CELEBRATING

THE

Life

OF A BEAUTIFUL SOUL

BELOVED

MOTHER

Beverly

WILSON EPPS



SUNRISE
APRIL 12, 1940

SERVICE
SATURDAY
OCTOBER 31, 2026
1:00 PM

SUNSET
OCTOBER 13, 2026

ST. JOSEPH BAPTIST CHURCH

877 IRISH BEND ROAD, FRANKLIN, LA

"SHE TAUGHT US TO SEEK KNOWLEDGE, TO WALK IN FAITH,
AND TO MAKE ROOM IN OUR HEARTS FOR OTHERS.



To all of you who loved me,
Who held me close in prayer,
Who sat beside me, took my hand,
And showed me you were there,
I carried every kindness,
Each visit, kiss, and smile.
You helped me through the hardest days
And walked with me each mile.
My earthly work is through.
But all the love I gave in life
Is living still in you.
I'm home with God, held in His peace,
With more joy than words can tell.

"To be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord."

— 2 Corinthians 5:8

Beverly Wilson Epps

Order of Service

Officiant: Rev. Carl F. Lewis
Reverend Ronald C. Young, Pastor
St. Joseph Baptist Church

Musical Prelude	Musicians
Processional	Clergy and Family
Order of Eastern Star Ceremony	Adah Chapter #20 Order of Eastern Star Franklin, LA
Opening Selection	Praise and Worship Team
The Holy Scriptures	Old Testament - Reverend Ulysses Mitchell, Jr. New Testament - Reverend D'Andre J. Cross, Sr.
Prayer Chant	Musicians
Prayer of Comfort	Appointee
Musical Tribute	Sister Renetta Maze Murray
Obituary	Sister Fallon Mitchell
Musical Tribute	Sister Marian Brown

Resolutions, Tributes and Special Acknowledgments

Her Community	Reverend Tamaria Hawkins Council Member Jay Ina City of Franklin Ladies Auxiliary #4201, Franklin, LA
Her Dear Ole' Grambling	Kathaleen Reynolds Brittanee' R. Davis
Her Time in Education	Honorable Donna Lewis Lancelin
Her Family	Darrell L. Davis

Pulpit Condolences/ Expression	2 Minutes
Hymn of Preparation	Sister Vanessa Hawkins Charles
Eulogy	Reverend Carl F. Lewis
Closing Selection	Musicians
Benediction	Appointee
Recessional	Clergy and Family

Let the Life I Lived Speak for Me

In Remembrance Of



Beverly Wilson Epps

April 12, 1940 – October 13, 2026

The dash between the dates, Beverly Wilson Epps lived a life rooted in the conviction that education could enlarge a person's future, faith could sustain the spirit, and kindness could strengthen an entire community. An educator, mother, church servant, and devoted friend, she lived out these convictions over a lifetime of service. Her influence extended from the classrooms of Franklin to the campus of Grambling College, from her beloved St. Joseph community to the lives of those who came to know her as "Mrs. Epps" or "Mama Epps."

Born on April 12, 1940, Beverly was the youngest of five daughters of Cyrus and Lessie Willis Wilson. She grew up in the St. Joseph community of Franklin, Louisiana, within a family whose story remained central to her own.

The community of her childhood became the community of her life's work. There, she formed the attachments that would guide her service: love of family, devotion to God, concern for neighbors, and a belief in the promise of young people.

Beverly accepted Christ at an early age and was baptized by the late Reverend John Parker at St. Joseph Baptist Church in Franklin. St. Joseph remained a place of worship, fellowship, responsibility, and belonging. She lived her faith through the patience and care she showed others.











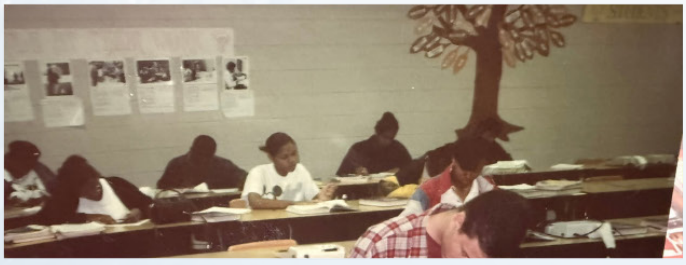



CRAMBLING

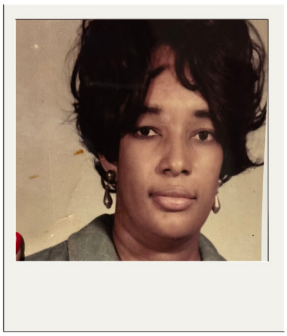





LOVE LOVE















Beverly wanted more for her life, and she understood education to be the means of reaching it. With determination and confidence in what lay ahead, she chose Grambling College in the red clay hills of North Louisiana. Her father packed the station wagon and made the long journey to Grambling, LA, a journey that would become an important chapter in the history of her family.

