



*Evelyn Regina Williams*  
August 22, 1942 - November 25, 2024



# *In Loving Memory*

## EVELYN R. WILLIAMS

AUGUST 22, 1942 - NOVEMBER 25, 2024

Evelyn Regina Williams (née Edwards), age 82, of Philadelphia, PA, passed away peacefully on November 25, 2024, in the devoted presence of her husband of 64 years, Alfred Williams Sr. The final days of Evelyn's life were full of family, faith, and laughter. Evelyn was a beacon of warmth, and elegance, bringing joy and laughter to all who were privileged to know her.

Born on August 22, 1942, in Baltimore, Maryland, Evelyn was the daughter of Linwood Edwards and Annie Mae Giddings. She lived in Cape Charles, VA, until she moved to Philadelphia, PA, with her family at the age of four. Growing up with her sister, Deborah Lawson, she developed her characteristic kindness, playful banter, and a laugh so infectious it could turn any gathering into a celebration.

Evelyn graduated from William Penn High School in 1960. Just two months later, on August 28, she married Alfred, her childhood sweetheart and love of her life. A lifelong learner and dedicated professional, Evelyn graduated from the surgical technology program at Abington Hospital and went on to serve as a surgical tech at Germantown Hospital for 30 years.

Evelyn had a vibrant spirit and was deeply committed to her faith. She and Alfred were longstanding members of Bibleway Freewill Baptist Church, where she served faithfully on the ushers' and nurses' boards and sang in the senior choir. Evelyn was known for her delicious cooking and baking, a talent she shared generously at church events and in her community.



In 1990, she became the founding First Lady of New Hope Freewill Baptist Church, where Alfred was pastor. Her dedication to the church and her family inspired other ministries like New Hope Christian Academy and Evelyn's Café and Food Services, which carry forward her legacy of service and love.

Evelyn's home was her sanctuary, always filled with warmth, her plants, the smell of delicious food, and her unmistakable laughter. She was an accomplished cook, decorator, seamstress, and baker, whose holiday meals were legendary. She loved to crochet, embroider, and shop, but her greatest passion was her family. Evelyn cherished her nine children, her 20 grandchildren, and her four great-grandchildren, delighting in every milestone and moment they shared.

Though elegant and humble, Evelyn was also fiercely funny. She could tell a story like no other, often bringing everyone to tears with her quick wit and hearty laugh. Despite a 15-year illness, a battle most don't survive for more than five, Evelyn faced her many challenges with unwavering grace and strength.

Evelyn is preceded in death by her infant daughter, Barbara; her parents, Linwood and Annie Mae; and her sister, Deborah (Jerry). She leaves behind her husband, Alfred, her children Shannon (Tracy), Kimberly (Kurt), Alfred Jr. (Stacey), Alicia (Calvin), Angela (Darryl), Alison, Tynasia, Brandon, and Jeremy, as well as her grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and countless others whose lives she touched. She loved deeply, laughed often, and left an indelible mark on all who knew her.

"She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue." – Proverbs 31:26

Evelyn's family invites you to remember her not with tears, but with laughter—just as she would have wanted. May she rest in power.

# Order of Service



OFFICIATING MINISTER  
Bishop Stephan Jarrett, Sr.  
True Christian Fellowship, Philadelphia, PA



PROCESSIONAL

HYMN OF COMFORT  
It Is Well With My Soul

SCRIPTURE READINGS  
Old Testament - Jeremiah 32:26-27  
Kenyen Williams

New Testament - I Corinthians 15:50-58  
Rev. Dana Garnett

PRAYER OF COMFORT  
Gregory Williams



SELECTION  
We're Blessed - Chosen Too

REMARKS (2 min.)  
Bishop Donald & Lady Lillian Bell  
Deborah Merriweather

Tehuana Johnson (Pastors Sam & Mary Johnson)  
Sons & Daughter In-Law  
Grandchildren  
Children



READING OF OBITUARY  
Shannon Thompson

SELECTION  
Trust In You - Chosen Too

EULOGY  
Pastor Kimberly Gegner  
New Hope Ministries, Abington, PA



FINAL VIEWING

RECESSIONAL

# Our Gentle Giant

She walked with grace, a quiet might,  
A beacon of love, a guiding light.  
Her hands were strong, her heart was pure,  
Through every trial, she would endure.



She nurtured talents, one by one,  
A masterpiece in every son.  
In every daughter, she planted seeds,  
Of faith, of hope, of mighty deeds.



She taught us strength with gentle ways,  
Her wisdom shaped our nights and days.  
Clothed in dignity, wrapped in care,  
A crown of humility she would wear.



Like the virtuous woman, her works proclaim,  
The beauty of love that bears no name.  
She feared the Lord, she walked His path,  
And turned to Him in joy and wrath.

