



TO GOD BE THE

Glory

A CELEBRATION OF LIFE FOR OUR BELOVED

WILLIAMAE
Morrison

JULY 22, 1916 - JANUARY 6, 2022

Wednesday, January 19, 2022

Visitation: 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. | Service: 10:00 a.m.

Hughes Funeral Home LLC
324 Bellevue Avenue, Trenton, NJ 08618

*Officiant: Reverend Dr. Vincent H. Jackson, Pastor,
St. John's Baptist Church*



ORDER *of* SERVICE



PRELUDE

Organist Arlene Carthan

PROCESSIONAL

Clergy and Family

INVOCATION

Reverend Dr. Vincent H. Jackson

MUSICAL SELECTION

Deacons Robert Hinton and Jessie Grier

SCRIPTURE READING

Old Testament- Reverend Roscoe Bell

New Testament- Deacon James Sanders

PRAYER OF COMFORT

Reverend Caroline McKenzie

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS/OBITUARY

Stacy Sweeney

REMARKS

Deacon Lenwood Thompson

Deacon Jessie Grier

Justin Morrison

MUSICAL SELECTION

Deacon Robert Hinton

EULOGY

Reverend Dr. Vincent H. Jackson

RECESSIONAL

INTERMENT

Ewing Cemetery

REPAST

Ambassador Banquet Hall

610 New York Avenue in Trenton, NJ



The Life Story of WILLIA MAE

Willia Mae Morrison passed away peacefully at home surrounded by family and joined all of her sisters and brothers in Heaven on Thursday, January 6, 2022. She was born in Faison, N.C. on July 22, 1916. She was the first-born child of eight children along with her twin brother Willie. Willia Mae's parents were Maylon Hobbs Sanders and John Needham Sanders.

Willia Mae graduated from Sampson County Training High School located in Clinton, N.C. She played high school basketball and later coached basketball at the high school level. One of her teams reached the state play-off level of competition. For many years, she was still in touch with players from her first team. Her son and grandsons followed "in her footsteps" by coaching and playing basketball.

Upon graduating from high school, Willia Mae attended Elizabeth City State University (ECSU) in Elizabeth City, North Carolina where she received her B.A. degree in elementary education. She learned in 2021 that she was one of the oldest living graduates of Elizabeth City State University. ECSU alumnus Leonard Carmichael kept her alma mater informed about her and arranged for the college to send her many gifts for her 100th birthday celebration. To earn her way through college, Willia Mae worked in kitchens on campus and also as a waitress in hotels and restaurants in Virginia Beach as a part of a summer work-study program arranged by her college.

After college, Willia Mae taught fourth grade in a segregated school in Louisville, Kentucky and despite pleas to remain from her principal, she returned to North Carolina to teach combined second, third and fourth graders in Chinquapin, North Carolina.

In the 1940's, Willia Mae relocated to Philadelphia, P.A., met and married Luther W. Morrison who had moved to Philadelphia from Elberton, Georgia. They raised two sons Randy and Ritchie. When Willia Mae's mother passed away leaving two young sons at home, she and Luther accepted her brothers John and James into their home and raised them until they became adults.

Willia Mae enjoyed a successful thirty-three year career as a Philadelphia Public School teacher. She taught at Pratt Arnold Elementary School for eighteen years. While working full-time and raising her family, Willia Mae returned to college and received a M.A. degree in education from Temple University and also earned several certifications through the years. She loved children and encouraged many to pursue careers in education.

Willia Mae joined National Temple Baptist Church shortly after arriving in Philadelphia. A member for sixty years, she was proud to have witnessed every church ordination except the first. This included the current pastor, Rev. Terry Oakman. She loved all of the pastors and worked diligently. At National Temple, she was the former president of the Trustee Aides and Pastor's Aides and was president of the Willing Workers Association for twenty-five years. In addition, Willia Mae served as church secretary for ten years, was a member of the Hospitality Club, the Flower Club and was chairperson several times for the Annual Women's Day Celebration.

Willia Mae participated in numerous organizations in her community. She was a founding member and Worthy Matron of Mabel M. Keys Chapter #99 of Eastern Stars in Philadelphia.

