



## Willie Mae Spears

February 4, 2018

Celebration Services will be held Monday, February 12, 2018, 11am at Turner Monumental AME Church, 66 Howard St., NE., Atlanta, GA. 30317. Pastor, Rev. Jai S. Haithco, Sr. Her remains will lie instate at 10am until the hour of service. Burial at Kennedy Memorial Gardens. Visitation, Sunday, February 11, 2018 from 12noon until 5pm with family hour from 4pm-5pm at Gregory B. Levett & Sons, Funeral Home 4347 Flat Shoals Pkwy Decatur, GA., 30034 404-241-5656.

Willie Mae Jackson Spears, affectionately called Waddie by her children, was born on May 19, 1927, to Judge and Ida Mae Washington Jackson in Jackson County, Georgia. She was one of two girls out of six children. Her sister, Wilson, passed away at the young age of three so Willie Mae grew up the only girl. Additionally, her mother passed when Willie Mae was only 8 years old. Her father raised all the children with a firm but loving hand. He taught them about hard work and perseverance which Willie Mae exhibited throughout her life. During her childhood, she and her brothers worked on the family farm. Therefore, she had to miss school often as that was their family business and way of life. As a result, she finished school in the 6th grade. However, demonstrating the values handed down by her father, she went back to school as an adult.

After turning 18, Willie Mae left home to start her adult life and shortly thereafter she met Edward Tennyson. Then when she was 20 years old Elsie

Mae was added to their union July 14, 1947, in Gainesville, GA. Willie Mae was proud to be a mom and did not miss a beat as she was the type of mother that her offspring would later emulate and that Elsie would always cherish. Shortly after Elsie was born and the demise of her marriage to Edward, they moved to Concord, NC. To support Elsie, Willie Mae worked in a café and did domestic work. While in Concord, Willie Mae met and married John R. Spears. The new family moved to Atlanta, GA when Elsie was a teenager. While in Atlanta, Willie Mae worked the steam press at a uniform dry cleaners and did domestic work until her late 70s.

Always an active church member, Willie Mae and John joined Smith Chapel AME Church and later Greater Saint Peter AME Church. At Saint Peter, Willie Mae was active in the choir, the pastor's aid board, missionary board, trustee board and her most cherished position of stewardess. She served as vice president and president of the stewardess board. She took that role very seriously and passed down her knowledge and duties associated with this position to her niece Cheryl Johnson, who currently serves at her church, and her granddaughter, Tambria Peeples. Willie Mae was also president of the board at Greater Saint Peter at River's Edge AME and was a well-loved and active member at Turner Monumental AME Church.

She passed away on February 4, 2018, in her home surrounded by family. She leaves to cherish her memory: daughter Elsie Durden (Stanley); granddaughters Pamela Mitchell Jones, Tracie Mitchell King, Tambria Mitchell Peeples (Andre), and special granddaughter Meya Lowe; great-grandchildren Robert Graves, Awalski Jones, Garrick Mitchell, Saadia Christian, Augyst Peeples, Ayden Peeples, and Aston Peeples; Great-Great Grandchildren Serenity Harris and King Graves; treasured nieces and nephews Michael Jackson (Yvonne), Derrick Jackson (Belinda), Cheryl Johnson (Dewit), Stan Jackson, and Lisa Jackson; her dearest friend of 7 decades, Pearl Asbury of Concord, NC; and extended family in North Carolina through her husband, a host of great and great-great nieces and nephews, church members and friends.

She was preceded in death by her husband, mother and father; brothers Conway, Columbus, Ollie B., Lenton; and her sister.

Willie Mae passed away on first Sunday which was the day that she looked forward to each month to happily serve as a Stewardess. The family felt it was befitting that her time on earth would end on first Sunday and this symbolized that she had received the ultimate approval.

"His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness! Matthew 25:23

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB 11. 12:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

South DeKalb Chapel  
4347 Flat Shoals Pkwy.  
Decatur, GA 30034  
(404) 241-5656  
info@levettfuneralhome.com

## Service

FEB 12. 11:00 AM (ET)

Turner Monumental AME Church  
66 Howard St NE  
Atlanta, GA 30317  
(404) 378-5970

# Tribute Wall

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“ Dear Spears Family: Please accept my sincere condolences for the loss of your loved one. May the love and support of family and friends comfort you greatly during this difficult time. The Bible also gives us comfort and hope to see our loved ones again right here on earth by means of the resurrection. “There will be a resurrection of the righteous and the unrighteous.” May you have peace as you think about this beautiful hope for the future.



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**Faye Ethridge** - November 15, 2018 at 05:19 AM