

"SHE DIDN'T JUST *Live* THRQUGH HISTORY-SHE *Mas* HISTORY."



Murray-Wallace and Ben Wallace. She was the second of nine children.

Lugenia gave her life to Christ at an early age and was baptized at Mt. Hope Baptist Church of Martin, South Carolina under the leadership of Reverend Henry Grant.

In the 1940's Lugenia relocated to New York and found employment as a machinist at a local Zipper Factory. In alignment with her firm but nurturing demeanor, she later chose to pursue a career as a home health aide with the Visiting Nurse Service.

She was steadfast and displayed incredible work ethic in caring for her patients until her retirement in 1990.

Lugenia was a faithful and devoted member of the Greater Tabernacle Baptist Church in Harlem for over 65 years serving in multiple ministries most notably the Usher Board. She took pride in coordinating the responsibilities of the Kitchen Ministry ensuring members had delicious meals at the end of each church service. She also had the honor of being a part of the United Missionary Baptist Association of NYC. She loved her church family and was always willing to serve whenever and wherever needed.

Lugenia was tremendously blessed to be able to raise six children, and worked diligently to sufficiently provide for them. She reared her children and at times extended family members with a firm hand and open heart. If you ever had the pleasure of conversing with her you knew that she was quick witted, sharp tongued and downright funny. She loved to cook and was known for her superb baking skills, often blessing her family and friends with full dinners with decadent cakes and pies.

Lugenia absolutely loved the Lord. On a daily basis, her first order of business, once her eves opened in the morning, was to get on her knees and pray - followed by her personal devotion time reading the Bible. She enjoyed listening to gospel music loudly on her old school kitchen radio. Among her favorite songs were classics by Shirley Ceasar, and other popular songs like Soon and Very Soon and When I Rose This Morning. She was an avid watcher of TV soap operas and loved crafting.

In early 2025, her health slowly declined and she eventually gained her wings on Sunday, July 27th at the great age of 99.

Lugenia was pre-deceased by her daughter Edwina Liles; great grandson Kelvin Kearse; sisters Lillie Mae Green, Rosa Mae Wallace, and Dorrie Lee Wallace and her brothers Jerry Lee Wallace, George Wallace and Charles Wallace. She leaves to cherish her precious life: children: Ben Wallace Jr., Sheila Madison, Michael Williams (Maria), Loretta Best, and Anthony Best; grandchildren: Shauntel Blalock (Derrick), Niccolla Brown (Jamie), Tina Kearse, Erica Jenkins, Dexter Ritter, Tony Dunbar, Tamera Owens, Autumn Singtai, Delani Best, Christian Best, Brenden Best, Leah Best, Jakob Muniz, Tania Muniz, and Chyna Muniz; a host of great and great-great grandchildren; two sisters: Dorothy Mae Wallace of New York, New York and Mary W. Aiken (late Reverend Lexie B. Aiken) of Savannah, Georgia; one brother: Wilson Robinson (Mercedes) of Hollywood, Florida; sister-in-law: Mary Wallace (late Charles Wallace); and a host of beloved nieces, nephews, cousins, and dear friends.

# NEW YORK

Saturday, August 2, 2025 Viewing: 9AM - 11AM Funeral Service: 11AM Repast: Immediately Following Service Antioch Baptist Church 515 W. 125th Street New York, New York 10027

Rev. Jeffrey Crenshaw, Officiating

MUSICAL PREJUDE Soft music

PROCESSIONAL & FINAL VIEWING Clergy, Family, and Friends

OPENING SELECTION
When I Rose This Morning
Stuart Sanders
Steven Sanders, drummer

SCRIPTURE READINGS Old and New Testament Ashlee Davis

PRAYER OF COMFORT Glenda Brown

READING OF OBITUARY Shauntel Blalock

SEIECTION

I Shall Wear a Crown

Stuart Sanders

Steven Sanders, drummer

RESOLUTION Rev. Keisha Turner Greater Tabernacle

WORDS OF REMEMBRANCE Deacon Geneva Anderson Glenda Brown Greater Tabernacle

WORDS OF REMEMBRANCE Family & Friends (2 minutes)

