

## *Family and Memories*

### *Last Forever*



## *Honorary Pallbearers*

John Collins Jr.   Dannie Brooks   Darrin Brooks  
Dion Brooks   Derek Nelson   Michael Faison  
Gregory Collins   Kyle Bowerman

## *Acknowledgments*

We are most grateful for the gift of friends and family like you. You have been so kind and thoughtful during these hours of sorrow. Your prayers, visits, calls, flowers and every acts of kindness have given us strength and inspiration for the facing of this hour. God bless you all. Love you all.

~ The Family of Della B. Luten

## *Interment*

Riverview Cemetery  
2300 Portage Avenue • South Bend, IN 46628

## *Arrangements Entrusted To*



1222 Napier Street  
South Bend, Indiana 46601

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Fax: [574] 282-2492

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www.alfordsmortuaryinc.com

## *Celebrating The Life*

*of*

# *Della Bernice Luten*



**Sunrise:**  
**June 7, 1928**



**Sunset:**  
**November 7, 2020**

**Monday, November 16, 2020**  
**Family Hour: 12:00 p.m.   Service: 1:00 p.m.**

**Alford's Mortuary Chapel**  
**1222 Napier Street • South Bend, Indiana 46601**

**Pastor Jean Hope, Officiant**



## Her Journey

Della Bernice Luten (affectionately known as “Tody”), was born on June 7, 1928, in Bowling Green, Kentucky to the union of Eddie and Mandella Wilkerson. She was the youngest of four daughters.

She was baptized at an early age at State Street Baptist Church in Bowling Green. After graduating from State Street High School, Della attended and graduated from Central State University in Ohio with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1950. While at Central State she met her husband, the late Joseph B. Luten. They were married on June 17, 1950. Della’s first teaching job was in Owensboro, Kentucky. In 1954 she and her husband were offered teaching positions with the South Bend Community School Corporation.

After getting acclimated to a new city and career, she decided it was time to expand their family. They were proud to welcome their only son Quincy who brought them so much joy.

After teaching kindergarten and first-grade students at Oliver School in South Bend, she discovered that some of her students lacked the basic learning skills required to succeed. After discussing this with her husband, she decided to quit her teaching job and pursue her dream of opening up a daycare center.

In 1975, Del’s Educational Day Care Center was officially opened. She was the first black-owned daycare to be licensed in the State of Indiana. In addition to her role as a business owner, she also provided counseling and Mentoring to her staff and others. Some of her first employees were her sister-in-law, Annell Waters, and late brother-in-law, Lester Waters.

Della was a longtime member of Grace A.M.E. Zion Church where she served on various ministries until her health prevented her from attending.

She was one of the founders of the Drifters Inc., since 1958.

On Saturday, November 7, 2020, Della received her golden crown. She leaves to cherish her precious memory, her loving son, Quincy; grandson, Joseph (Afomia); sister, Willie Ailster of Aiken, South Carolina; and sister-in-law, Annell Waters of South Bend. She is also survived by two special nephews: Carlos Faison of Warren, Michigan, and John Collins Jr. of South Bend; a host of nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, great-great-nieces and nephews, cousins, and friends.

Della was preceded in death by her loving husband of 62 years, Joseph; her granddaughter, Tameka; sisters: Virginia Wilkerson and Frances Hawkins.

## Order of Service

Monday, November 16, 2020 • 1:00 p.m.

### Alford's Mortuary

Pastor Jean Hope, Officiant

Musical Prelude ..... Organist

Solo ..... Wesley Lee

### The Holy Scriptures

Old Testament Reading: Ecclesiastes 7:1

Clergy

New Testament Reading: II Corinthians 5:8 / Romans 14:8

Clergy

Prayer..... Elder Dawn Faison

Solo ..... Carlos Faison [Nephew]

Reflections and Tributes

Joseph Luten [Grandson]

The National Drifters Inc.

Leslie Wesley [Niece] National Vice President

Neal Shambry—Grace A.M.E. Zion Church

Acknowledgments / Condolences / Obituary

Charon Richards [Niece]

Solo ..... Wesley Lee

Eulogy ..... Pastor Jean Hope

Grace A.M.E. Zion Church

Recessional ..... Clergy, Pallbearers, Family, Friends

Dear Friends and Family,

I want to let you know I have moved; I received a call from God who informed me that my new home is ready and that I could move in immediately. You know that I have been sending up my timber, packing up and getting ready to go but there were some final touches needed.

Well, my new home is finished and it is such a beautiful sight to behold. It is located in an exclusive estate and sits behind the Pearly Gates. Of course, the streets are paved with gold and everyday is Sunday. I have lived in many places before but not one I can compare; there is a peace, joy, and happiness here and I have no more pain. I could go on and on about my new home but I have to get fitted for my new robe. I look forward to seeing you all one day.

With my love,

Della Bernice Luten  
1928 Jesus Way Lane  
Godstown, Heaven 19282020

P.S.: I don’t have a phone yet, but call God; if you don’t have his number, He is listed in the Good Book [a.k.a. Bible] on every page.

