

Tyrone Spivey | Michael Hicks  
Casey Felton | Namon Howell  
Antonio Glover | William J.T. Bryant

## FLOWER ATTENDANTS

Family and Friends



### *The Acknowledgements*

The family of Ms. JoAnne Howell wishes to extend our heartfelt gratitude for the many expressions of love, kindness, and support shown during this time of bereavement. We especially thank Reverend Gregory Williams for officiating, all program participants for their contributions, and Edwards Small Mortuary for their professionalism and care. To our extended family and friends, your prayers, calls, visits, and every act of kindness have brought us comfort and strength. We are truly grateful. May God bless you all!

*Professional Services Entrusted to*  
**Edwards Small Mortuary**  
1011 Martin Luther King Jr Dr.  
Fort Valley, GA 31030  
478-825-8700

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*Graphics*  
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EST. 2003

## CELEBRATION OF LIFE



# Jo Anne HOWELL

August 29, 1948 – September 11, 2025

Saturday, September 20, 2025 | 2:00 PM  
The Chapel of Edward Small Mortuary  
1011 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive  
Fort Valley, GA 31030

# The Obituary

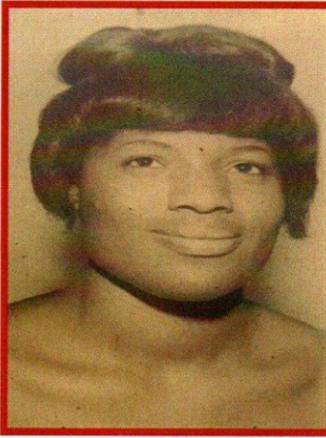
With hearts full of love and gratitude, we celebrate the beautiful life and legacy of Ms. JoAnne Howell. Affectionately known as "Miss Ann," she graced this world on August 29, 1948, in Fort Valley, Georgia, as the beloved daughter of Milton, Jr. and Georgia Mae Howell. She was the third of eight children.

JoAnne grew up surrounded by the warmth of Fort Valley, where she attended the Peach County School System and graduated proudly with the Class of 1966 at H.A. Hunt High School. After graduation, she set out to broaden her horizons at Job Corps in Cleveland, Ohio. Yet, when her family needed her, JoAnne's loving spirit guided her home to help care for her ailing sister, Gloria. In 1974, she furthered her education at the Peach County Nursing Program, becoming a nurse and fulfilling her calling to serve others.

While JoAnne excelled professionally, her heart belonged at home with her only son, Vince. She chose to become a stay-at-home mother, pouring her energy into raising him with love, laughter, and many adventures. She delighted in opening her home to her nieces, nephews, grandchildren, and Vince's friends. "Miss Ann," as she liked to be called, had a gift for making everyone feel welcomed and special. Her son fondly recalls the birthday parties she planned, always filled with so many children that even he didn't know them all.

Miss Ann's hobbies reflected her vibrant spirit. She loved capturing memories, always with a camera in hand, ensuring that the moments spent with friends and family would be treasured for years to come. A voracious reader, she could often be found at the local library searching for the latest mystery novels or thumbing through her favorite Reader's Digest. Even as her health declined, she kept Vince busy tracking down books by her favorite authors across Middle Georgia libraries. Her love for reading was one of the greatest gifts she passed down to him.

She was also a gifted seamstress who was proud to wear the beautiful garments she created. She often created and wore bold, African-inspired outfits complete with matching head wraps. Known as a sharp dresser with a personal flair, Miss Ann's style reflected her creativity and self-assurance. Her hands and her heart were always busy whether she was sewing clothes, babysitting grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and grandnieces and grandnephews, or delighting in every moment with the children in her family.



# My Hands Still Guide You

I am the hush in the corner of morning,  
the warmth of your blanket before dawn.  
Though my hands no longer hold you,  
their memory still encourages you on.

Remember how we stitched life together,  
fabric and thread, patience and care.  
Each seam I showed you was a promise:  
that resilience can mend what tears.

And the books, our quiet voyages  
pages turning like soft winds from the ocean.

I gave you my love of stories  
so you'd always find worlds inside yourself,  
even as your outer self is in constant motion.

I taught you to stand when the ground shook,  
to breathe when the nights felt too long.  
Every lesson was a whisper of courage,  
every push was a seed to be strong.

Now, when the air feels hollow  
and you ache for my face in the room,  
remember, my son, I am present  
in every stitch, in every story, in every bloom.

Go on with your life; keep reading and making;  
your mind and hands can do more than you know.  
I have passed you my heart's best treasures.  
Carry them forth, let them grow.

And when the world feels too heavy,  
pause, but never flinch.  
I'll be the voice at the edge of your silence,  
saying, "I'm proud of you, Vince."

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She leaves to cherish and celebrate her memory: her devoted son, Vince Howell, Sr. (Shanita); her beloved grandchildren, Vince Howell, Jr. and Garrison Howell; bonus grandchildren, Justin T. Bryant and William J.T. Bryant; her brother, Milton Howell; her nephews Namon Howell, Victor Howell, Milton Howell, Glenn Williams, and Quentin Howell; and her nieces Jennifer Williams, Kimberly Williams, Adrienne Jenkins, Kierra Howell, and Shanika Banks, along with a host of extended family and friends who were touched by her kindness.



*"When You've Been Blessed!"*

THANK GOD FOR THE LIFE OF MS. JOANNE HOWELL

# *Precious Memories*



# The Order of Service

Processional ..... led by Pastor Gregory Williams

## The Reading of the Holy Scriptures

Old Testament ..... Pastor Frankie Bryant

New Testament ..... Reverend Ezekiel Harvey

The Prayer of Comfort

Musical Selection ..... Mr. Dexter Davis

Remarks (open, please limit to two minutes)

Poem ..... Mrs. Shanita Howell, Daughter-in-Law

Musical Selection ..... Mr. Dexter Davis

Eulogy ..... Pastor Gregory Williams

Acknowledgments

Recessional



Interment will follow at Willow Lake Memorial Gardens, Fort Valley