SEIECTION Going Up Yonder Stuart Sanders Steven Sanders, drummer

EUIOGIST Rev. Jeffrey Crenshaw

ACKNOWIEDGEMENTS Funeral Home Staff

RECESSIONAL Rev. Dr. Lois Giles Walk Around Heaven

# SOUTH CARQUNA

Monday, August 11, 2025
Viewing: 10AM - 11AM
Funeral Service: 11AM
Repast: Immediately Following Service
Mt. Hope Baptist Church
6584 Augusta Highway
Martin, South Carolina 29836

Rev. Dr. Bernice Graves, Presiding

Rev. Wayne. A. Bennett, Officiating

MUSICAL PREJUDE Soft music

PROCESSIONAL & FINAL VIEWING Clergy, Family, and Friends

OPENING SELECTION When I Rose This Morning

SCRIPTURE READINGS Old and New Testament Niccolla Brown

PRAYER OF COMFORT Ann Aiken

READING OF OBITUARY Shauntel Blalock

SEIECTION I Shall Wear a Crown

> RESOLUTIONS Ashlee Davis

WORDS OF REMEMBRANCE Family & Friends (2 minutes, please)

ACKNOWIEDGEMENTS Allendale Community Funeral Home

> SELECTION Going Up Yonder

WORDS OF COMFORT Rev. Wayne A. Bennett

RECESSIONAL Walk Around Heaven

# 99 YEARS OF GRACE: A TRIBUTE TO JUGENIA WILLIAMS

# MARCH 9, 1926 - JULY 27, 2025 "SHE DIDN'T JUST LIVE THROUGH HISTORY-SHE WAS HISTORY."

#### 1920S - THE FIRE IS BORN

In the spring of 1926, in Martin, South Carolina, under the weight of Jim Crow and the beauty of Black resilience, a girl was born. Burned by sun and struggle, she would become a woman forged in fire.

1930S - THE GREAT DEPRESSION, BUT GREATER DETERMINATION
As the nation struggled, so did her people. But she learned early how to stretch, how to pray, how to make a way with very little. The roots of her strength were planted in soil both dry and rich—with faith, grit, and Southern wisdom.

In 1947, like so many others in The Great Migration, she boarded the train north. With nothing but a suitcase and the weight of her ancestors' hopes, she landed in New York City. She traded cotton fields for concrete and turned survival into style.

#### 1950S - BUILDING A LIFE

She made a home. Worked jobs they said "weren't for us." She raised children, cooked from scratch, and pressed hair on Saturdays. She stood tall in white church gloves and knew how to command a room with a look.

#### 1960S - A WOMAN IN THE MOVEMENT

The world around her was shifting—civil rights, soul music, and Black pride. Whether she marched or simply held her family down, she moved through it all with elegance and fire. She was the revolution dressed in church heels.

#### 1970S - HOLDING COURT

She became the matriarch. The storyteller. The one everyone came to for advice, for cornbread, for correction. Her laughter filled rooms. Her silence taught lessons.

1980S - STYLE, STRENGTH, AND SUNDAYS Still fly. Still sharp. Still making family feel like home. She watched over generations like a lioness—steady, firm, and full of grace.

#### 1990S - THE GREAT-GRANDMOTHER ERA BEGINS

A new title: Great-Grandma. And she wore it like a crown. She rocked babies, remembered birthdays, and kept family traditions alive with stories and strength.

2000S - LEGACY IN MOTION
She was a living archive. A walking prayer. She watched the world shift again—Black presidents, cell phones, the internet—but her values never did.

#### "A IIFE ACROSS TIME"

#### 1926 - BORN IN MARTIN, SOUTH CAROLINA

Historical: Harlem Renaissance peaks, Jim Crow laws in full effect

# 1933-1945 - SURVIVES THE GREAT DEPRESSION & WWII Personal: Learns how to make something from nothing Historical: Roosevelt's New Deal, Black soldiers fight in WWII

#### MOVES TO NEW YORK CITY DURING THE GREAT MIGRATION

Historical: Jackie Robinson integrates Major League Baseball

Cultural: Billie Holiday plays the Apollo, jazz is king

#### 1950S - STARTS A FAMILY, PLANTS ROOTS IN HARLEM

Historical: Brown v. Board of Education, Rosa Parks, Emmett Till Cultural: Doo-wop, Sunday hats, Black excellence blooming

1960S - CIVIL RIGHTS ERA Personal: Raising Black children during protests and progress Historical: MLK, Malcolm X, March on Washington, Harlem uprisings

