

Acknowledgment

The family of the late Mrs. Bessie Mae Virella 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.

Repast

FOP Lodge
1307 Saugahatchee Lake Road
Opelika, AL 36801

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

IN LOVING MEMORY OF



Bessie
MAE DRAKE VIRELLA

SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 2026 | 1:00 P.M.

HARRIS FUNERAL HOME CHAPEL
515 South 6th Street Opelika, AL 36801

ELDER LARRY WARREN, OFFICIATING

The Obituary

Mrs. Bessie Mae Drake Virella, daughter of the late Mr. Isaac and Mrs. Mary Lee Reese Drake, was born April 16, 1940, in Lee County, Alabama.

She attended Lee County Training School and later graduated from Stamford High School in Stamford, Connecticut.

Mrs. Bessie publicly professed her faith and dedication and was baptized July 13, 2002, as one of Jehovah's Witnesses, a commitment that reflected her deep love for Jehovah and her sincere desire to live a life guided by biblical principles.

She pursued business training in Stamford, Connecticut, and went on to build a career in banking, working in both Stamford, Connecticut and Opelika, Alabama. Later in life, she transitioned into caregiving, serving as a Certified Nursing Assistant in home care.

On Friday, April 17, 2026, she departed this life at Lake Martin Community Hospital in Dadeville, Alabama. She was preceded in death by: one son, Efrem Whitaker; one sister, Ernestine King.

She leaves to cherish her precious memory: two children, Verlencia (Curtis) Williams and Isaiah Whitaker both of Opelika, AL; eleven grandchildren, Jenea Whitaker of Opelika, AL, Kawanna (Maurice) Stroud of Ft. Mitchell, AL, Chequeta (Terrence) Davis of Opelika, AL, Antonio "Ques" Richmond of Dallas, TX, Efrem Whitaker, Jr. of Atlanta, GA, Isaiah (Timeeshah) Mitchell of Bridgeport, CT, Mechelle (Ken) Wilson of Jonesboro, GA, Tabitha Humphrey, Timmy Humphrey both of Bridgeport, CT, Ivy Williams of Atlanta, GA and Curtis Williams, Jr. of Opelika, AL; a host of great-grandchildren; two nieces, Lucille King and Felicia King both of Bridgeport, CT; one nephew, Stanley King of Richmond, VA; devoted cousin, Eula Mae Walker of Auburn, AL; a host of other relatives and friends.

Grandma

Your life was full of loving deeds,
Forever thoughtful of our special needs.
Today and tomorrow, my whole life through,
I will always love and cherish you.

Jehovah saw you getting tired,
When a cure was not to be.
So, He wrapped His arms around you,
And whispered, "come to me."
You didn't deserve what you went through,

So, He gave you rest.
Jehovah's garden must be beautiful,
He only takes the best.

And when I saw you sleeping,
So peaceful and free from pain
I could not wish you back
To suffer that again.



The Order of Service

SONG 145
God's Promise of Paradise

OPENING PRAYER

OBITUARY

DISCOURSE
Elder Larry Warren

SONG 147
Life Everlasting Is Promised

CLOSING PRAYER



