
The Phoenix Once Again Will Rise

From the basic elements hydrogen, oxygen,
carbon and beyond
She stirs the air, tills the ground,
sends ripples upon the water
Inviting challenge, creating inroads
where none were thought to exist
In her mind the way is clear,
but others respond with skepticism

She stirs and tills bolstering egos shoring up the road
Placing invisible guard rails on each supporting side
Preventing failure or at least cushioning the blow

She recruits the workers and they willingly obey
They have seen her past action plans and believe
It is not a fairy tale, or rainbows
with a pot of Gold to procure
It is tangible, unmistakable, real

Her memory accurately notes each step along the path
She stands tall willing to shield those in the distance
From groundless attack as the omnipresent voice speaks
Through the faith of a mustard seed

The plan never falters, though it may be reshaped
The constant rhythm of a mighty few sings
through whispered
Phrases, then modulates to a thunderous roar
Speeding forward to the goal line
in just the apportioned time

Some said it could not be, others doubted the worth
But she knew the value and knows it still
Because she put the first foot forward
It is, this thing exists as a legacy to the future ones

Her efforts felt so seamless connecting lines
to the shortest point

Dotting all the I's and crossing each and every T
The magic of the moment blankets
the difficulties she withstood

And the pain of her vanguard efforts
Placing her reputation on the line
Brings forth the nectar of the fruits of the idea she
germinated, protected, and birthed
They shout hallelujah, give praise and grateful thanks
And she knows to HIM all honor is given
Many blessings have been received
The light will shine
As the Phoenix once again will rise!

BY BEVERLY Y. MURDOCK

*Permanence, perseverance and persistence
in spite of all obstacles, discouragements,
and impossibilities. It is this,
that in all things distinguishes
the strong soul from the weak.*

THOMAS CARLYLE

PALLBEARERS

Julius Alston, Jr.

Ronald M. Lewis

Kenneth J. L. Greenberg

Neil M. R. Greenberg

James B. Liles

Peter A. Vetrano

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

*The family of Willie F. Robinson acknowledges
with heartfelt appreciation all thoughtful
prayers, assistance, and acts of kindness
that you have bestowed upon us during this
very difficult time of bereavement.*

*The family is also most grateful to
Rev. Parreott, Rev. McGowen, Mr. West,
and the entire Martin Luther King
Presbyterian Church congregation
for graciously allowing us to use the facility
for the homegoing services of our loved one.*

Professional Services By

JAMES H. HUNT FUNERAL HOME

126 Ridge Avenue, Asbury Park, NJ 07712 -(732) 775-8722
Kevin L. Small - Manager - NJ Lic. #4880 NY Lic. #7174
"Service with Compassion, Concern and Care"

Sunrise: August 31, 1930

Sunset: March 15, 2016

In Loving Memory of



Willie Florence Robinson.

MONDAY, MARCH 21, 2016
11:00 AM

MARTIN LUTHER KING
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
15 Memorial Dr, Neptune NJ 07753

Rev. Vernon McGowen Jr., Officiating

Order of Service

PROCESSIONAL

OMEGA OMEGA SERVICE

*Monmouth County Alumnae Chapter of
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.*

PRAYER OF COMFORT

*Rev. Vernon McGowen Jr., Pastor Emeritus
Martin Luther King Jr. Presbyterian Church*

SCRIPTURES *Rev. David Parreott*

*Old Testament- Psalm 23
New Testament- John 14:1-6*

SOLO *"Soon and Very Soon"*

Ms. Katherine Murdock-Geathers, Minister

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS &

OBITUARY READING *Ms. Janet Palmer*

READING *"The Phoenix Once Again Will Rise"*

Ms. Beverly Murdock

REMARKS *(please limit to two minutes)*

Family and Friends

SOLO *"Amazing Grace"*

Ms. Katherine Murdock-Geathers, Minister

EULOGY *Rev. Vernon McGowen Jr.*

BENEDICTION/RECESSIONAL



INTERMENT

*MONMOUTH MEMORIAL PARK
Tinton Falls, NJ*

REPAST

*Following the Interment
MARTIN LUTHER KING PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Neptune, New Jersey*

Obituary



Willie F. Liles Robinson was born on August 31, 1930 in Raleigh, North Carolina. She was the youngest of Bunn and Jettie Lee Smith Liles' nine children.

