Memories Last





















Forever!

Pallbearers
Family and Friends

Floral Bearers
Family and Friends

Expression of Gratitude

The family of Mother Vera Willingham wishes to express our sincere and heartfelt gratitude to everyone for the many acts of love, kindness, support, and prayers shown to us during our time of bereavement. We will forever cherish the love and support that so many of you shared with our family during this difficult time. As we continue to navigate life without MaMa, your continued prayers are deeply appreciated. May God richly bless each of you for your thoughtfulness and love.

JP Holley Funeral Home
Est. 1917 JPHolley.com

Celebrating Over 100 Years Of Service

Columbia NE Chapel	Columbia SE Chapel	St. Matthews Chapel	Bishopville Chapel
9010 Farrow Rd	8132 Garners Ferry Rd	102 Church Street	114 E. Church Street
Columbia, SC 29203	Columbia, SC 29209	St. Matthews, SC 29135	Bishopville, SC 29010
803-764-0888	803-695-1666	803-874-3317	803-484-7245

Johnathan P. Holley
President & Director
www.jpholley.com

Homegoing Celebration For



Vera Mae Oree Willingham

April 21, 1946 - September 15, 2026

Wednesday, September 23, 2026
11:00 AM

J P Holley Funeral Home Southeast Chapel
8132 Garners Ferry Road, Columbia, SC 29209
Pastor Elizabeth Carmichael, Officating

REFLECTIONS OF HER LIFE

Vera Mae Oree Willingham was born April 21, 1946, in Eastover, South Carolina. She was the beloved daughter of the late Vera Oree Brown and George Smith. She was called to join the Lord in Paradise on Tuesday, September 15, 2026, from the comfort of her home in Eastover, SC.

Vera was educated in the public schools of Richland County. She was a graduate of Webber High School Class of 1964. In addition, she attended Midlands Technical College. She worked 20 years at Midlands Center working with mental health patients and spent time working with seniors as a care giver at Day Break. She was an Evangelist and delighted in spreading the gospel at a variety of churches including Christ Resurrection, Faith, Hope, and Charity, and her most recent home church Co Pastoring at Old McGraw Baptist Church with her husband and Pastor, Pastor David Willingham. Throughout her career she worked in various roles included being a hat model in New York and working at the Peep Factory attaching eyes on the marshmallow peeps. She was also an Eastern Star member. Vera married her husband of 56 years, David Willinghmam in 1968. They began their family the following year making Eastover, SC their home and opening it to care for granddaughters and great grandsons. Her unfailing love and dedication has been passed down for generations and will continue to set a standard for her family until we all meet her again in glory.

Those who will forever cherish her fond and precious memories are her husband, Pastor David Willingham, three sisters, Barbara Ann Campbell (John Campbell Sr), Paulette Oree, and Gloria Oree Cills. Daughters, Angelia Alston (Tony Rogers), Darnell Muldrow (Leroy Muldrow), late son Arick Willingham; Granddaughters, Ciara Willingham, Darrian Alston, Destiny Muldrow, Lyric Muldrow, Camryn Alston, and Logan Willingham; Great grandsons, Kingston Alston, Kyrie Branch, Terrence Tidwell Jr., and Nolan Grailford; Honorary Caregiver Nikole Simpson, most recent Care Giver Brittany Wider and a host of other loving nieces, nephews, cousins, family and friends whom will miss her dearly.

ORDER OF SERVICE

Prelude
“Thank You Lord (He Did All)”
John P. Kee | The New Life Community Choir

Processional
“He’ll Welcome Me”
John P. Kee | The New Life Community Choir

Selection
Sister Jackie Robinson

Old Testament
Pastor Gauze

New Testament
Rev. Monica Branch

Prayer
Mr. Tony Rogers

Poem
Ms. Nikole Simpson

Selection
Sister Elizabeth Hamilton

Poem Recording
Mrs. Darnell Muldrow

Solo
Pastor David Willingham

Words of Comfort
Pastor Elizabeth Carmichael

Recessional
“Order My Steps In Your Word”
GMWA Women of Worship

Prelude
“Living Testimony”
The Mighty Clouds of Joy

Committal, Prayer, Benediction
Pastor Elizabeth Carmichael

Cemetery & Location
Old McGraw Baptist Church
1100 Old McGraw Road Eastover, SC 29044

A PASTOR’S FIRST LADY

You’ve stood so strong for so many,
Now may God carry you.
The First Lady who stood beside you
Now walks with Heaven’s crew.

Though your pulpit may feel different
And her seat may now be still,
The love you shared lives on forever
And her presence always will.

May the God you’ve preached about
Now comfort your heart each day,
Until you meet your first lady again
On heaven’s glorious way.

FOR THE DAUGHTERS WHO LOVED THEIR MOTHER SO WELL

Picture Mama in Heaven now
a smile upon her face,
With the Lord and free from pain
Nails Polished, perfume smelling good,
And not a hair out of place.

Strolling through those pearly gates
With the confidence of a queen,
Glowing in all her glamorous ways,
The most beautiful she’s ever been.

You loved on her, you cared for her,
You stayed right by her side.
You gave her everything you had,
With a daughter’s love and pride.

So give yourself permission now
To breathe, reset, and heal.
Because even though you can’t see her,
Her love is something you’ll still feel.

She needed you to care for her
While she was here with you.
And now, from her new home in heaven,
She’ll be watching over you too.

So when the days feel heavy
And you wonder how you’ll make it through,
Remember—you took care of Mama here,
And now she sits next to Jesus
As He’s taking care of you.
-Sonya Law Tolbert