

- *Pallbearers* -  
Early Star Lodge #395

- *Flower Bearers* -  
Family and Friends

- *Interment* -  
Church Cemetery

- *Acknowledgment* -

The family of the late Mrs. Valestine Penn Wilson 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 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

*Celebrating  
The Life  
of  
"Val"*



*Valestine* PENN  
WILSON

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2025 | 1:00 P.M.

NAZARETH MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH  
4454 Lee Road 166 Opelika, Alabama 36804

REVEREND S. DEWAYNE DRAKEFORD, OFFICIATING

# - The Obituary -

Mrs. Valestine Penn Wilson, daughter of the late Mr. Oscar Lee, Jr. and Mrs. Janie Mae Edwards Penn, was born March 14, 1954, in Lee County, Alabama.

At an early age, Valestine's life was guided by her faith, having confessed Christ, and united with Nazareth Missionary Baptist Church. In her spiritual journey, she participated and worked in several capacities within the church. She was a member of the Nurses' Guild, a Youth Sunday School and Vacation Bible School Teacher, and at one time served as an advisor of the Sunbeams at Nazareth Missionary Baptist Church. She was the President of the Matrons at Nazareth and Co-Chairperson of the Ushers/Nurses' Guild for the Auburn Baptist District.

Under the leadership of Reverend C.M. Richardson, she attended and received three certificates from the National Baptist Congress of Christian Education to teach the duties of Ushers and Nurses' Guild Ministry. At Nazareth Missionary Baptist Church, she was currently serving as the President of Usher Ministry, Chaplain of Missionary Ministry, Chairperson of the Culinary Committee, and a member of the gospel choir.

She graduated from Opelika High School Class of 1972, and she was a graduate of Southern Union State Community College, formerly Opelika Technical School, where she earned and received a degree in Business Management. Valestine was also a certified chef and taught her culinary skills to others. She started as a cook at Denny's Restaurant and quickly moved into the management role where she traveled to other states to train others.

At the time of her death, she was the Associate Matron of Morning Star Chapter #734 Order of Eastern Star, President of the Opelika Housing Authority's Resident Advisory Board, President of Opelika Police Department Academy, and President of Opelika's National Night Out.

Additionally, Valestine was the Ambassador of Opelika City Council Ward 1, a Opelika Police Department Community Liaison, an active member of Samford Community Outreach, MOMS Demand Action, and lastly the current Housing Chair of the NAACP, Lee County Branch 5038.

In her community, she worked and volunteered as a Boy Scout leader, a Girl Scout leader, volunteered at Arbor Spring, worked with Young at Heart Senior in Auburn, volunteered at the Community Food Bank of East Alabama, and delivered food in the surrounding areas to the elderly, homeless, and the sick-and-shut-in. She received a proclamation from former Mayor Gary Fuller and former Council Member Patsy Jones of the City of Opelika. She was also the past co-chair of W.I.N. for the NAACP, Lee County branch, 5038.

Valestine Wilson stated that during her trials and tribulations, she never forgot to say, "Thank you, Lord!" She thanked God for the knowledge that dwelled within her. She thanked God for having a mother that instilled in her children that they could do and be the best. Valestine believed in the idea that others could never take her away from her faith, and she always put





God in all her endeavors. She believed that you should always say thanks and that there would be obstacles that come in your way, but keep faith as you are His child, and He will guide you.

Her favorite song was “Another Day’s Journey.”

Her favorite scripture was Proverbs 3:5 – “Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not into thine own understanding.”

She was united in holy matrimony to Leonard Charles Wilson, who preceded her in death.

On Sunday, November 30, 2025, she departed this life at her home in Opelika, Alabama.

She leaves to cherish her memory: one son, Marico Wilson of Opelika, AL; one granddaughter, Jennie Finely of North Carolina; one godson, DeAngelo Jiles of Opelika, AL; two sisters, Belinda (Willie) Barnes of Salem, AL and Shelia Penn of Opelika, AL; three brothers, Oscar Lee Penn III, Edward Penn both of Opelika, AL, and Marvin Gauntt of Tallassee, AL; three nephews, Quenteze Barnes, Jureze Barnes both of Salem, AL and Marquez Penn of Opelika, AL; three nieces, her special niece and caretaker, Tomeka Penn of Opelika, AL, Lashune Lewis and Jessica Penn both of Auburn, AL; great niece, Desiree Penn of Opelika, AL; a host of other relatives and friends.

*- A Son's Goodbye -*

I wasn't ready, Mama,  
 For the world to shift without your voice,  
 For the silence that followed your last breath,  
 For the space, your love once filled so easily.  
 You were my first home, my safest place,  
 My quiet strength when life felt too heavy to hold.  
 Your hands taught me how to stand,  
 Your words taught me how to hope,  
 And your love— it shaped the man I am today.  
 Though my heart aches in ways  
 I cannot put into words,  
 I find peace knowing  
 You rest in the arms of God,  
 Free from pain, free from struggle,  
 Wrapped in eternal light.  
 I will carry your lessons, your laughter,  
 Your courage, and your love—  
 Not as memories, but as living parts of me.  
 This isn't goodbye forever, Mama.  
 Just rest now. I'll meet you again  
 When God writes the next chapter  
 For you and me.

