

Afterglow

I'd like the memory of me
To be a happy one.
I'd like to leave an afterglow
Of smiles when life is done.
I'd like to leave an echo
Whispering softly down the ways,
Of happy times and laughing
Times and bright sunny days.
I'd like the tears of those who grieve,
To dry before the sun;
Of happy memories that I
Leave when life is done.

Repast

Immediately following the service, you are invited to join the family for fellowship in the Parish Hall.

Interment

We ask if you are joining the family on Tuesday to lay Mrs. Nelson to rest to meet at the front gates of Mt. Hope Cemetery
355 Walk Hill Street, Mattapan at 10:30am.

Special Thanks

The family wishes to express our sincere appreciation for your thoughtfulness, prayers, cards, delicious food, telephone calls, and visits. To the St. Cyprian's Family, especially Josephine Mitchell, as well as a host of family, friends, and neighbors who spent so much of their time embracing and loving our mother. God bless you all!



A CELEBRATION OF *Life*



Willie Mae Nelson

April 3, 1929 – January 25, 2025

Monday February 3, 2025
Visitation 4 PM, Funeral Service 5PM

ST. CYPRIAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
1073 Tremont St, Boston, Massachusetts
The Julian Fredie, Officiating

Willie Mae Nelson, 95, passed away peacefully on Saturday, January 25, 2025, in Boston, Massachusetts with her family by her side.

Willie Mae was born on April 3, 1929, in Wharton, Texas. She was the oldest of six children born to Wille and Ardalia Stephens. During her childhood, she often worked long hours on the family farm producing cotton, black-eyed peas, crowder beans, okra, tomatoes, and strawberries. At the age of 18, Willie Mae graduated from E. Henry High School in Eagle Lake, Texas. She later graduated from Wharton County Junior College with an associate degree in dietary science. She soon moved to San Antonio, Texas where she started her adult life working as a secretary. She soon met Victor Herbert Nelson, a medic in the United States Air Force. They married in 1955 in a loving ceremony in Victor's hometown of Roxbury, Massachusetts.

Willie Mae worked as dietary assistant at New England Baptist Hospital and Massachusetts General Hospital for over 30 years. During this time, she lovingly raised four children and several grand dogs.

For over 40 years, Willie Mae and her husband, an executive officer of the AFGE Union, often travelled to various cities throughout the country to fight for fair wages, safe work conditions, and a well-rounded medical insurance for all Americans. She would often encourage others to never stop "fighting" for workers' rights.

Willie Mae was an amazing cook! She was passionate about sharing her hearty food with her friends and family. Her list of memorable dishes included roast leg of lamb, herb crusted chicken, Spanish pork chops, pineapple upside down cake, three layered coconut cake, and an unforgettable rum laden sweet-potato pie! She would often make 10-15 pies during the holiday season as gifts for her family and friends.

Willie Mae enjoyed listening to her favourite singers and jazz musicians including Count Basie, Duke Ellington, Diana Ross, Stevie Wonder, and most of all Patti Labelle. She loved attending concerts, plays, musicals, and casinos. Willie Mae enjoyed reading the daily newspaper while enjoying a hot cup of coffee and a coconut donut. She loved watching various television shows such as the Today Show, Law and Order, and the Housewives of Atlanta. In her later years, she acquired a love of playing Dominoes and coloring for relaxation.

Willie Mae was a faithful and longstanding member of St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church in Roxbury. She attended every church sponsored annual Dr. Martin Luther King Memorial Breakfast in Boston until her declining health prevented her from attending. Willie Mae was also a dedicated member of St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church Women Organization.

Willie Mae is survived by her oldest daughter, Cecilia of Brockton, MA; son, William of Memphis, TN; daughter, Susan of Hyde Park, MA; daughter Daphne of Alexandria, VA; son-in-law Ray of Brockton, MA; sister, Blanche Washington of Boston, and Mozelle Stephens of Wharton, TX; a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and dear friends. She was predeceased by her loving and devoted husband of 60 years, Victor, her sisters, Erma Jean and Val, and her brother Bubba. She also leaves to mourn her loyal grand dogs, Mango and Passion.

Order of Service

OPENING SENTENCES	Prayer Book Page 491	
HYMN	<i>The Solid Rock</i>	
THE COLLECT FOR BURIAL		
THE OLD TESTAMENT READING		
	<i>Wisdom 3:1-5, 9</i>	Geraldine Allen
	<i>PSALM 23</i>	Choir
THE NEW TESTAMENT READING		
	<i>2Cor 4:16-5:9</i>	Josephine Mitchell
REMARKS		
HYMN	<i>Blessed Assurance</i>	
THE GOSPEL	<i>John 4:1-6</i>	Rev. Julian Fredie
HOMILY	Rev. Julian Fredie	
THE APOSTLES CREED		
Prayer Book Page 496		
HYMN	<i>Great is thy faithfulness</i>	
SOLO	Grace Hampton	
THE PRAYERS		
Prayer Book Page 497		
THE COMMENDATION		
Prayer Book Page 499		
CLOSING HYMN	<i>To God be the Glory</i>	