Her table was open, her arms were wide,  
In her warmth, the world could confide.  
No stranger lingered without her grace,  
Her kindness adorned every space.



She was the strongest we've ever known,  
A quiet giant, our cornerstone.  
Through her, we learned to rise and stand,  
With faith in God and a steady hand.

Her children rise and call her blessed,  
In her legacy, we find our rest.  
Her love, her strength, her gentle art,  
Lives forever in every heart.



# Our Nana, Our Angel



In your arms, we always knew,  
A love so deep, so pure, so true.  
You listened with your heart and soul,  
Giving us a voice, making us whole.



You laughed with us in moments bright,  
Your joy a beacon, your smile our light.  
Every story, every dream we'd share,  
You gave us time, you showed you cared.



With gentle hands, you'd wipe our tears,  
A safe embrace to calm our fears.  
Through every moment, large or small,  
You nurtured us; you gave us your all.



You taught us kindness, love, and grace,  
With humor and warmth, you filled each space.  
Your legacy lives in the hearts you've touched,  
We miss you dearly, we love you so much.



Though you've left this earthly shore,  
Your voice and laughter live evermore.  
In every memory, in every smile,  
You're with us still, through every mile.



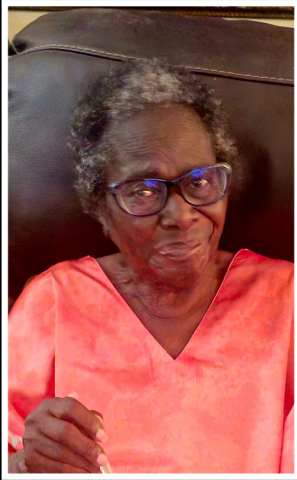
Our dearest Nana, rest in peace,  
Your love for us will never cease.  
You're our angel, our guiding star,  
Forever with us, wherever we are.



# Evelyn & Alfred



August 28, 1960



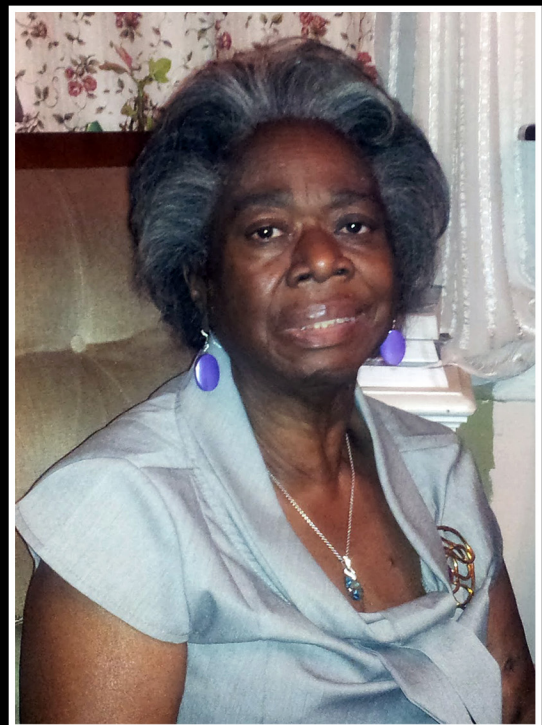
# *When Great Trees Fall*

*by Maya Angelou*

When great souls die,  
the air around us becomes  
light, rare, sterile.  
We breathe, briefly.  
Our eyes, briefly,  
see with  
a hurtful clarity.  
Our memory, suddenly sharpened,  
examines,  
gnaws on kind words  
unsaid,  
promised walks  
never taken.

Great souls die and  
our reality, bound to  
them, takes leave of us.  
Our souls,  
dependent upon their  
nurture,  
now shrink, wizened.  
Our minds, formed  
and informed by their  
radiance, fall away.  
We are not so much maddened  
as reduced to the unutterable ignorance of  
dark, cold  
caves.

And when great souls die,  
after a period peace blooms,  
slowly and always  
irregularly. Spaces fill  
with a kind of  
soothing electric vibration.  
Our senses, restored, never  
to be the same, whisper to us.  
They existed. They existed.  
We can be. Be and be  
better. For they existed.



# Acknowledgements

The family of Evelyn Regina Williams would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude for the many acts of kindness, love, and support shown to us during this time of loss. Your prayers, comforting words, calls, visits, and expressions of sympathy have been a great source of strength and comfort.

We are especially thankful for those who have traveled near and far to honor her memory and celebrate her remarkable life. Your thoughtfulness and compassion will forever be remembered and cherished. May God bless each of you abundantly for your kindness and love.



## Repast

We kindly invite all attendees to proceed to the fellowship hall immediately following the service for the repast. The family will join you there after returning from the cemetery. Thank you for your love, support, and understanding during this time.

FUNERAL SERVICES PROVIDED BY  
Alfonso Cannon Funeral Chapels Inc.  
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