



Mae Verna Williams

November 5, 1925 - September 20, 2024

MAE VERNA WILLIAMS, Verna, which she liked to be called was born November 5, 1925 in Memphis, TN, to Frank Banks and Grozelia Neal. She was the youngest of four children, namely Willie, Eddie, and Patricia Neal. They loved and pampered their baby sister (Verna) even when she was an adult.

When Verna attended Booker T. Washington High School, her request was to find a job and a husband. She decided to get a job so that she could prove to her family that she had grown up. After she had successfully found a job which was at a laundry. She met Thelma, who became her best friend. Thelma introduced Verna to her brother James Avery, and that was the beginning of their courtship and marriage. They started a family and decided to leave Memphis and move to Toledo, Ohio.

After moving to Toledo, both of them got jobs at Rossford Depot. Their marriage ended after both of them lost their jobs due to Rossford Shut down, a divorce followed. James moved to Flint, Michigan. Verna picked up the pieces of her life and went to Tri-State Business school. She completed and got a secretarial position working for Lady B (Francis Belcher) who was one of the first female DJ's at that time. She and her husband owned the Bronze Raven, a black newspaper that they owned in the fifties as I stated my mother was their secretary. Her

last job was working at Champion Spark Plug where she retired as an inspector. She loved her job, which allowed her to attend some of the great events that were going on back then, she really enjoyed working for them.

She traveled and went to parties and social events. She was enjoying that period of her life with friends. She met her last husband, Robert Williams. They traveled and enjoyed spending time together. They were together until he transitioned, seven years ago Verna had a full life. She was a member of ELK's, a social club, and she loved to play cards with friends. She enjoyed going to church, and was a long-term member at Friendship Baptist, To God Be The Glory for my Mother.

After becoming ill, and losing her husband to cancer, she moved in with her daughter where she remained until her transition/death. She knew that her daughter loved her and that she would never put her in a nursing home or as she called it old folks' home. When she wouldn't take her medicine, I would threaten her by telling her that I would put her in a home due non-compliance. She then would take her medicine. She was usually pleasant to be around. All of our family miss her.

Verna will be truly missed by her family and a few friends that she have left. She was a woman of wisdom and strength. She persevered in spite of failing health. She was a real hero as she maintained her dignity while coping with the disease. She received her wings on Friday, September 20, 2024.

Verna was preceded in death by her parents, husband Robert Williams, and grandson Eric Renfro.

She leaves to cherish her memory, her three daughters, Erdine (Clarence) Jordan, Jamesetta Mickens, and Audrey Ellis; extended family siblings, James E. (Demetris) Avery of Flint, MI, Kevin Avery of Springhill, TN, Patricia Avery

of Flint, MI, and Sharon (David) Patrick; grandchildren, Ardencia Jones and Quinelle Williams of Los Angeles, CA, Lamont Walker, Robert (Brenda) Walker; 9 great grandchildren; 6 great great grandchildren; widow of Eric, Nekesha Renfroe of Dayton, OH; former wife Teresa Renfroe and Rosemary Smith of Toledo, OH; 2 sisters-in-law, Ella Malone and Catherine Swearengen of Memphis, TN; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Cemetery Details

Ottawa Hills Memorial Park

4210 West Central Avenue
Toledo, OH

Previous Events

Family Hour

OCT 2. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Body of Christ Fellowship Church
5612 W. Bancroft Street
Toledo, OH 43615

Funeral Service

OCT 2. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Body of Christ Fellowship Church
5612 W. Bancroft Street
Toledo, OH 43615

Tribute Wall

PE

“ dear family i am so sorry aboutt your loss.I pray that you have peace and strength during this very sad time.

peggi - September 29, 2024 at 11:57 AM

GJ

“ May your heart find comfort knowing that your love one is at home with the Lord
Love Gwendolyn E.March Jones and Family



Gwendolyn E.March Jones - September 28, 2024 at 04:44 PM

DP

“ Dr. P. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mae Verna Williams.

Dr. P. - September 28, 2024 at 03:32 PM