



# ETHELREEN EZELL

MAY 7, 1947 - MAY 30, 2025

SATURDAY, JUNE 14, 2025

WAKE: 1:00 PM - FUNERAL: 1:30 PM

WATSON'S FUNERAL HOME

10913 SUPERIOR AVE - CLEVELAND, OHIO 44106



# Order of Service

Processional.....

Officiant..... Tylanika Fletcher

Opening Hymn.....Amazing Grace

Prayer of Comfort ..... Minister Sheria McElrath

Old Testament..... Tanisha Sowell

New Testament.....Curtis Williams

Song..... Alex Williams

Acknowledgements ..... Celestine Lee

Family Tributes.....

Jacquelyn Battle	Robert Williams	Iris Williams
Troy Williams	James Miner	Louis Miner

Nieces & Nephews Tribute.....

Tehya Benson	Alecia Rena Benson	Michael Benson
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Friend Tribute.....Earlene Jackson

Obituary .....Jacquelyn Battle

Selection.....

Eulogy..... Elder David Thomas

Final Farewell .....Donnie Boy'a Williams

Recessional ..... Family & Friends

## INTERMENT

PRIVATE



# Obituary

Ethelreen Williams was born on May 9, 1947, to the late Onnie Williams Sr. and Irene (Miner) Brown in Butler, Alabama. During her early childhood, she attended school in the Mobile, Alabama, school district. At the age of 15, her mother relocated the family to Houston, Delaware, where Ethelreen continued her education. Education was deeply important to her, and she fought relentlessly to earn her G.E.D. by her mid-fifties.

Ethelreen truly understood the value of education, as she was a natural educator. She raised her younger siblings, a host of nieces and nephews, and three generations of her own personal legacy, encouraging them all to pursue their education. Her home was a small school building and library for children and adults of all ages. An avid reader, she instilled a love of learning in all who crossed her path.

At a young age, Ethelreen worked in agriculture alongside her mother. She later gained employment at Swift Company in Felton, Delaware. Seeking new opportunities, she boldly moved to Cleveland, Ohio—a city that would become her beloved home. Her strong work ethic continued there, as she became employed by Kaiser Permanente, where she retired after more than 30 years of service.

Ethelreen was the proud mother of one son, Donnie Boy'a Williams, who was the love of her life. She provided him with structure and guidance, inspiring him to pursue a career in the Armed Forces. Her pride in his accomplishments was evident—she often shared his uniformed photos with anyone willing to see them.

In 1986, Ethelreen married Herbert Ezell, her devoted husband of 23 years.

Affectionately known as a “shining light” in the lives of all who knew her, Ethelreen’s heart was the biggest part of her petite frame. Size never mattered to her—she would boldly challenge any growing adolescent who tried to test her resolve. She

loved, cared for, and helped everyone around her. She famously left her door unlocked so that anyone in need, at any time, could find help and solace in her home.

The strength and grace it took to serve as the matriarch of 22 siblings is nothing short of extraordinary, and she did it with love and compassion. Her life's journey was marked by unwavering faith in God, which carried her through two victorious battles with breast cancer. Her favorite scripture was "The Lord's Prayer" (Matthew 6:9–13), which she referenced often in her many heartfelt conversations.

Ethelreen was preceded in death by her husband, Herbert Ezell; her grandmother, Ethel Humphrey; her mother, Irene (Miner) Brown; her brother, Onnie Williams Jr.; her sisters, Rosa Bell, Charlene Watson, and Sherylene Brown; her uncle, Hodges "Ray" Williamson; and her aunt, Rosa Lee Woolford.

She leaves to cherish her memory her son, Donnie Boy'a Williams; grandson, Eric Jordan Vicario; great-granddaughter, Amelia Vicario; maternal brothers, Robert Williams, Iris Williams, Troy (Deborah) Williams, James (Jean) Miner, Louis (Sharonetta) Miner, and Moses Cooper III; maternal sisters, Coreen (James) Harris and Lorraine Dittman; paternal brothers, Curtis Williams, Emmanuel (Sheryl) Williams, Kent Williams, Russell Williams, and Lee Williams; paternal sisters, Carolyn Howard, Jacquelyn (Andre) Battle, Willivera Williams, and Celestine Lee; and a host of beloved nieces, nephews, extended family, and dear friends.

Ethelreen's legacy of love, strength, and unwavering faith will forever live on in the hearts of all who knew her. She will be deeply missed.

*Lovingly Submitted,  
The Family*





# *When Tomorrow Starts Without Me*

When tomorrow starts without me, And I'm not here to see  
If the sun should rise and find your eyes, All filled with tears for me  
I wish you wouldn't cry, The way you did today  
While thinking of the many things, We didn't get to say  
I know how much you love me, As much as I love you  
Each time that you think of me, I know you'll miss me too  
When tomorrow starts without me, Please try to understand  
That an angel came and called my name, And took me by the hand  
The angel said my place was ready, In Heaven far above  
And That I would have to leave behind, All those I dearly love  
But when I walked through Heaven's Gates, I felt so much at home  
When GOD looked down and smiled at me, From his golden throne  
He said, This Is Eternity, and All I promised you  
Today your life on earth is done, But here it starts a new  
I promise no tomorrow, For today will always last  
And since each day's the exact same way, There is no longing for the past  
So when tomorrow starts without me, Do not think we are apart  
For every time you think of me, Remember I'm right here in your heart.

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

*The family would like to express their sincere appreciation  
for all the expressions of love show to them  
during their time of bereavement.*

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*Watson's Funeral Home*

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