

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF

- *Palbearers* -

Family and Friends

- *Flower Bearers* -

Family and Friends

- *Interment* -

Evergreen Cemetery  
1409 Monroe Avenue  
Opelika, Alabama 36801

- *Acknowledgment* -

The family of the late Mrs. Virginia Dowdell acknowledges with grateful appreciation all acts of kindness, prayers, cards, telephone calls, flowers, and words of comfort extended to us during our time of bereavement. May God bless each one of you.

IN MEMORIAM

May we take this opportunity to express sincere and deep appreciation for allowing us to serve you during this most difficult period. It is our constant aim to afford to the people of this community a service completed in all details and faultlessly executed with sympathy and understanding.



Final Arrangements Entrusted to:

*Harris Funeral Home*  
*Sympathetic, Courteous & Professional Service*  
515 South Sixth Street  
Opelika, Alabama 36801  
(334) 749-6583 Fax (334) 759-7018  
www.harrisfuneralhomeinc.com



FRIDAY, MARCH 14, 2025  
11:00 A.M.

NEW LIFE CHRISTIAN CENTER  
2051 West Point Parkway  
Opelika, Alabama 36801

PASTOR AUZZIE COMER  
Officiating



# Obituary

Mrs. Virginia Dowdell was born on November 16, 1949, to the late Mr. L.C. Holland and Ms. Janie Lou Love. She peacefully departed this life on Sunday, March 9, 2025, at East Alabama Medical Center.

Virginia's faith was the cornerstone of her life. She was a devoted member of Bethel #2 Baptist Church before later joining New Life Christian Center in Opelika, Alabama. Her love for the Lord was evident in the way she lived, serving with kindness and unwavering faith.

A loving wife, mother, and grandmother, Virginia embraced her family with a heart full of devotion. She was married to the love of her life, Charlie B. Dowdell, for 56 wonderful years, having wed on February 24, 1969. She took great pride in nurturing her children and creating a home filled with warmth, love, and faith.

Professionally, Virginia dedicated 18 years as a Case Manager at East Alabama Mental Health Center, where she touched countless lives with her compassion and commitment to helping others. Upon retirement, she found joy in cooking, traveling, shopping, and cherishing time with her loved ones.

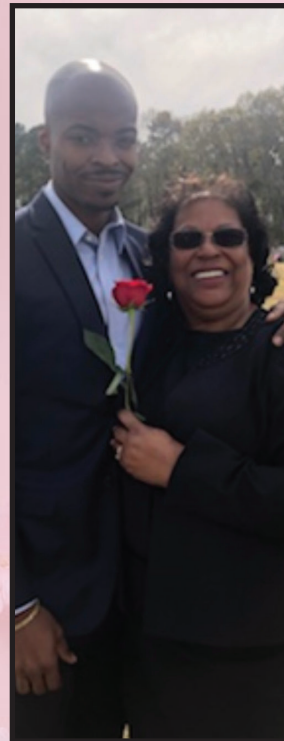
Virginia leaves behind a legacy of love and devotion, survived by: her devoted husband, Charlie B. Dowdell, Sr.; three beautiful daughters, Regina Dowdell, Cassandra (Karl) Allen, Deanna Dowdell all of Opelika, AL; her beloved son, Charlie Dowdell, Jr. (Letesha Prince) of Opelika, AL; she was a proud grandmother to six grandchildren, Brandon (Cherelle) Dowdell, Jamey Dowdell (Sherquetta King), Wesley Dowdell, Hayley Dowdell, Jaylen Dowdell, and Jada Dowdell; dotting great-grandmother to twelve great grandchildren, Kailey Dowdell, Harper Dowdell, Harley Dowdell, Ayson Richarson, Addison Richardson, Madison Dunn, Alivia Dowdell, Baylee Dowdell, Riyah Dowdell, Kori Key, Konner Key, and Worthy Hand all of Opelika, AL.

