

Celebrating Her Spirit



Stella L. Williams

September 6, 1948 – January 29, 2024

Morning Star Baptist Church

1257 Blue Hill Avenue, Mattapan, MA 02126

Tuesday, February 13, 2024

Wake: 10:00am – 11:00am

Celebration Service: 11:00am

Obituary



Stella L. Williams was born on September 6, 1948 in Durham, North Carolina and entered into eternal rest on January 29, 2024. She was daughter of the late Deacon Palmer Cohen and Mary Alice Cohen and was the first of ten children. She was raised by her grandparents, the late Reverend Tillman Bagley and Louise Bagley.



At an early age, Stella joined and was baptized at Pilgrim Baptist Church in North Carolina. She graduated from Merrick-Moore High School in Durham, NC in 1964. During her high school years, she performed in a singing group with Shirley Caesar and family. After high school, she moved to New Jersey and here she met and married the late Loice Williams Jr. in 1967. They moved to Cincinnati, OH where she gave birth to her only child, Tiarra.

Stella moved to Boston to be closer to her family. During that time she attended Boston State College, and then went on to graduate from University of Massachusetts Amherst with a Bachelor of Science in Economics. She was the first college graduate in the family. She retired from Boston Public Schools in Law Enforcement in 2014. For 33 years, she mentored, and became the source of guidance for many young lives. No matter where she went, she was always approached by those who she touched over the years.



While her daughter was in college, she met a special friend, Joe Lawson. For 35 years, they shared their lives, enjoying moments with friends and gathering with family. Their chopped barbecue was always a hit among everyone. In her spare time, Stella immersed herself in reading, listening to music - particularly Maxwell - and indulging in Westerns. A fondness for shoes and purses complemented her interests. She was astute in matters of public affairs, global events, and pop culture, but above all, she valued her love of God.

Stella adored her family. She was an amazing mother to her daughter TeeCee (Tiarra) who was absolutely her everything. They were best friends and each other's confidants, caring for one another through all of life's journey. She was proud when her daughter married her beloved son-in-law, Chris, who she cherished as the son she never had. She treasured her grandsons which she nicknamed Boo Boo One and Boo Boo Two. Ganny enjoyed spending quality time with them whether it was exploring, driving them around, or spoiling them with gifts and laughter. You couldn't talk to her without her mentioning how proud she was of them. She looked forward to spending every birthday and holiday with her family.



Stella was the matriarch of the family and always said, "I'm the boss of all of you." Her generous spirit embodied love in its truest form. She was known for sharing her wisdom with kind words of encouragement and sharing her love through her sense of humor. She cultivated meaningful connections with each of her nieces and nephews, giving them all unique nicknames. Stella had a deep affection for her siblings, regularly reaching out to each of them. The Bagley Family Reunions and Cohen Family BBQs brought her joy, savoring moments of laughter and cherished time with loved ones. Her heart of gold was always on display for anyone who needed it. If you knew her, she was probably one of your close friends, if not your best friend.



Stella was a loving and caring mother, sister, daughter, grandmother, aunt, and friend. She leaves to cherish her memories; her daughter Tiarra Bentley, son-in-law Christopher Bentley. Her two grandsons; Christopher Bryce Bentley and Chandler Bentley. Her nine (9) sisters and brothers: Palmer Leon Cohen (deceased), Larry Cohen (deceased), Kenneth Cohen, Anthony Cohen (Beverly), Gerald Cohen, Betty Cohen, Gail Kelsey (Charles), Gina Cohen, and Wendy Cohen all of Boston, MA. Her aunts Margaret Allen of Boston, MA and Amelia Brown of Durham, NC. Her special friend; Joe Lawson. A host of loving aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins and close friends.



Order of Service

REVEREND KENNETH K. SIMMS OFFICIATING

ORGAN PRELUDE

PROCESSION

INVOCATION

Reverend Simms

OCCASION

HYMN OF TRIUMPH

Precious Lord

PRAYER OF COMFORT

Reverend Simms

SCRIPTURES

Reverend Simms

Old Testament (Psalms 23)

New Testament (John 14:1-3)

SELECTION

Reverend Dubose

TRIBUTE REMARKS FROM HER FRIENDS AND FAMILY

SELECTION

Andre Dubose

OBITUARY

Chandler & Christopher Bentley

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Naomi Nunn-Atwater

SELECTION

EULOGY

Reverend Dr. Larry Green

CLOSING PRAYER

RECESSION

Tributes

IN LOVING MEMORY OF OUR WONDERFUL SISTER

Stella was more than our sister, she was our friend.
The best part of having a sister is knowing she's watching over you.
Her laughter and love are memories we'll forever hold dear.

She was an everlasting presence in our lives.
Stella touched the lives of so many people including
all nine of her siblings, with Grace, Mercy, and Peace. Our
sister is God's way of making sure we never walked alone.

For His Glory
Love, the Siblings

MY SWEET MOTHER-IN- LAW

I thank God for bringing you into my life.
I could have not asked for a more beautiful
and wonderful Mother-In-Law.
Our holidays, birthdays, and every day will not be the same,
we are going to truly miss you.

Love, your Son-In-Law

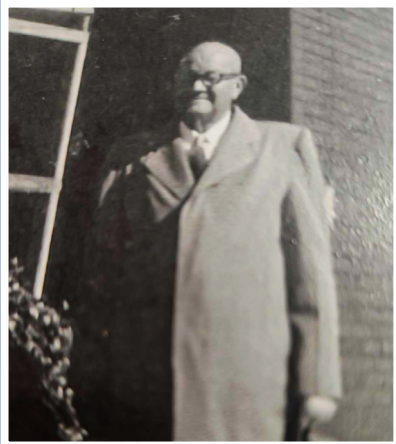
OUR LOVING GANNY

Our Ganny was one of our favorite people in the world.
She taught us how to love and respect ourselves.
She taught us the importance of family
and knowing our family history.
We shared many great memories and laughs together
that we will never forget and carry with us forever.

One of her most profound teachings
was not to let anyone steal your joy.
She took that with her everywhere she went
because of her constant positive attitude;
it seemed as if nothing could ever get her down.

We're going to miss her calls every week
asking us how we are doing and the kisses she would
constantly plant on our faces and demand of us.

She will be deeply missed.
Love, your grandsons





Revelations 21:4

"And he will wipe out every tear from their eyes and death will be no more, neither will mourning nor outcry nor pain be anymore, for the former things have passed away."

Honorary Pallbearers

Christopher B. Bentley	Jerry Cohen Jr.
Chandler Bentley	Jerome Cohen
Charles Kelsey IV	Jermaine Cohen
Marquis Cohen	Christian Cook
Akeem Cohen	Brandon Francis
Dante Cohen	Jeffrey Cohen
Anthony Cohen II	Darius Cohen

Repast

At the conclusion of the interment, the Bentley and Cohen family invites you to join them for a moment of reflection and refreshments at:

VFW Post

84 Eastern Avenue • Dedham, MA 02026

In Appreciation

The family would like to express their deepest appreciation for your many comforting gestures that you have shown. The love, encouraging words, prayers, thoughts, calls, and other acts of kindness that has poured into our family is truly a blessing.

Love the Bentley and Cohen Family

Acknowledgments

We give thanks to our Morning Star Baptist Church family

Interment

St. Michaels

500 Canterbury Street • Boston, MA 02131

Arrangements Entrusted To:

Davis Funeral Home

Roxbury, MA
617-427-0828

Mattapan, MA
617-296-1755