Through the years, many gathered at Willia Mae's home in Philadelphia for holiday dinners and other celebrations. All looked forward to her outstanding cooking and baking, especially her "Seven-Up" cake and collard greens.

In her later years, Willia Mae lived with her brother John and niece Sheila for a few years and then resided with her son Randy and his family in Ewing where she joined St. John's Baptist Church under "Watchcare" and later became a full member. She loved Rev. Jackson at her new church, made great friends and participated in the St. John's Missionary Board. Often, she was the first on the bus to travel to fellowship with other churches.

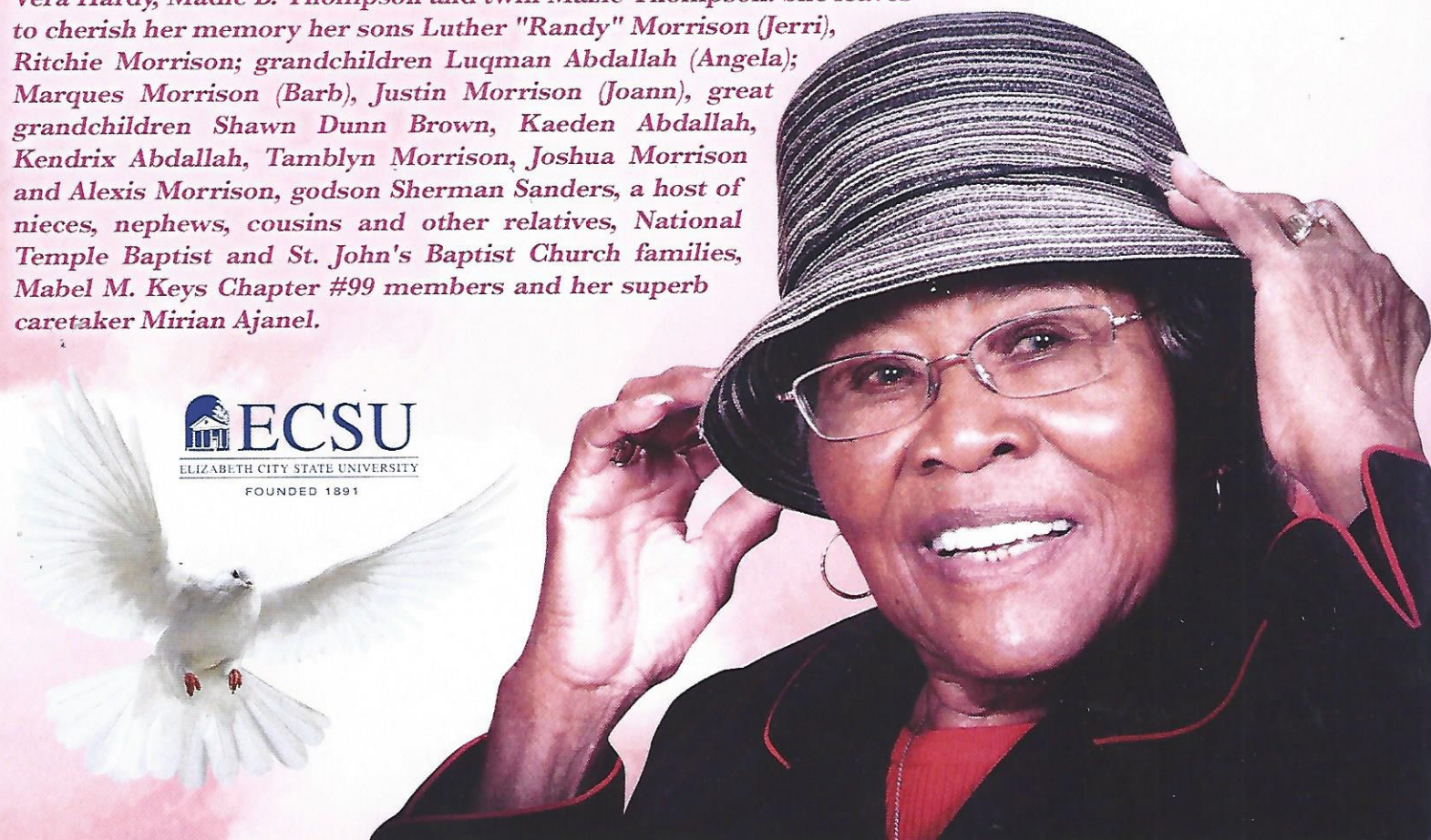
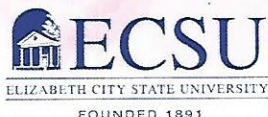
Travel was one of Willia Mae's passions. She helped chaperone many of her daughter-in-law's Trenton Central High School student trips to France, England, Spain and Switzerland. With her family and friends, she traveled to Nevada, California, Canada, Brazil, Hawaii, Aruba and several islands in the Caribbean.

