

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Velma DeMyers

May 22, 1935 - April 15, 2025

FRIDAY APRIL 25, 2025

FAMILY HOUR 11AM

CELEBRATION OF LIFE AT NOON

FRIENDSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH

2912 PLEASANT GROVE RD

LANSING, MI

VELMA DORIS (HOLLOWAY) DEMYERS

VELMA WAS BORN ON MAY 22, 1935, IN HAZLEHURST, MISSISSIPPI AND RAISED BY HER LOVING PARENTS, HENRY (DECEASED) AND EVELYN (WASHINGTON) HOLLOWAY (DECEASED). VELMA ACCEPTED CHRIST AS HER PERSONAL SAVIOR AT AN EARLY AGE AND SERVED AT ST. JAMES MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH THROUGHOUT HER CHILDHOOD, WHERE HER GRANDFATHER SERVED AS PASTOR. VELMA LOVED THE LORD AND MAINTAINED A RELATIONSHIP WITH CHRIST INTO HER ADULTHOOD. VELMA CONTINUED HER EDUCATION IN HAZLEHURST, GRADUATING FROM PARRISH HIGH SCHOOL.

VELMA WAS THE SECOND OF SEVEN CHILDREN, AND AS THE ONLY GIRL, WAS AFFECTIONATELY REFERRED TO AS "SISTER" BY HER BROTHERS AND COUSINS. VELMA'S OLDEST BROTHER, MELVIN HOLLOWAY (DECEASED) GAVE HER THIS NAME AND HE WAS KNOWN AS "BROTHER". VELMA GREW UP WITH FOND MEMORIES OF GROWING UP IN A LARGE CHRISTIAN, LOVING FAMILY AND EXTENDED FAMILY. THESE MEMORIES AND STORIES WERE SHARED WITH HER CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN.

SERVING THE LORD WAS ALWAYS THE PRIORITY AND PROVIDED THE FOUNDATION FOR EVERYTHING ELSE IN VELMA'S LIFE. AFTER GRADUATING HIGH SCHOOL, VELMA FOLLOWED HER AUNT POPE DAWSON FIRST TO CHICAGO WHERE THEY LIVED FOR A SHORT TIME AND WHERE VELMA ACQUIRED HER ADMINISTRATIVE SKILLS.

VELMA EVENTUALLY SETTLED IN LANSING WITH HER AUNT AND UNCLE IN 1955 WHERE SHE UNITED WITH FRIENDSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH AND WHERE SHE HAS REMAINED A FAITHFUL MEMBER FOR MORE THAN 65 YEARS.

IN 1958, VELMA MARRIED JOSEPH DEMYERS, AND THIS UNION WAS BLESSED WITH THREE CHILDREN, TWO DAUGHTERS, ANITA MICHELLE AND ALESIA JO, AND A SON, MARCUS RICO. THE FAMILY FONDLY REMEMBERS FAMILY ROAD TRIPS DURING THE SUMMER AND THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS TO MISSISSIPPI TO VISIT VELMA'S MOTHER, GRANDMOTHER AND OTHER FAMILY. VELMA WAS VERY PROUD OF HER CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN, AND THEY LOVED AND ADORED HER.

VELMA HAD A SWEET, COMPASSIONATE AND GENEROUS SPIRIT AND ASSISTED WITH CAREGIVING FOR FAMILY MEMBERS AND SEVERAL FRIENDS. VELMA ALSO HAD A STRONG WORK ETHIC AND BEGAN A VERY LONG CAREER AS AN ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT AT MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY IN THE MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT, FINALLY RETIRING IN 1999, AFTER 30 YEARS OF SERVICE.

BASED ON HER LONG AFFILIATION WITH MSU, VELMA WAS UNAPOLOGETICALLY A DIEHARD FAN WHO RARELY MISSED AN OPPORTUNITY TO WATCH AND CHEER FOR HER SPARTANS. GROWING UP IN THE JIM CROW SOUTH DURING A TIME WHEN AFRICAN AMERICANS COULD NOT VOTE FUELED A LIFE-LONG COMMITMENT TO PARTICIPATING IN THE POLITICAL PROCESS AND VELMA ALWAYS ENCOURAGED HER FAMILY TO VOTE AT EVERY OPPORTUNITY.

VELMA WAS VERY COMPASSIONATE TOWARDS HER FELLOW MAN AND VERY PASSIONATE ABOUT HER FAMILY. VELMA ASSUMED THE ROLE OF WASHINGTON-COMAS FAMILY MATRIARCH AFTER THE PASSING OF HER AUNT IN 2004.