She is also lovingly remembered by her six sisters, beloved Lillie Bailey of Auburn, AL, Ethel Mae Jackson of Bloomfield, NJ, Gertrude Crump of Spring Valley, NY, Carolyn Simmons of New City, NY, Vera Congress of Demopolis, AL and Alice Green of New City, NY; one brother, Thomas (Doris) Holland of Brownsville, AL; her extended family included beloved in-laws, Calvin (Virginia) Dowdell of Cleveland, OH, Larry Dowdell of Opelika, AL, Elizabeth Richmond of Opelika, AL, Franklin (Maria) Dowdell of Lithonia, GA, Melvin (Jackie) Dowdell of Opelika, AL, Marvin (Reverend Debbie) Dowdell of Opelika, AL, Cynthia D. (Reginald) Woodson of Auburn, AL; cherished nieces, nephews, cousins, and dear friends, Vivian (Clem) Smith and her best and close friends, Kathy Crump, Doris Avery, Lizzie Askew, and Mary Watts; her godchildren, Wanda Moore, Makeba Vaughn and Renee Porter whom all held a special place in her heart.

Virginia's impact on those around her was immeasurable. She will be remembered for her generosity, unwavering faith, and deep love for her family and friends.







# Order of Service

PROCESSIONAL  
Clergy and Family

MUSICAL SELECTION  
Cardis Askew

PRAYER OF COMFORT  
Pastor Auzzie Comer

SCRIPTURE READINGS:  
OLD TESTAMENT  
Bishop Nolan Torbert

NEW TESTAMENT  
Reverend J.C. Winters

MUSICAL SELECTION  
Demond Moore

EULOGY  
Pastor Auzzie Comer

RECESSIONAL



IN LOVING MEMORY OF  
*- Our Beautiful Virginia -*

MY GENT,  
What will I do in your absence? You have been my support every single day. You have taught me invaluable lessons that I will always cherish. I recall my first-grade days, feeling so shy and uncertain, and you encouraged me to find my confidence. As I matured, you were constantly by my side, guiding me through every challenge. I can't even count how many times you expressed your love for me and urged me to stay safe. Now, I find myself doing the same with my son.

I know I will find my strength eventually, but at this moment, I deeply miss seeing your smile. You were truly the greatest mother anyone could ask for.

With all my love,  
Regina



MY DEAREST MOTHER,  
With the heaviest heart, we say goodbye to our beloved mother, who left this world but will never leave our hearts. She was the purest soul, a beacon of love, kindness, and strength. There was no love greater than hers, no warmth more comforting than the embrace she gave so freely.

Mom, you were my heart, my home, my greatest blessing. Life without you will never be the same, but your love will guide me every step of the way. I will carry you with me always, in every memory, in every smile, in every whisper of the wind.

I miss you more than words can ever express, but I find comfort in knowing that your love is eternal. Thank you for every sacrifice, every lesson, and every moment of unconditional love. You were, and always will be, my greatest love.

Rest peacefully, my sweet angel. Until we meet again.

Sweet Love, Sant



MY DEAREST SUGARFOOT,  
There are no words long enough to express what you mean to me. I just want to say that this is really difficult for me. You have taught me so much, and I am incredibly thankful to be your little girl. I can still recall our last conversation. When I walked in, you exclaimed, "Awww, I got flowers!" Then you looked at me and said, "You are so pretty," with a smile. You've always told me that, and I knew it was your way of complimenting me. It was our little secret! Your love for me was evident every single day. Thank you for being the most wonderful mother.

Deanna



DEAR GENT,  
I am still processing the shock of losing you, and I hope to find my way through this pain eventually. You always referred to me as your doctor, and I want you to know that I truly did my best to provide what was best for you. I understand that you may not have always enjoyed the healthy foods I selected for you, but you would eat them anyway and acknowledge that they were good. You meant everything to me and my children. I've expressed this many times, but I want to say once more that I love you. I believe that, in time, everything will be okay.

With love,  
Tiger