

A Celebration of Life
for
Elizabeth Harrison Evans



SUNRISE: SEPTEMBER 6, 1930 < SUNSET: DECEMBER 2, 2021



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2021 – 11:00 AM
NEW LIFE FELLOWSHIP CENTER
1337 SAMUEL STREET...CHARLOTTE, NC 28206



REV MARK EVANS, OFFICIATING
PASTOR, JONAHVILLE AME ZION CHURCH

PASTOR JOHN P. KEE
PASTOR, NEW LIFE FELLOWSHIP CENTER

PLEASE NOTE THAT MASKS ARE REQUIRED

ELIZABETH HARRISON EVANS

Heavenly Father, we offer the sacrifice of praise for your servant through Jesus Christ – ELIZABETH HARRISON EVANS. Dear Lord, we know that you know everything about Elizabeth, but please allow us to reminisce. Elizabeth, the eldest child born unto the union of James and Nancy Harrison, was affectionately known as "*Lean*" and she was born on September 6, 1930.

She received her education from the Charlotte Mecklenburg School System and was called "*Rose*" by her classmates. Lean graduated from West Charlotte High School, formerly housed in what is now called Northwest School of the Arts and she continued her education and received an Associate Degree in Applied Secretarial Sciences from Carver College (now Central Piedmont Community College). Lean retired from Central Piedmont as Admissions Officer and Records Manager after 36 years of distinguished service.

Well-known for her musical talents, Sis. Evans was asked to perform with such entertainers as Clara Ward, the Clara Ward Singers, and the Davis Sisters - just to name a few. She also traveled and sang with Sam Cooke and the Soul Stirrers. However, few know of her athletic finesse. While attending West Charlotte High School, she participated in softball, track, and basketball; and was awarded "*Most Outstanding Guard*" in basketball for the Piedmont Region.

At birth, her name was placed on the rolls as a member of the United House of Prayer for All People. Sis. Evans traveled extensively with the late Bishop C. M. "Sweet Daddy" Grace, and she was blessed to go with him to Havana, Cuba. She was an original member and lead singer of "Dad's Sweet Singers". This singing group was the first in the United House of Prayer to make a recording. Sis. Evans was also a member/chorister of the Jubilee Choir, the Hosts and Hostesses, the Senior Choir, and the Hallelujah Choir, all of the United House of Prayer. Lean organized the McCollough Heavenly Bells and she was one of the original organizers of the McCollough Marching Brass Band. Not only was she an accomplished singer and outstanding athlete, but Lean was also an expert seamstress and was appointed the first Official Wardrobe Mistress/Dress Designer for the First Lady of the United House of Prayer, Madam Clara McCollough (deceased), wife of Bishop Walter McCollough (deceased). Lean also used her exemplary sewing skills to make clothes for many teachers in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School System creating beautiful costumes for many plays and pageants for Lincoln Heights Elementary School.

Sis. Evans is a former member of the Young Adult Choir-Marshall Heights House of Prayer; the Dr. Walter McCollough Fellowship Choir; and the Donald Vale Singers, all of Washington, DC. She will always be a member of the McCollough Endurers, the Combination Fellowship Choir, and BIC Ministries Choir, Washington, DC. In the early 1990s, she became a member of New Life Fellowship Center under the leadership of her cousin, Pastor John P. Kee. She was a member of New Life Fellowship Choir and travelled with them on many of their singing tours. Later, she started working with her son, Rev. LeRoy Dunlap, as he started a new ministry – Redemption Christian Ministries (RCM) – where she diligently served as a member of the Praise Team, the RCM Choir, the Youth Department, and the Women's Fellowship Ministry. Thereafter, Lean became a member of Jonahville AME Zion Church, Huntersville, NC, where she served as a member of the Praise Team, Gospel Choir, Mass Choir and Women's Choir. She also served as the Sunday School Superintendent. Under her leadership, Sunday School attendance grew by leaps and bounds.

Over the years, Sis. Evans has received numerous awards. One of her highest achievements was being the recipient of the *"Karen Silkwood 1980 Woman of the Year"* Award. She also performed at several Voter Registration Drives and *"Run Jessie Run"* political rallies during Rev. Jesse Jackson's Presidential Campaign. In 1989, she received a Special Recognition Award from the late Dr. Walter McCollough, Bishop of the United House of Prayer for All People. In July 2008, she was honored by the Combined Fellowship Coalition in a Special Worship Service and Gospel Program held at Fellowship in Christ Christian Center. And, in March 2015, she was declared to be *"The Top Sunday School Superintendent"* in the Northeast District of the AME Zion Church. However, her most outstanding accomplishment was receiving the gift of Holy Ghost and raising her children to be decent God-fearing adults. By example, she encouraged her children to excel in all their endeavors.

Lean's father (James); mother (Nancy); sisters (Dorothy, Matilda, Elfreda); and brothers (Wilbert, Judge, Reese and Harold) all preceded her in death.

She leaves to cherish special memories: 4 daughters: Andrea Davis, Mellissandia Gill (Henry); Safronia Caldwell (Harold), of Charlotte; Genise Evans of Upper Marlboro, MD; 3 sons: Chico Dunlap, Rev. LeRoy Dunlap (Theresa), Mandyl Evans (Cheryl), all of Charlotte; 4 sisters: Bernice Coleman, Mary Hall, Charlotte; Dr. Alice Lucinda Howard (James), Dumfries, VA; and Roxie Curtis, Sterling, VA; 8 brothers: Jimmy (Darlene), Johnny (Vicki), Alfred (Margie), Gilbert, Willie (Sharon), Zeb (Sharon), Charlotte; Robert (Evangeline), New York, NY; and Wade (Lavonne); Atlanta, GA; sister-in-Law Harriett Harrison; a devoted special cousin/sister Lizzie Kee of Durham, NC; 22 grandchildren, 50 great-grandchildren, 17 great-great grandchildren; and a host of other relatives and friends.

Elizabeth '*Lean*' Evans and her melodious voice will be truly missed, but her legacy will live on forever in the hearts, minds, deeds and singing voices of those that she left behind.