In 1963, Beverly graduated from Grambling College with a degree in Business Education. After a brief time in Los Angeles, she returned home and began her teaching career at Park Avenue School in 1964, returning to teach in the community that had nurtured her.

Following integration, Beverly taught at Franklin Senior High School, where she continued preparing students for life beyond the classroom. For many, in the 1960s, seeing a college-educated Black woman in the front of the classroom offered a powerful example of what was possible. Her accounting courses prepared students for further study, while her instruction in record-keeping classes equipped them with practical skills for everyday life.

Mrs. Epps maintained a classroom grounded in order, respect, and accountability. Her presence carried authority, and her students understood she expected their attention, preparation, and best effort. When a student tried her, she did not hesitate to call a mother and, when necessary, a grandmother. In some cases, she had taught all three generations. She understood the importance of the bond between school and home, and she called upon that partnership to help keep her students on the right path.

She also understood students learned from what they saw each day. Known for her high heels, red lipstick, and professional dress, Mrs. Epps brought care and intention to her appearance. She believed it was important for her students to see her dressed professionally, presenting a daily example of confidence, dignity, and pride in one's work. Before a lesson began, her presence already communicated education mattered and the work before them deserved respect.

She also taught adult typing classes, where she opened doors of opportunity for members of the community to learn new skills and improve their futures. She expected the same level of commitment, discipline, and dedication from her adult students that she demanded during the regular school day. Her instructions were clear and consistent: eyes forward, feet flat on the floor, and fingers positioned on the home row keys. Even her 10-year-old daughter, who often sat in on these evening classes, was expected to meet the same high standards. Through her example, Beverly Wilson Epps demonstrated learning knows no age limit and discipline, hard work, and high expectations are essential to success.

Mrs. Epps retired in 1997, though her concern for students continued to call her back to the classroom. She returned as a long-term substitute teacher, serving the community she loved until 2018, when she truly retired to spend her time traveling with her girls.



A Lifetime in the Classroom

Faith and Service to Her Community

Beverly's commitment to service extended well beyond the school day. She loved the St. Joseph community and understood its strength depended upon people willing to give their time, attention, and care. She is remembered as a friend to all, a woman who helped others and gave freely from her heart.

At St. Joseph Baptist Church, she served as an usher, historian, and church orator. For most of her adult life, when there was a church history to read, a welcome to give, or an occasion to mark, Beverly was the one asked to stand and speak. Her dependable presence



was woven into the life of the church, where she expressed her faith through fellowship, welcome, and service. In recognition of her years at the door, St. Joseph named her Usher Emeritus.

She also served as a longtime St. Mary Parish Election Day Commissioner and a Summer Feeding Program volunteer at Broussard Harris Recreation Center.

She was a member of Adah Chapter No. 20 of the Order of Eastern Star, the Order of the Amaranth, Ladies Auxiliary #4201, and the National Education Association. She served on the board of St. Mary Parish Sewerage & Water Board District No. 7 and was a lifetime member of the Grambling University Alumni Association.

Beverly was a lifetime member of the Irish Bend Society of Franklin, Louisiana. She also enjoyed the fellowship of the Magnificent Twelve Social Club and Pokeno Club.

Her generosity was evident in ordinary moments: a word of encouragement, a helpful gesture, or the attention she gave to someone who needed to be heard. She enjoyed cooking, preparing, and delivering meals for Seniors in the area.

Strength, determination, and independence were among Beverly's defining qualities. She demonstrated dignity through the way she lived each day.



Her Girls & Dear Ole' Grambling



In 1967, Beverly married Henry Epps in Franklin, Louisiana. Their marriage was a chapter in a family story that brought her the enduring joy of motherhood. Her daughters, Harmona Patrice and HaShawn Beverly Epps, were affectionately and proudly "her girls." They held a central place in her life.

Beverly's belief in education became a living inheritance for her daughters. Both earned Accounting Degrees from Dear Ole' Grambling, carrying forward the connection their mother had established, and their accomplishments gave her particular pride.