Willie graduated in 1948 from Raleigh's Washington High School and from Shaw University in 1952, where she earned her bachelor's degree in education. She began her teaching career in Elizabethtown, North Carolina, but quickly joined her older sisters in New York City.

While in New York City, a college friend, Alphonso Potter introduced her to the love of her life, Lawrence Robinson - a handsome young veteran from Asbury Park, NJ. Willie married Lawrence on July 21, 1956, and the newlywed couple moved to Neptune, NJ to raise their two daughters, Fern Louise and Jacqueline Denise.

Willie spent most of her 30+ years teaching in the Asbury Park School District. This gave her the opportunity to shape the minds of students at Bangs Avenue School, Bradley School, and finally Asbury Park High School. As a committed teacher she was devoted to her students' overall well-being and left an indelible mark on their lives. As further testament of her devotion to the children of her community, Willie served on a committee of the Monmouth County Juvenile Court system that sought alternative forms of rehabilitation for youth offenders.

Her teaching career also included her influential leadership in the Asbury Park Education Association's Executive Committee. She served as Vice President for years and led the fight for benefits that Asbury Park union members still enjoy today.

Interestingly, Willie would not allow her daughters to become teachers. She felt that as an aspiring young black woman in the south during the late 1940's, she only had two options, teacher or nurse. She knew that there was so much more available to her daughters so she encouraged, nudged, and insisted that they take their opportunity for professional success in a field that she could not. And if you knew Willie, you know that was the way that was going to be!

While at Shaw University, Willie became a member of Alpha Rho chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. She took

her commitment to Delta Sigma Theta seriously and later became a charter member and past president of the Monmouth County Alumnae Chapter. She served on state-wide and regional committees, ran for national office, and as a Golden Life member, was actively involved until her health restricted her activities.

Willie was a beautiful woman and her creative style permeated everything she touched. She designed and made most of her clothing. She also created jewelry and sold her creations through her company, Family Affair Enterprises. Even after she was no longer able to sew or make jewelry, she never lost her sense of style. Willie was always "dressed to the nines" even if she was leaving her house simply to play bingo with her cherished friends, Cynthia and Henry Moore, for outings with Peola and Vernell Smith, or to play the slots in Atlantic City with Bill and Marilyn Griffin.

Willie loved to battle for a cause, especially for the underdog. That woman's powers of persuasion were legendary. She could convince you that the sky was green! But get out your flack jacket if you were on the other side, because she played to win at all cost, always!

Willie passed away on Tuesday, March 15, 2016 at the home of her daughter and son-in-law in Plainfield, N.J. after a defiant battle against congestive heart failure. She was predeceased by her parents; 7 of her 8 siblings; and most recently her husband, Lawrence (2006); daughter, Fern Greenberg (2009); and son-in-law, Edmund Greenberg (2013).

She leaves behind many loved ones to cherish and remember her feisty spirit, including her daughter, Jacki Robinson; son-in-law, Julius Alston; five grandchildren, Camille Alston, Chaz Greenberg, Kenneth Greenberg, Jalesa Harris, and Neil Greenberg; sister, Margaret Ruth Miles; "son", Ronald Lewis and his wife, Maebble Hairston; "daughters", Tracy Cook, Janet Palmer and her husband Peter Vetrano; "Jive Five Sisters", Zara Peters-Wynn, Thelma Slater, and Janice Keener; and a host of nieces, nephews, and friends.

Willie's family sincerely thanks anyone who was not specifically mentioned for all the kindness, care, and attention that was extended to Willie after she lost her husband. It is your thoughtfulness that allowed her to live a full and independent life in her home, in Neptune and on her terms.

Willie most definitely "Lived Life Her way"!