

*Eternal God,*

Source of life, breath of our ancestors,  
 Keeper of every generation—  
 We come before You with hearts both heavy and grateful.  
 We thank You for the life of Your servant,  
 A daughter of the South,  
 A little girl from Hawkinsville, Georgia,  
 Where red clay holds the memory of her footsteps  
 And the spirit of her beginnings was first shaped.  
 From those humble roots,  
 You carried her forward—  
 Through roads seen and unseen,  
 From the warmth of her Southern beginnings  
 To the living pulse of Cincinnati, Ohio.  
 She walked the streets of downtown,  
 She lived, loved, and labored in Avondale,  
 She made memories in Pleasant Ridge,  
 And in Norwood—  
 Where you could find her playing her numbers,  
 Stopping by Kroger each day

For her daily shopping excursion,  
 Moving through the neighborhood with purpose,  
 Familiar, present, and known.  
 Each place a chapter,  
 Each step a testimony.  
 God, we thank You that her journey  
 Is part of a greater story—  
 A story that stretches back across oceans,  
 To a people rich in culture, strength, and endurance.  
 A people who survived, who believed, who built,  
 So that she—and we—could stand.  
 We honor the ancestors today—  
 Those whose names we know  
 And those whose names were taken but never forgotten.  
 We honor their sacrifice living through her life.  
 And now, as we release her back to You,  
 We trust she is being received  
 By that great cloud of witnesses—  
 Welcomed by voices that sound like home,  
 Embraced by love that feels eternal.  
 Let her hear the words:  
 “Well done, you have come home.”  
 Comfort us, O God,  
 As we hold both grief and gratitude.  
 Remind us that her story does not end here—  
 It lives on in us,  
 In our walk, in our love, in our remembering.  
 Let us carry her strength forward,  
 Let us speak her name with pride,  
 Let us live in a way that honors  
 The journey from Hawkinsville to Cincinnati—  
 From past to present, from struggle to triumph.  
 And when our time comes,  
 May we too join that sacred lineage—  
 Standing among the ancestors,  
 Held forever in Your eternal embrace.  
 In Your holy name we pray,

Amen.

*Pallbearers*

Deondra Kamau Means	Micheal Jordan Boyd
Tyrone Lamont Ward Jr.	Khary Alunde Means
Cordale Breon Boyd,	James Edward Boyd Jr.,
James Edward Boyd	Tyrone Lamont Ward III

*Honorary Pallbearers*

Leonard Means	Michael Means
D’Angelo Jackson	Charles Jackson
Mr. Jennings Dorn	Michael Daniels

*Flower Bearers*

Samyra Ward	Amber Daniels
Shayla Boyd	Breona Boyd
Saran Ahmad Spratts	Sushumna Means
Kandis Means	Brentinee Ward
Sierra Ward	

*Honorary Flower Bearers*

Angela Jackson	Andrea Robinson
Nikita Jackson	Stacey Means
Denise Michelle Means	Blanche McDonald Means

*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 Lorraine Means Graham



*Known for Excellence. Trusted for Value.*

*Celebration of Life*



*Lorraine Means Graham*

January 8, 1944 - March 24, 2026

*April 4, 2026*

Visitation: 10:00 am - Funeral Service: 11:00 am

*Bethel Baptist Church - Walnut Hills*

2712 Alms Place | Cincinnati, Ohio 45206

Pastor Mac Arthur Stephens, Officiating

# Obituary

Lorraine Means Graham was born on January 8, 1944, in Hawkinsville, Georgia, to Blanche Means and Charlie Cooper. At an early age, she came to know the Lord at Mt. Sila Church, laying the foundation for a life rooted in faith.

In 1949, Lorraine relocated to Cincinnati, Ohio, alongside her grandmother, her older brother, George Arthur, and her sister, Virginia. There, she was welcomed into the home of her great-aunt, Ida Mae Washington, and great-uncle, Herbert Washington, who helped nurture and guide her during her formative years.

Lorraine began her education at Sands Elementary School, located near her home on Freeman Avenue. She later moved to the Avondale community, where she continued her education at South Avondale Elementary School and Samuel Ach Junior High School. During her youth, she was known as an outstanding softball player. She went on to attend Hughes High School, where she sang in the choir, and later continued her education at Courter Technical Night School.

Lorraine's life journey led her to meet Wylie Graham at Frisch's Big Boy. Introduced through mutual connections, their relationship blossomed, and together they built a family, raising three children: Yolanda Marie, Tracy Lynn, and Deondra. Wylie preceded her in death in 1980.

As a devoted single mother, Lorraine worked various jobs to provide for her children and maintain a loving home. In 1986, she began her career at Xavier University's Physical Plant, where she built long-standing relationships with many co-workers, who valued her and appreciated her faithful and diligent work until her retirement in 2016.

Affectionately known as "Sally" to family and friends, Lorraine was cherished for her sweet, considerate, and giving spirit. She was deeply caring and supportive to all who knew her. Though quiet and reserved in nature, she was a steadfast caregiver within her family, standing faithfully beside her loved ones through life's transitions. She cared for her mother, grandmother, great-aunt, and great-uncle, as well as her husband and brother, demonstrating unwavering love and devotion.

Lorraine leaves to cherish her memory: her sister, Wanda (Gary) Partridge; her children, Yolanda Means, Tracy Lynn (James) Boyd, and Deondra Means; her grandchildren, Tyrone Ward Jr., Cordale (Shayla) Boyd, Samyra Ward, James Edward Boyd Jr., Michael Jordan (Breanna) Boyd, Saran Ahmad Spratts, and Khary Alunde (LaDestiny) Means; seven great-grandchildren: Tyrone III, Sierra, Brentinee, Aaliya, Cordale Jr., August, and Michael Jr.; seven nieces: Angela, Andrea, Nikita, Stacy, Candince, Denise, and Blanche; four nephews: Michael, De Angelo, Charles, and Leonard; and a host of extended family and friends.

Lorraine Means Graham's legacy is one of love, strength, faith, and quiet resilience. She will be deeply missed and forever remembered.



*Life is not measured  
by the number of breaths  
we take, but by the  
moments that  
take our breath away.*

- Unknown

# Order of Service

- Musical Prelude ..... Sharon Early McCullum
- Parting View ..... Immediate Family  
Yolanda Spencer  
"I Shall Wear a Crown"
- Prayer ..... Pastor Mac Arthur  
Stephens
- Scripture ..... Deacon Kevin Williams  
1 Thessalonians 4:13-14
- Selection ..... Tangie Wyatt  
"Precious Lord"
- Acknowledgements ..... Andrea Robinson
- Remarks ..... 2 Minutes Please
- Obituary ..... Read Silently
- Selection ..... Yolonda Spencer  
"I know I've been changed"
- Eulogy ..... Pastor Mac Arthur  
Stephens
- Video Tribute .....
- Prayer ..... Reva R. Henderson
- Benediction ..... Pastor Mac Arthur  
Stephens
- Scripture ..... Reva R. Henderson  
Proverbs 31:10-31
- Recessional ..... Clergy, Family & Friends

The School for Creative and Performing Arts Alumni  
Singers  
The Parting Blessing/I don't feel no ways Tired



## Final Resting Place

Walnut Hills Cemetery  
3117 Victory Parkway, Cincinnati, Ohio 45206

## Repast

Bethel Baptist Church - Walnut Hills  
2712 Alms Place, Cincinnati, Ohio 45206