Everyone knew when Grambling was playing, Beverly intended to be there. A season ticketholder for more than 30 years, whether the Tigers were in Grambling, Las Vegas, Oklahoma, or New Orleans, she represented her school with unmistakable enthusiasm. Her Cadillac, flying Grambling flags with Tigers proudly displayed in the windows, became a familiar expression of that devotion. Her presence could often be recognized before she stepped from the car.

Her pride was especially evident when one of her girls took the field at halftime with the World Famed Tiger Marching Band. In those moments, her love for her daughters and her loyalty to Grambling met in the same celebration.

She modeled the importance of giving back to Grambling State University through financial contributions, maintaining her status as a GUNAA Lifetime member, and consistently supporting Grambling's fundraising initiatives.

Over the years, Beverly extended her motherly care to many students beyond her own children. She helped high school students complete college and financial aid applications, paid application fees for countless students, and, when she could, gave local students on campus a little spending money. Her encouragement and reminders to persevere earned her the affectionate name “Mama Epps.” For the Bayou Classic she even prepared sweet potato pies for students from the area.

Grambling remained part of who Beverly was. It was the place where she earned her degree, learned lessons for life, built lasting friendships, and found the bond she shared with her girls.

My Girls



My girls, I know your hearts are hurting
And you long for one more day.
But Jesus had a place prepared
And gently led the way.

Now I am home with God,
My weary body is at peace.
The pain you wished to take from me
Has finally found release.

So let your tears fall when they must,
And speak my name with love,
Hold each other close, my girls,
And trust in God above.

There is still so much ahead of you,
So much to do and see,
Walk forward with your faith and grace,
And carry my love with thee.

“And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.”
— Revelation 21:4

Love, Mom


I'm So
GRam
Fam
EVERYBODY
IS SOMEBODY
AT THE






25
25





















Mom’s Hands

Mom, your hands were the first place
we learned what love felt like.
They held us close when we were small,
then reached for us as we grew.

Those hands worked, taught, and cared.
They folded in prayer over our lives
and made room for others
who needed your kindness, too.

You taught us more than lessons
from a classroom or a book.
You showed us how to be strong,
how to give from the heart,
and how to keep going with faith.

In those last days, we held your hands in ours,
hoping you could feel in our touch
the same comfort you had given us all our lives.

Everything we are carries something of you.
And wherever life takes us, Mom,
we will always be your girls.

With all our love, Her Girls
Harmona and HaShawn

A Life Remembered

Beverly brought her own distinctive presence to the occasions of her life, right down to her red or black and gold nails. It was no surprise that she was also a Mary Kay Consultant. She was independent, assured, and attentive to the way she presented herself to the world.

Her joys were found in the relationships and places she cherished. She loved her girls, her family, her church, her community, and Dear Ole' Grambling. She valued friendship and remained generous with encouragement. Those who remember her speak of wisdom and strength, compassion and loyalty.

On October 13, 2026, Beverly Wilson Epps transitioned at home, surrounded by her girls, family, church family, and friends. Her earthly life closed within the circle of love to which she had given so much. Her family entrusts her to God's care and gives thanks for the years they shared with her.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Cyrus and Lessie Willis Wilson; her sisters, Dorothy Wilson Wiggins, Gloria Wilson Davis, Eloise Wilson Hebert, and Edmonia Alzena Wilson Alexander; and her godchild, Lenard Chatman, Jr. She leaves to cherish her memory her devoted daughters, Harmona Patrice Epps and HaShawn Beverly Epps, of Dallas, TX; godchildren Elcide Davis of Oklahoma City, OK, Brady Thomas of Beaumont, TX, and Lawanda Bowles-Costello of Los Angeles, CA; bonus children Adrienne Minor of Franklin, LA, Tony Valentino of Ruston, LA, and Michelle Williams of New Iberia, LA; a host of nieces, nephews, and cousins; and many devoted friends. Her church family, former students, colleagues, Pokeno Club, Magnificent Twelve Members, and the Grambling community share in remembering her life and mourning her passing.

and a Legacy Continued

The legacy of an educator continues wherever knowledge is used and confidence is carried forward. Beverly's work lives in the people she taught, in the young adults she encouraged, and in the families who remember her influence. The legacy of a mother continues in the lives of her children. Her girls carry her love, her example, and the education she so deeply valued.

