

## Service Participants

### Pallbearers

Irving Bell  
Jason Bell  
Calvin Gaines

Dr. Daryl Graves  
Godfrey Payne

### After Glow

I'd like the memory of me  
To be a happy one  
I'd like to leave an afterglow  
Of smiles when life is done  
I'd like to leave an echo whispering  
Softly down the ways  
Of happy times and laughing times  
And bright and sunny days  
I'd like the ears of those who  
Grieve to dry before the sun  
Of happy memories that I leave  
When life is done.

By Carol Mirkel

## Acknowledgement

The family of Mrs. Cornelia (Connie) R. Evans shares sincere thanks and heartfelt appreciation for your prayers, calls, and other expressions of love, support, and concern during this time of bereavement. The family also thanks the medical staffs and aides at Sunrise Senior Living and at Epic Rehabilitation and Healthcare at White Plains for their thoughtful care. May Our Lord bless each of you, now and forever. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the White Plains/Greenburgh NAACP in memory of Mrs. Cornelia R. Evans.

## Arrangements

Lee's Funeral Home  
160 Fisher Avenue  
White Plains, New York 10606  
Phone: 914-949-0372

# Celebrating the Life of

Naomi Cornelia (Connie) Ray Evans  
November 16, 1916 – September 4, 2024



September 12, 2024

Viewing 11:00 a.m.  
Homegoing Services 12:00 p.m.

Bethel Baptist Church  
1 Fisher Court  
White Plains, New York 10601

Dr. Edward O. Williamson, Pastor-Teacher, Officiating

# Obituary

Naomi Cornelia Ray Evans, daughter of the late Henry Patrick Ray and Eleanor Dunn Ray was born on November 16, 1916 in North Carolina. In 1928, at the age of 12, she relocated with her parents, five brothers and two sisters to White Plains, New York, where she attended public schools, graduated from White Plains High School, and thereafter graduated from the Manhattan Medical Assistant School.

With a desire to help provide healthcare services in her community, she later became a registered practical nurse, certified X-Ray technician and registered medical secretary. Her career included positions with several prominent Black physicians in White Plains, including Dr. Arthur Williams, Dr. Leonard Williams and Dr. Oscar N. Graves. Prior to her retirement, she worked for a chiropractor, Dr. Richard Jasper.

Fondly called Connie or Nelie by family and friends, Connie was a long-serving member of Bethel Baptist Church, White Plains, where she worked as the Church Historian for 25 years, was a member of the Chancel Choir, the Missionary Ministry and the Senior Ministry. Continually active in community service and philanthropic endeavors, Connie was a charter member of the White Plains/Greenburgh NAACP where, in its early years, she served as the branch's secretary working with then president, Dr. Errol D. Collymore and branch founder, Dr. Arthur N. Williams.

A leader in multiple Prince Hall Masonic orders, she served as Past Worthy Matron of Bright Hope Chapter No 46, Order of Eastern Stars, Prince Hall Affiliated, New York State; was Past Illustrious Commandress of the Daughters of Isis, Elejmal Court 171; Past Imperial Deputy of the Oasis of Ossining, Past Royal Commandress of Magdalene Court #12, Order of Cyrene; and Past Royal Lady Ruler of Pentecost Assembly #86, Order of the Golden Circle.

She also was an active supporter of varied charitable and service organizations, including The American Cancer Society, Camp Eureka for children, the NAACP, and local students school events, music programs and other academic projects. In 2010, New York state senators Andrea Stewart Cousins and Suzi Oppenheimer recognized her good works with official certificates of achievement.

An avid golfer, Connie competed in multiple tournaments across the US, Mexico and Puerto Rico, garnering a collection of trophies, plaques and other memorabilia. She loved house plants, especially orchids. Known for her sharp wit, Connie always maintained her feisty attitude, which kept everyone on their toes!

Connie married James D. Evans, a life-long resident of White Plains on August 30, 1958, enjoying 56 years of marriage before his passing in 2015. James, an established and award-winning graphic artist, designed and created the artwork, "ONE LORD, ONE FAITH, ONE BAPTISM," displayed in the main sanctuary of White Plains Bethel Baptist Church.

In addition to her husband, James, she is predeceased by her parents, brothers (the Rays), George, John, Mark, and Jehovah; sisters, Annie Ray and Katherine Ray Kelley; and a niece, Audrey Ray Bell.

She is survived and will be missed by her great nephew, Irving D. Bell (Karen); great-great nephew, Jason E. Bell (Elisa) and their children; her goddaughter, Shelly Gaines, along with her siblings for whom Connie and James served as parents. Also, by her loyal friends, Mrs. Sylvia Latimer and Ms. Jonette Mines who provided fellowship, prayers and countless acts of kindness, as well as her church family, community organization members, and a host of extended family members and friends.

# Order of Service

Musical Prelude

Dr. Frozine Reece-Smith

The Holy Scriptures

Old Testament, Psalms 121

New Testament, 1 Corinthians 15:51-55

Deacon Dewitt Roy Smith

Deacon Frank Williams

Prayer of Comfort

Deacon Richard Jackson

Musical Selection

Dr. Frozine Reece-Smith

Silent Reading of the Obituary

Tributes and Remembrances

Shivaun Gaines

Robert Fitch

Crystal Scott

Jason Bell

Irving Bell

Piano Solo

Pamela Scott

Eulogy

Dr. Edward O. Williamson, Pastor

Funeral Director Remarks

Recessional

The Clergy and Family

# Interment

Dr. Edward O. Williamson, Pastor-Teacher, Officiating

Ferncliff Cemetery

280 Secor Road

Hartsdale, New York 10530