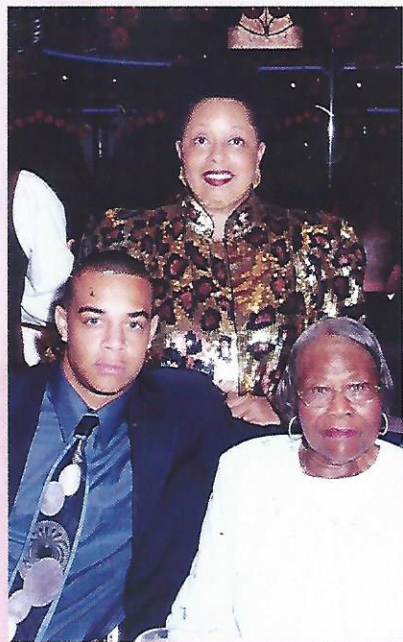
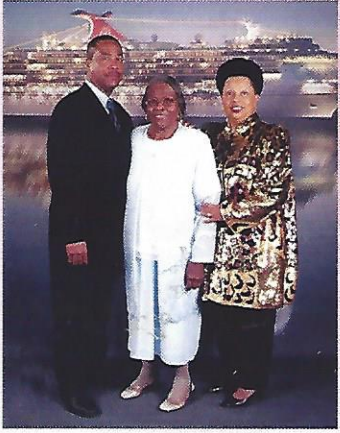
Always immaculately dressed, Willia Mae would often match from "head to toe" with a colorful church hat matching her outfit and sometimes the pocketbook matched also.

Willia Mae's family and friends are grateful to God for her life, contributions, her wisdom and her love. A God-fearing, determined and hardworking individual herself, she wanted everyone to achieve success. She inspired and helped many through the years. Her generosity was extraordinary. She loved all of her family members and looked forward to trips home to Faison, N.C., especially for the yearly family reunions she helped initiate along with her sisters and brothers.

Willia Mae was a loving person. Many called her Grandma including the Bullock, Boyd and James children. "Mom Morrison" was the name many others called her as a demonstration of adoration and respect.

Willia Mae was predeceased by her parents Maylon Hobbs Sanders and John Needham Sanders, her brothers Willie Sanders, Arthur Sanders, Deacon James Sanders, and Deacon John Sanders; her sisters Vera Hardy, Madie B. Thompson and twin Mazie Thompson. She leaves to cherish her memory her sons Luther "Randy" Morrison (Jerri), Ritchie Morrison; grandchildren Luqman Abdallah (Angela); Marques Morrison (Barb), Justin Morrison (Joann), great grandchildren Shawn Dunn Brown, Kaeden Abdallah, Kendrix Abdallah, Tamblyn Morrison, Joshua Morrison and Alexis Morrison, godson Sherman Sanders, a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and other relatives, National Temple Baptist and St. John's Baptist Church families, Mabel M. Keys Chapter #99 members and her superb caretaker Mirian Ajanel.







An Interview With Mom

Early Years

"Girls could get a driver's license at an earlier age than boys because they were thought to be more mature and careful.

My father supported our family by working as an overseer on a neighboring farm. At home he grew white potatoes. I helped my mother prepare them. We ate some form of potatoes most days.

I used to pick strawberries with my cousins Anna Marie, Margaret and all of their sisters and brothers. Their father, Uncle Amos had a large farm in Faison.

We girls loved our bloomers that we wore under our skirts every day.

I was baptized in a river in North Carolina and I have been a strong believer ever since."

College Years

"We were not allowed to slow dance. We could only do "jumping up and down" dancing.