#### 1970S-1980S - THE MATRIARCH ERA

Personal: Grandchildren born, family cookouts, Sunday service Historical: Black mayors elected, disco to hip-hop, crack epidemic

#### 1990S - WISDOM GROWS

Personal: Becomes a great-grandmother, still cooking, still storytelling Historical: Mandela freed, Million Man March, Rodney King uprising

2000S - A NEW CENTURY Personal: Family legacy deepens, elder wisdom in full bloom Historical: 9/11, Hurricane Katrina, Obama elected President

#### 2010S-2020S - GRACE PERSONIFIED

Personal: Keeps us all grounded, our anchor and prayer warrior Historical: Black Lives Matter, COVID pandemic, she turns 99

2025: SHE TRANSITIONS, LEAVING BEHIND LOVE AND LEGACY



# TRIBUTES

## TO MOM

I was thinking back on the time we had together, some good some bad. I thought how tough I felt you were being on me at times when I was growing up. But thinking back I thought of the things you instilled in me; how to be independent and self reliant. You taught me financial responsibility (giving you half my summer youth checks for rent and then giving it back at summers end for school purchases.). How to open and maintain a bank account. You finally gave me your cake and pie recipes and then confirmed that I had learned well enough that you said mine was so good you did not have to bake anymore. High praise from you.. I enjoyed life with you after I grew up. I understood you better. I understood family relationships are not perfect and there are ebbs and flows. After we got through the ebbs" of my youth and we got into the "flows", I learned to appreciate you. And really enjoy our time together. I got to look forward to to coming down to visit on the weekends. You cooking everything in your refrigerator and packing it all up for me to take home with me. How when I got baptized you came up to see it happen and stayed a few days with me. How we argued over me making payments on your bills because you were so afraid I was first trying to say you could not do this and then you were so afraid I would not be able to pay my bills (forgetting you taught me how to be fiscally responsible). I enjoyed sitting with you talking, watching the TV watch you as you fell asleep in your chair. I really loved our trips to see "Your Daddy". Taking our 2+ weeks to travel to Martin. Seeing you fawn over "Your Daddy". Cooking and taking care of him and how it made you. It made me happy to be a part of this. I looked forward to this each year...our trip together. Taking the train because you did not like to fly and finding the elevator because escalators scared you to go home. I appreciated how you accepted my decision to leave college and when I told you I was getting baptized as a Witness how you told me you too had studied and why you did not go through baptism. But we would talk and you would listen (I hope to see you in the new system 2 Peter 3:13 | Rev 21:3,4) - Loretta

I'm so grateful to have had you in my life. You taught me and my siblings right from wrong and made sure that we did our best. You prepared us to become independent and to succeed in all our endeavors. I'm am so thankful for the love you gave us and I will truly miss you. You were our beacon on earth and may you continue to be in while in heaven

Your loving daughter, Sheila

### **AUNT**

God looked around his garden
and found an empty space. Then he looked down upon this earth
And saw your tired face. He put his arms around you
And lifted you to rest.
God's garden must be beautiful
He only takes the best.





# WORDS FOR A BELIEF IN AN AFTERLIFE

Her Journey's Just Begun (Anon)

Don't think of her as gone away, her journey's just begun Life holds so many facets, this earth is only one. Just think of her as resting from the sorrows and the tears In a place of warmth and comfort where there are no days or years.

Think how she must be wishing that we could know today.

How nothing but our sadness, can really pass away.

And think of her as living in the hearts of those she touched

For nothing loved is ever lost and she was loved so much.

# FINAL RESTING PLACE

August 11, 2025
Mt. Hope Church Cemetery
Martin, SC
Committal Service, Prayer, & Benediction

# <u>PALLBFARERS</u>

The Family

# ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF SERVICE PROVIDERS

The family of Lugenia Williams wishes to express their heartfelt appreciation to everyone who has shown love and support.

Special thanks to:

Funeral Program courtesy of Ashlee Davis 973-651-8952

A D Mort Embalming & Transport Service New York For preparation and coordination of arrangements in New York. 973-651-8952





Final Fare and Arrangements Entrusted to

Dr. Betty D. Strudwick, Licensed Mortician 156 Pleasant Street West Allendale, SC 29810 Tel: (803) 584-4488 | Fax: (844) 884-6210 www.allendalecommunityfuneralhome.com

"Where Comfort Is Found In Memories"