Willie Lee Starks, Sr. She leaves to cherish her memory and carry her legacy, **her precious daughter, Emma Starks Jenkins; four awesome grandchildren:** Rev. Karen V. Starks, and Willie Lee Starks, Jr, (Tonya), Columbia, SC; Janet L. Starks Tallahassee, FL; and Audrey K. Starks Lane (Martin), of Charleston, SC; and **four treasured great grandsons:** Brandon Lee Starks, Reginald Paige Starks, Moses Luther Lane, and Micah Lee Lane. She will also be fondly remembered and sadly missed by a host of cousins, extended family, many "adopted daughters", her church family, and friends.

Pallbearers

Mr. Dennis Sutton
Mr. Arthur Fludd
Mr. William Michael Brown, Sr.
Mr. Thomas Brown
Mr. Terry Hughes
Mr. Clifford Brooks

Floral Bearers

Missionaries
Deaconesses
Elderly Ministry
Family

Expressions of Gratitude

We, the family of Katie Lee West Starks Etheridge, would like to express our sincere gratitude to those of you who so kindly celebrated her life along with us. Your kindness and support will always remain in our hearts.

In loving memory of Katie Lee West Starks Etheridge, thank you all.



Brian Myers, Director
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www.myersmortuarysc.com

Celebrating the Life & Legacy of

Mrs. Katie Lee West Starks Etheridge

*Sunrise
September 1,
1918*

*Sunset
February 2,
2018*

*Thursday, February 8, 2018
12:00 pm*

New Ebenezer Baptist Church
1236 Gregg Street, Columbia, SC 29201

Rev. Dr. Michael A. Ross, Pastor