

## *23rd Psalm*

The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want.  
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures,  
He leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul.

He leadeth me in the paths of  
righteousness for His name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the  
valley of the shadow of death,  
I will fear no evil; for thou art with me;  
Thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me  
in the presence of mine enemies;  
Thou anointest my head with oil;  
my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall  
follow me all the days of my life;

And I will dwell in the house  
of the LORD forever.

## *Acknowledgements*

The family wishes to acknowledge with deep appreciation the many expressions of love, concern, prayers, and kindness shown to them during this hour of bereavement.

May God Bless and Keep You!

- The family of Martha Dilsey Freeman



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## *Celebration of Life*



## *Martha Dilsey Freeman*

March 10, 1930 - February 15, 2025

March 8, 2025

Visitation: 10:00 am

Funeral Service: 11:00 am

New Jerusalem Baptist Church

26 W. North Bend Road

Cincinnati, OH. 45216

Pastor Damon Lynch Jr., Officiating

# Obituary

Martha Dilsey Freeman was born on March 10, 1930, in Cincinnati, Ohio, to Exodus and Martha (Jones) Roberts. She grew up in the West End and Avondale alongside her siblings: Florence (Roberts) Cloud, Lee Roberts, Virginia (Roberts) Alexander, Roy Roberts, and Prudence (Roberts) Moore. She is now reunited with them in eternal rest.

Martha Dilsey, affectionately known as Dilsey, was married to James Thomas Freeman. Together, they raised four children. James preceded her in death, as did her eldest child, Marcia Freeman, and her first-born grandson, Michael James Freeman. Dilsey is survived by her sons Michael James Freeman, Anthony R. Freeman (Vaniece), and Akiva N. Freeman (Rashanna); grandchildren Toni Palmer, Marqueta Freeman, Shandra Freeman, Julian Freeman, Alana Freeman, and Akiva Freeman Jr.; as well as a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, great-grandchildren, grandnieces, grandnephews, and dear friends.

Dilsey attended Woodward High School before earning her cosmetology license and working in the beauty industry. She later owned and operated Lady D's Beauty Salon on Reading Road for more than 25 years.

She joined Carmel Presbyterian Church as a child and remained active into her 90s, participating in the Inspirational Church Choir, Usher Board, and Martha's Circle Women's Club. A lifelong civic advocate, she dedicated time to serving as a poll worker, registering voters, and volunteering on multiple political campaigns. She was also active in NAACP community efforts. Two milestone moments in her life were surviving the Beverly Hills Supper Club Fire in Kentucky and meeting President Bill Clinton.

Dilsey loved family, fitness, line dancing, travel, and gaming! Her passions often took her to Las Vegas, Atlantic City, and Biloxi, where she enjoyed casinos and entertainment. She could also be found on cruise ships, at gospel concerts, or attending gala events. And, of course, she always made time for the Bronner Brothers Hair Shows!

A giant in a little frame, Dilsey never tolerated disrespect. A fierce protector, she loved hard and would go to any length to shield those she cherished from harm. She was an advocate and a fighter—no challenge was too big! I-N-D-E-P-E-N-D-E-N-T is the best way to describe Lady D! And, to paraphrase a famous song, she lived life "Her Way."

## 2 Timothy 4:7

"I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith."

# Order of Service



Musical Prelude .....

Parting View ..... Immediate Family

Prayer ..... Pastor Damon Lynch Jr.

Scripture ..... Pastor Damon Lynch Jr.

Selection .....

Acknowledgements ..... Pastor Damon Lynch Jr.

Remarks ..... 2 Minutes Please

Obituary ..... Read Silently

Selection .....

Eulogy ..... Pastor Damon Lynch Jr.

Benediction ..... Pastor Damon Lynch Jr.

Recessional ..... Clergy, Family & Friends



## Pallbearers

Julian Freeman  
Shawn Greenlea

Demarrae Taylor  
Chuck Martin

## Final Resting Place

Walnut Hills Cemetery  
3117 Victory Parkway, Cincinnati, Ohio 45206