Love your only Son, Marico

# - Tributes -

## AUNTIE ...

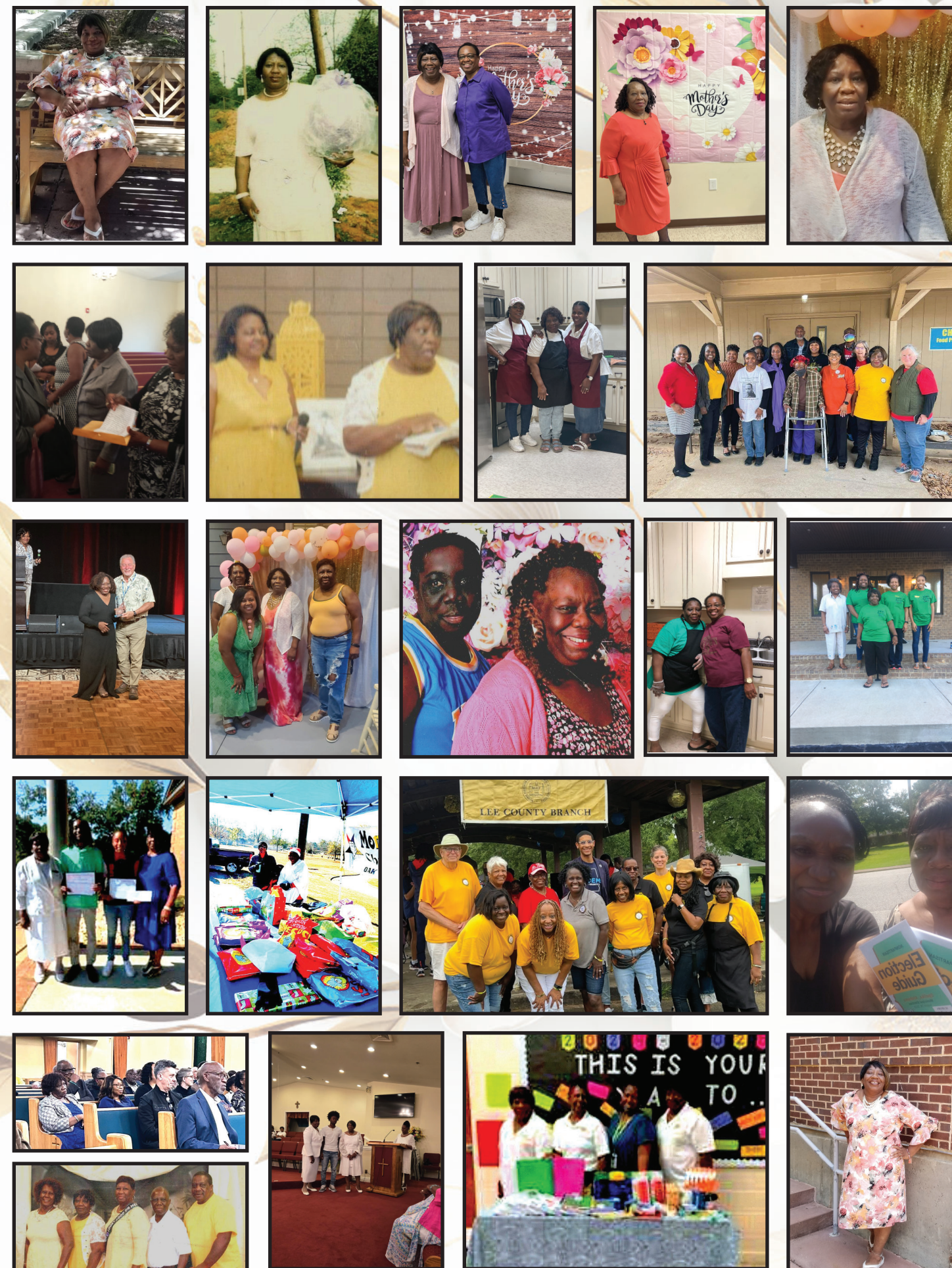
Your hands have carried more love than  
Most people will know in a lifetime.  
Your voice has been comfort,  
Your presence, a covering,  
Your heart—our safe place to land.  
You fought with grace.  
You loved with courage.  
You poured yourself out  
Until every life you touched  
Became brighter because you were here.  
And now... you can rest.

Your work on this side is finished.  
Your assignment is complete.  
Every prayer you whispered,  
Every sacrifice you made,  
Every seed of kindness you planted—  
They are all standing tall today,  
Testimony of a life well lived.

We release you with gratitude.  
We honor the footsteps you left behind.  
We carry your lessons, your laughter,  
Your strength with us forever.

Rest now, Auntie.  
The angels know your name.  
Heaven welcome you home.  
Job well done.

Love,  
Your Nieces and Nephews





# - The Order of Service -

Processional.....“I Shall Wear A Crown”

Scripture Readings.....Reverend Christopher Nunn

Prayer of Comfort .....Reverend S. Dewayne Drakeford

Musical Selection..... Virginia Graham

Expressions of Love ..... Two Minutes Each (Please)  
Carolyn Morton  
Antavious Griffin

Resolutions

Musical Selection..... Nazareth Gospel Choir

Eulogy.....Reverend S. Dewayne Drakeford

Recessional