HER Girls HER Legacy Foundation carries on the work Beverly did for more than fifty years. She helped students fill out financial aid forms and paid their application fees, and the foundation continues that through scholarships for students pursuing higher education. She spent her career in the classroom, and the foundation supports educators with professional development and resources. Beverly also believed in showing up, speaking up, and treating people with dignity. In that same spirit, the foundation stands beside older adults and their caregivers as they navigate the healthcare system, helping them understand their options and ask for the care they need. To learn more or give in her honor, visit www.mrsepps.org.

Beverly's life is remembered with gratitude: for the lessons she taught, the faith she practiced, the friendships she sustained, and the love she gave. Her spirit will be carried forward by those whose lives she strengthened and by the service undertaken in her honor.

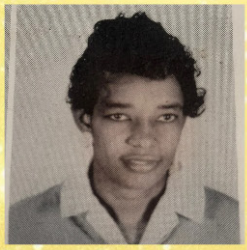



GO
GRAMBLING

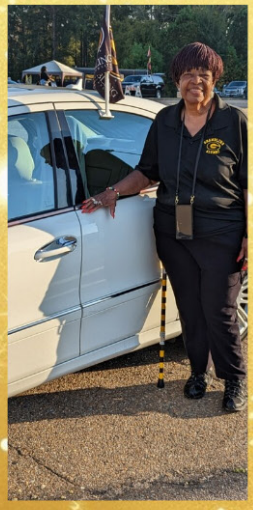


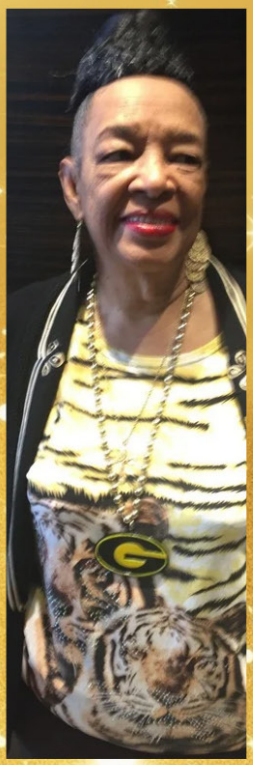













GRAMBLING
ALUMNI







Beverly



Active Pallbearers

Allen Alexander, Jr
Brady Thomas
Dr. Darryl Smith
Edward Wilson
Elcide Davis, Jr.
Ja'Qualan Keal
Johnathan Davis, Jr
Tyvon Howard

Special Thanks To:

Roland Degeyter, MD & Staff
S. Burugu, MD
Fresenius Kidney Care Franklin
Hospice of Acadiana
Mari Tietze, PhD, RN-BC, FHIMSS, FAAN
Nursing Care Home Health Team
Terry Davis & All her Caregivers

And She Shall Rest at:
Irish Bend Cemetery
128 Welch Lane
Franklin, Louisiana

Please join the family for a repast and fellowship immediately following the service at:
Franklin Recreation Center
500 E.A. Fouquier Shine Street
Franklin, Louisiana

Honorary Pallbearers

Byron Wallace
Clarence Thomas
Darrell Davis
Ellis Harris
Eddie Scott
Freddie Wilson
Harvey Wiggins
Henry "Butch" Dwin
Rev. Horace Bowles
John Payne Mitchell
Johnathan Davis Sr
Joseph Wilson, Jr.
Keith Davis
Kendall Davis
Marcus Johnson
Raymond Siguar
Roy Mitchell
Tony Valentino

Acknowledgments & Expression of Gratitude

"Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted."

— Matthew 5:4, KJV

Thank you for loving our mother, honoring her life, and sharing the memories that remind us how deeply she touched others. Each expression of sympathy has brought comfort to our hearts and affirmed that we do not walk through this season alone.

We extend special gratitude to the caregivers, healthcare professionals, clergy, family, and friends who cared for her with compassion and dignity.

As we celebrate her life and carry her legacy forward, please continue to keep us in your prayers. May God bless each of you for the kindness you have shown our family.

With love and sincere appreciation,

Her Girls and the Family of Beverly Wilson Epps



We, the Wilson-Epps family, entrusted Mrs. Epps' services to the professionals of:

MK DIXON
FUNERAL HOME

<u>Program & Graphic Design by:</u>
Hash Haus
HaShawn B. Epps

<u>Floral presentation created by:</u>
Imperial Design Group, L.L.C
Dr. Derrick Wells