

A Grandmother's Poem - Dashawna Hall

Grandma Martha,

For six days I watched you slowly leave us. Hospice prepared us for the moment, but nothing could prepare my heart for watching someone I love transition between heaven and earth.

It was painful. It was scary. Some nights I wanted to beg God not to take you. Some moments I sat in silence trying to understand how love and grief could exist in the same room. But, even in your final days, you were still strong.

Your body was tired, but your spirit never felt weak. You fought until it was time to rest. And somehow, I knew you were making peace with going home to be with the Lord. The afternoon before you passed, I looked out the window and a red cardinal flew over me.

At that moment, something happened, something deep inside my soul shifted. I felt peace before I felt loss. I knew God was near. I knew heaven was opening its doors for you.

And when May 11th came, although my heart broke in ways I cannot explain, I also witnessed something beautiful. I witnessed love letting go. I witnessed strength in its purest form. I witnessed a woman strong enough to release this world and answer God's call home.

Grandma Martha, thank you for every hug, every prayer, every lesson, and every sacrifice.

Thank you for loving us the way only you could. I will forever carry the image of that cardinal with me. Not a goodbye...but as a reminder that you are finally at peace and even though I can no longer hold your hand, I will always feel your love around me. Until we meet again..

A Celebration of the Life of



Martha Thompson

SUNRISE SUNSET
APRIL 12, 1949 – MAY 11, 2026

FRIDAY – MAY 29, 2026

VISITATION: 1:00 PM
MEMORIAL SERVICE: 2:00 PM



CHAPEL OF PEACE NORTH
2500 CLEVELAND AVENUE
COLUMBUS, OH 43211



*M*ARLAN GARY
FUNERAL HOME

1 FUNERAL HOME | 5 LOCATIONS

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2500 CLEVELAND AVE.,
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Obituary

With hearts full of love and gratitude, we celebrate the beautiful life of Martha Thompson, a devoted mother, grandmother, sister, friend, and woman of unwavering faith whose presence brought warmth, wisdom, laughter, and strength to all who knew her.

Born on April 12, 1949, in Columbus, Ohio, Martha was raised in the historic Poindexter Village community, a place that helped shape her resilience, pride, and deep sense of family. She attended Pilgrim Elementary School and later East High School, where her vibrant spirit and athletic talent shined brightly. In her younger years, Martha excelled in track and field and proudly earned the title of hula hoop champion at the young age of eight, a story she carried with joy throughout her life.

Martha was a strong, God-fearing woman who gracefully carried the weight and honor of raising three children as a single mother. Through every season of life, she led with courage, faith, humor, and determination. Her children were her greatest pride and the center of her world.

She was preceded in death by her beloved mother: Annabelle Shelton; her sisters: Clover Mae Porter and Esther Porter; and her brothers: Philip Shelton and Charles Shelton.

She leaves to cherish her memory; her loving *Children*: Sheila Alexander (Mike), Antonio Shelton, and Jevon Collins (Rae); her devoted *Niece*: Phyllis Brown; her *Nephew*: Sylvester Norman (Bridgid); her cherished *Grandchildren*: Davon, Dashawna, Shay, Antonio, Wesley, and Jordan; six *Great Grandchildren*; and four *Great-Great Grandchildren* whose lives will forever carry her love forward. Martha was loved by *Lifelong Friends*: Helena Collins, Deborah Collins, Sandy Callington, along with countless relatives, neighbors, church members, and friends who became family over the years.

A hardworking and dedicated woman, Martha spent the majority of her career serving the State of Ohio. She also worked with Highlights For Children Magazine, Anheuser Busch, and later found joy and purpose in her final position at the Gladden Food Pantry as an AARP employee, where her caring spirit continued to touch lives.

Martha found happiness in life's simple treasures: spending time with family, decorating her home in warm earth tones, tending to her many plants, cooking meals filled with love, solving word search puzzles, and watching her favorite YouTube videos, especially DMV Senior dancers, city driving tours, and delicious food videos. She appreciated good music, classic movies, meaningful collections, and moments that made people smile.

A member of St. Paul AME Church, Martha leaned on her faith through every chapter of life and often reminded those around her of the values she lived by. She was known for her unforgettable sayings: "Watch your background", "Please call me and let me know you made it home safe" "Look over your hand," "God don't like _," and her beloved "Okey Dokey," phrases that will continue to echo lovingly in the hearts of her family.

Martha's life was one of perseverance, grace, humor, and unconditional love. She was the heartbeat of her family, deeply devoted to her mother, siblings, children, and generations beyond. Her wisdom, laughter, strength, and nurturing spirit created a legacy that time can never be erased.

Though her earthly journey has ended, her love continues to bloom like the many plants she cared for so tenderly. Her memory lives in every shared meal, every family gathering, every song that brings back a smile, and every lesson she quietly taught through the way she lived. Her life was a blessing. Her memory, a treasure. Her love, everlasting.

Order of Service

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Organ Prelude.....The Chapel of Peace Music Ministry

Scripture Reading: Matthew 25:21.....Elder Donna Banks

Old Testament: Psalm 27- 1:4

New Testament: John 14- 1:6

Prayer of Comfort

Selection....."The Lords Prayer"
Yvonne Battle

Acknowledgements/Condolences

Remarks.....Family and Friends
Two Minutes Please

Reading of the Obituary.....Read Silently

Selection....."I Shall Wear A Crown"
Anjoure Lawrence

The Eulogy Elder Donna Banks

Benediction.....Elder Donna Banks

Recessional