I worked in the kitchen at Elizabeth City State University. I didn't make much, but I made enough to stay.

Several summers some of us from college worked in hotels and restaurants at Virginia Beach. The college arranged this. We used some of our money to pay the college. With the rest I bought two pairs of stockings and a Sunday dress. Stockings were a must for church on campus. We had to go every Sunday.

We used to go on dates, only to the movies. We had to go in groups of 5-10 and always with a chaperone."

Early Years in Philadelphia

"My Uncle Andrew and my parents helped pay for college. After that, my Uncle Andrew took me to Philadelphia to live with him. I don't remember him having a real job. Instead he made things, such as go-carts and other kinds of carts for peddlers. People needed these carts because they bought ice and had to get it home every day.

I enjoyed picnics in the park with my cousins and aunts: Frances, Delphine, Helen, Ann, Buck, Aunt Bert, Aunt Margaret, and Aunt Marie. Sometimes my mother-in-law Mom Carrie visited from Georgia. All of them were good cooks. They all could cook great cakes and everything else.

My Aunt Bert was a seamstress. She taught me how to sew. She made men's and women's suits. She even made hats. She would "have us all dressed up!"

Experience at National Temple Baptist Church in Philadelphia, Pa.

"I followed my husband Luther and Aunt Margaret to National Temple Baptist Church. I was in that church with some of its founders. My name is on some of the walls at that church. I am proud that many of my family members are still there".

Experience at St. John's Baptist Church

"Everywhere I go I fit into a church. Rev. Jackson's sister Marlene said she was going to visit St. John's one day and find my son, Randy sitting with the deacons. I have traveled all over the world and I have not found nicer people. You don't find nice people everywhere."

JULY, 2016

PALLBEARERS:

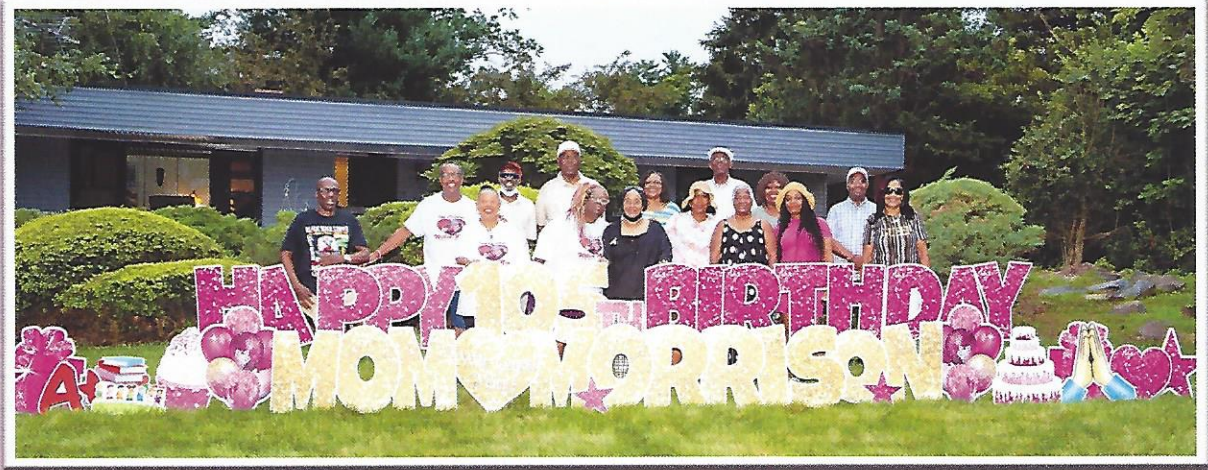
Marques Morrison
Justin Morrison
Bobby Sanders
Eric Bullock
Reverend Emilio Melendez
Peter Bullock

HONORARY PALLBEARERS:

Sherman Sanders
James Sanders
William Boyd
Edward Bullock

FLOWER BEARERS:

Sheila Sanders
Jessie Williams
Regina Melendez
Mamie Sanders
Jeanne Sanders
Gwen Thompson



OUR HEARTFEELT *Thanks To You*

The Morrison family wishes to acknowledge with deep appreciation the many acts of kindness expressed during their time of bereavement.

Funeral Arrangements by Hughes Funeral Home LLC.
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