



**Flower Bearers**  
Friends and Family

**ARRANGEMENTS ENTRUSTED TO**

James H. Cole Home for Funerals  
Northwest Chapel  
16100 Schaefer Hwy Detroit, MI 48235  
(313) 835-3997

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

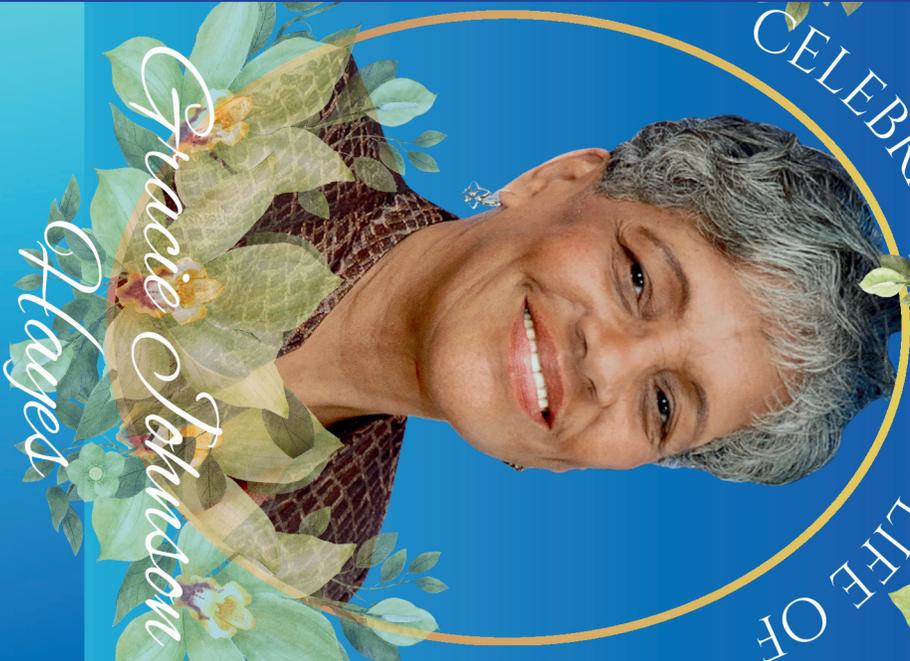
The family of Gracie Hayes wishes to acknowledge with deep appreciation the comforting messages, floral tributes, prayers and many other expressions of kindness and concern evidenced at this time in thought and deed. A more personal acknowledgement will be made at a later date.

Repast  
24444 W. Seven Mile  
Detroit, MI 48219

sdesigns.diverge 313.758.1443

"I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day..."  
2 Timothy 4:7-8

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF



*Gracie Johnson Hayes*

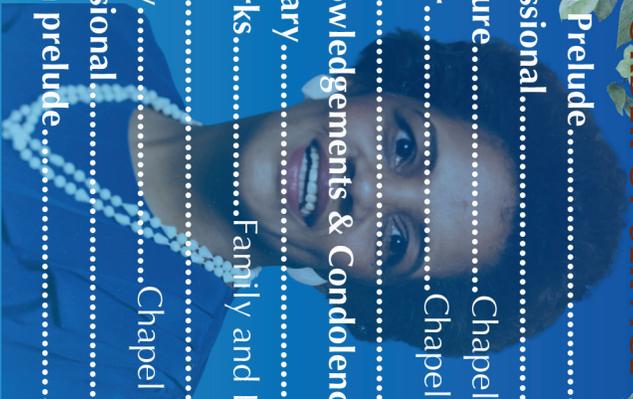
Sunrise: January 19, 1937 - Sunset: November 24, 2025

**FUNERAL SERVICE**

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2025  
FAMILY HOUR 3:00 PM SERVICE 3:30 PM  
JAMES H. COLE HOME FOR FUNERALS  
NORTHWEST CHAPEL  
16100 SCHAEFFER HWY DETROIT, MI 48235

# ORDER OF SERVICE

- Organ Prelude.....
- Processional.....
- Scripture..... Chapel Minister
- Prayer..... Chapel Minister
- Song.....
- Acknowledgements & Condolences.....
- Obituary.....
- Remarks..... Family and Friends
- Song.....
- Eulogy..... Chapel Minister
- Recessional.....
- Organ prelude.....



# OBITUARY

Gracie Hayes, beloved wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, passed away peacefully on November 24, 2025, at the age of 88. She was born on January 19, 1937, in Stephens, Arkansas, to Glen and Pearl (Briffington) Johnson, and was a twin among 14 children. She graduated from Central High School in Detroit in 1955 and began her working life as an elevator operator at Henry Ford Hospital. She later pursued a career at Manufacturers (Comerica) Bank as a computer analyst, where she dedicated 25 years of service until her retirement, exemplifying diligence and perseverance.

In 1957, Gracie married Vincent Veron DeCarlo, and together they welcomed two daughters, Vinita and Tanja. After Vincent's passing, she devoted herself to raising her two children with strength and sacrifice. She became a grandmother to Demyetra in 1975. 15 Years later, she met Robert (Bob) Hayes, and in 1988 they were united in marriage. Their life together was filled with love and resilience, including a period in Texas before returning to Detroit, where she embraced her role as grandmother once again with the births of Shante in 1991 and Dominic in 1993. She was blessed further as a great-grandmother to Anastasia in 2002 and Eli in 2014. Though the loss of her daughter Vinita brought deep sorrow, she persevered with grace and faith.

Gracie was deeply involved in her grandchildren's lives, instilling the importance of education and volunteering tirelessly in schools. She received awards for her service, helping with fundraisers, homework, and sports activities, always their biggest cheerleader.

Her spiritual journey began early when she accepted Jesus Christ, a devotion that guided her throughout life. A pilgrimage to Jerusalem profoundly deepened her faith, and upon returning she joined New St. Paul Tabernacle, serving faithfully on the Usher Board and Welcoming Committee. She shared a special bond with her sisters Currier and May, affectionately known as the "Three Musketeers," enjoying shopping, dining, and worshipping together. She also cherished friendships, finding joy in simple pleasures like walking at Northland Mall with her friend Eva and gardening with her sister-in-law Dorothy Scott.

She leaves to cherish her memory her daughter Tanja DeCarlo (Courtney); grandchildren Demyetra DeCarlo (George Gaitanos), Shante DeCarlo, and Dominic DeCarlo; great-grandchildren Anastasia Gaitanos and Eli Jackson; her remaining sibling Allie Washington; and a host of nieces, nephews, family, and friends.

Her life was a testament to love, faith, and grace. She touched countless lives with her kindness, generosity, and unwavering devotion to God and family. Gracie Hayes will be remembered as a woman of strength, compassion, and enduring faith.