VELMA WAS FAITHFUL IN HER SERVICE TO THE LORD AND MAINTAINED LIFE-LONG FRIENDSHIPS THROUGH HER CHURCH. VELMA LOVED SERVING ON THE USHER BOARD, SINGING IN THE CHOIR AND ATTENDING SUNDAY SCHOOL AT FRIENDSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH. WHEN HER HEALTH BEGAN TO FAIL, SHE WOULD LISTEN TO CHURCH SERVICES REMOTELY TO MAINTAIN HER ONGOING CONNECTION AND CONTINUED TO LIVE IN THE WORD THROUGH HER DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS AND DEVOTIONALS.

VELMA WAS PRECEDED IN DEATH BY HER PARENTS, HENRY AND EVELYN HOLLOWAY, AND THREE BROTHERS, MELVIN HOLLOWAY (PEARLIE MAE, DECEASED), JAMES THOMAS HOLLOWAY (WILDA) AND EARNEST HOLLOWAY.

SHE LEAVES TO CHERISH HER MEMORY HER THREE CHILDREN, ANITA M. DEMYERS HATCHEL (JAMES) ATLANTA, GEORGIA, ALESIA DEMYERS GLENN (REGINALD), ECORSE, MICHIGAN, AND MARCUS RICO DEMYERS, LANSING, MICHIGAN; 11 GRANDCHILDREN; 20 GREAT-GRANDCHILDREN; 3 BROTHERS, ALVIN HENRY HOLLOWAY (SUDDIE), LAS VEGAS, NEVADA, MARCEL HOLLOWAY (LETICIA), LANSING, MICHIGAN AND GREGORY L. HOLLOWAY (APRIL), HAZLEHURST, MISSISSIPPI, 2 SPECIAL FIRST COUSINS, HELEN WILSON AND PARK ALICE THOMAS WILLIAMS, AND A HOST OF NIECES, NEPHEWS, COUSINS, AND FRIENDS.

I HAVE FOUGHT THE GOOD FIGHT, I HAVE FINISHED THE RACE, I HAVE KEPT THE FAITH.



ORDER OF SERVICE



PROCESSIONAL

FAMILY

MUSICAL PRELUDE

OFFICIANT

PASTOR REGINALD GLENN,
ASSOCIATE PASTOR,
GRACE TRUTH MINISTRIES

PRAYER

DEACON LONNIE EILAND

SCRIPTURES:

REVEREND JAMES DOUGLAS,
INTERIM PASTOR

OLD TESTAMENT PSALM 23
NEW TESTAMENT ROMANS 8: 35-39

OBITUARY (READ SILENTLY)

REMARKS (PLEASE LIMIT TO 3 MINUTES)
DR. DAVID & MRS. EVELYN GREEN (WORK & CHURCH)
GREGORY HOLLOWAY, SR. (FAMILY)
DAVID DEMYERS (GRANDCHILDREN)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & CHURCH RESOLUTION

SISTER CHERYL HOWELL
CHURCH CLERK

SOLO

SISTER SHARON LAWRENCE

EULOGY

PASTOR ROBERT L. JENKINS

COMMITTAL

PARADISE FUNERAL CHAPEL

BENEDICTION

REVEREND JAMES DOUGLAS,
INTERIM PASTOR

RECESSIONAL

FAMILY

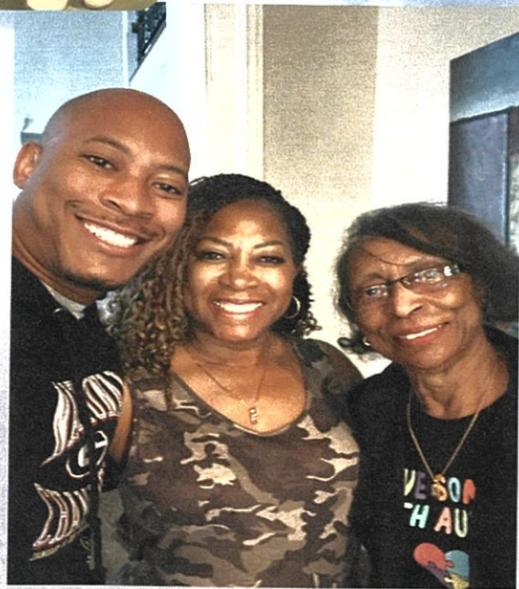
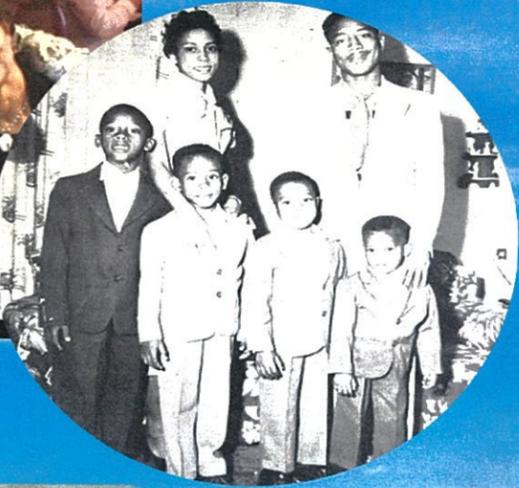


