



"Together Forever"



*Remembering the Life of Our Beloved,
Mr. Arthur James Nance
June 7, 1938 - March 3, 2016*



Honorary Pallbearers

Marvin D. Nance
Melvin E. Nance
Andrew L. Haugabrook, Sr.

Marvin N. Nance
Antwan B. Norman
Andrew L. Haugabrook, Jr.

Acknowledgement

Our family extends heartfelt thanks to our relatives, friends, church members, and work family for the love, prayers, kindness, and support shown to us during this difficult time. We also extend special thanks to Pastor Matthew and Co-Pastor Julia Spann of Kingdom of God Outreach Ministries for their visits, prayers, and the sharing of Holy Communion with our beloved mother. Every expression of love has brought comfort to our hearts, and we are deeply grateful.

The Mary Lou Williams Nance Family

*The service may be viewed on the
J. W. Williams Funeral Home Facebook Page
or the
J. W. Williams Funeral Home Youtube Channel.*

J.W. Williams Funeral Home

Since 1918
"Celebrating Over 100 Years of Service"



Arthur L. Parker
CEO/President
Graduate Mortician
Licensed Embalmer
Licensed Funeral Director
Licensed Insurance Agent

J.W. Williams Funeral Home
Our Motto: "Service"
229.273.2683
www.jwwilliams.com
jwwilliamsfh@bellsouth.net
407 West 17th Avenue, Cordele, GA 31015, Fax: 229.273.5111

The Parker Family
Calandra Wilkerson Parker
Corporate Secretary/Treasurer

Jai' Wilkerson Parker
Junior-Crisp County High School



Her Life and Legacy

Mrs. Mary Lou Williams Nance was born on October 28, 1941, in Americus, Georgia, to the late Mr. Herbert Williams, Sr. and the late Mrs. Jannie Mae Williams. She graduated from J. W. Holley High School in Sylvester, Worth County, Georgia.

On December 23, 1959, Mary married the love of her life, Mr. Arthur James Nance, Sr., who affectionately called her “*His Mary*.” They shared 56 wonderful years of marriage before his passing on March 3, 2016. Together, they built a lasting legacy of love through their children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and the family they held so dear.

After moving to Jacksonville, Florida, Mary united with Moncrief Baptist Church, where she served as a choir member and deaconess. Following her husband’s retirement, they returned to Cordele, Georgia, where she attended Mount Olive Baptist Church. Attending church and sharing in worship and fellowship remained cherished parts of her life.

Mary devoted her life to loving and caring for her family. As a homemaker, she created a home filled with warmth and love. She enjoyed cooking, sewing, typing, walking, and working crossword puzzles. Above all, she cherished her family and extended that same love to those around her. Loving on others was a beautiful part of who she was. Her faith was reflected in her favorite saying: “*God will take care of His children.*”

On Thursday, September 24, 2026, Mary departed this life, leaving behind cherished memories and a legacy of love that will continue through generations.

Mary was preceded in death by her parents, Mr. Herbert Williams, Sr. and Mrs. Jannie Mae Williams; her beloved husband, Mr. Arthur James Nance, Sr.; her two sons, Mr. James Ernest Nance and Mr. Arthur James Nance, Jr.; and her siblings, Mr. Herbert Williams, Jr., Mr. Grady Williams, Mrs. Maddie Williams Rockwell, Mrs. Margaret Williams Edwards, Mrs. Dorothy Williams Walker, Mrs. Betty Williams Raines, Mrs. Nadine Williams Ford, and Mrs. Marilyn Williams Johnson.

Cherished memories of her life will forever remain with her loving children: Ms. Marian J. Nance; Mrs. Lora A. Glover (Paul); Ms. Mary L. Nance; Mr. Marvin D. Nance (Nickole); Mrs. Angela D. Nance-Hall (Alonzo); and Mrs. Tina D. Nance-Haugabrook (Andrew), all of Jacksonville, Florida; and Mr. Melvin E. Nance of Cordele, Georgia.

She also leaves to cherish her memory 21 grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren; her loving sister, Ms. Ethel Atkins of Arabi, Georgia; her loving brother, Mr. David Williams (Dorothy) of Cordele, Georgia; her sisters-in-law, Mrs. Earnestine Davis (Wesley), Mrs. Betty Ann Smothers (MC), and Mrs. Shirley Long (Curtis); her brother-in-law, Mr. Garfield Richardson, Jr.; her loving godchildren, and a host of precious nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives, and friends.



Our Mother Has Journeyed to the Promised Land

*Death beckoned her with outstretched hands
And whispered softly of “An Unknown Land”*

*But she was not afraid to go
For though the path she did not know,
She took Death’s hand without a fear,
For He who safely brought him/her here
Had told her He would lead the way
Into Eternity’s Bright Day....*

*And so she did not go alone
Into the “Valley that’s Unknown”
She gently took Death by the hand
And journeyed to
The Promised Land.*

The Celebration of Life Service

Saturday | October 3, 2026 | 1:00 PM

J. W. Williams Funeral Home Chapel

407 West 17th Avenue | Cordele, Georgia

**Co-Pastor Julia Spann | Presider
Pastor Matthew Spann | Officiant-Eulogist**

“God will take care of His children.”

Musical Prelude
Deacon Curtis Mathis

Processional
Clergy and Family

**The Final Viewing
The Final Sealing of the Batesville Virgo Casket**

Selection
Deacon Nathaniel Nance

Prayer of Comfort
Co-Pastor Julia Spann

Old Testament Scripture
Deacon Marvin D. Nance

New Testament Scripture
Deaconess Nickole Nance

The Two Minute Expressions of Love
Family and Friends

Her Life and Legacy
Read Silently

Selection
**Evangelist Angela D. Nance-Hall
& Prophetess Tina D. Nance Haugabrook**

Eulogy
Pastor Matthew Spann

Acknowledgements, Heirloom Bible
and Memorial Blanket Presentation
J. W. Williams Funeral Home Staff

Recessional & Postlude

The Committal Service

**Mount Olive Church Cemetery
Warwick, Georgia**

**REPAST
Comfort Inn & Suites
2803 Frontage Road | Cordele, Georgia
4:00 - 8:00 pm**