REMEMBER ME



REMEMBER ME TO THE LIVING, I AM GONE, TO THE
SORROWFUL, I WILL NEVER RETURN, TO THE ANGRY,
I WAS CHEATED, BUT TO THE HAPPY, I AM AT PEACE,
AND TO THE FAITHFUL, I HAVE NEVER LEFT.
I CANNOT SPEAK, BUT I CAN LISTEN. I CANNOT BE
SEEN, BUT I CAN BE HEARD. SO AS YOU STAND
UPON A SHORE GAZING AT A BEAUTIFUL SEA, AS YOU
LOOK UPON A FLOWER AND ADMIRE ITS SIMPLICITY,
REMEMBER ME. REMEMBER ME IN YOUR HEART: YOUR
THOUGHTS, AND YOUR MEMORIES, OF THE TIMES
WE LOVED, THE TIMES WE CRIED, THE TIMES WE
FOUGHT, THE TIMES WE LAUGHED. FOR IF YOU
ALWAYS THINK OF ME, I WILL NEVER HAVE GONE.





ACTIVE PALLBEARERS

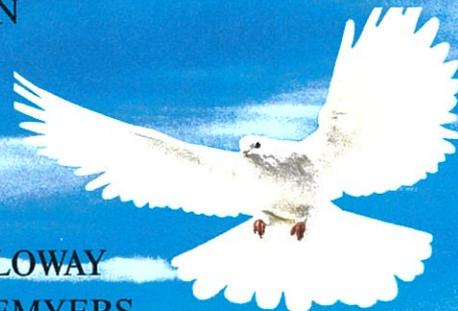
JECARO D. VAUGHN
CLAUDE THOMAS JR
ALVIN (SAM) HOLLOWAY

RICHARD PATRICK SMITH
PATRICK THOMAS
CALVIN MAYBIN

HONORARY PALLBEARERS

ALVIN HOLLOWAY
GREGORY HOLLOWAY
THE DEACONS OF FRIENDSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH

MARCEL HOLLOWAY
MARCUS R. DEMYERS



A HEARTFELT THANK YOU

WE, THE FAMILY OF VELMA DEMYERS, WISH TO EXTEND OUR DEEPEST GRATITUDE FOR THE OUTPOURING OF LOVE, SUPPORT, AND PRAYERS DURING THIS TIME OF LOSS. YOUR KINDNESS HAS BROUGHT US COMFORT AND STRENGTH, REMINDING US OF GOD'S GRACE AND THE BEAUTY OF COMMUNITY.

THOUGH OUR HEARTS ARE HEAVY, WE ARE UPLIFTED BY THE FAITH THAT OUR BELOVED MOTHER, GRANDMOTHER, AND "SISTER" IS RESTING IN ETERNAL GLORY, REUNITED WITH SO MANY OF OUR DEAREST LOVED ONES AND ANCESTORS, AND THAT GOD'S PROMISES ENDURE BEYOND THIS LIFE.

YOUR PRESENCE, WHETHER IN PERSON OR IN SPIRIT, HAS BEEN A BLESSING TO US.

MAY THE LORD RICHLY BLESS YOU, AS HE AND YOU HAVE BLESSED US.

WITH SINCERE APPRECIATION,
THE FAMILY OF VELMA DEMYERS

The logo for Paradise Funeral Chapel & Arrangement Services features the word "Paradise" in a large, elegant, cursive script. To its right, the words "Funeral Chapel" are written in a bold, sans-serif font, with "& Arrangement Services" in a smaller, similar font below it. A small, stylized dove is positioned above the word "Chapel".