



## Willie Mae Burden

October 16, 1955 - February 17, 2025

Willie Mae Burden was born in Cheraw, South Carolina to parents, Willie J. Thomas and Francis E. Harris and her parents birthed from their hearts John W. Smith and Sarah F. Smith on October 16, 1955.

Willie Mae attended Chesterfield, County Schools and graduated from Cheraw High School in 1973. After High school, she entered the work field at Saconey Manufacturing Plant where her passion for sewing began.

On September 26, 1976, her first true love, Nosakhere K. Harris was born, and all who knew her, knew that her love for her son was admirable. It was love at first sight!

Willie Mae whom her family and friends affectionately called “Toot” had a jovial spirit and nurturing heart. She was known to her community as “ The Coupon Queen” but to her family, she was the GLUE between family gatherings.

In 1984, she moved to Florida, and later married The Reverend Gregory T. Burden on August 10, 1989. From their union, together they reared a blended family. Toot shared a close relationship with her family, and always provided them with unconditional love, support, a helping hand, words of encouragement, and even all of the “coupon goods”, if you don’t know, ask

about it. Gregory exemplified the true meaning of the phrase, “through sickness and in health”. She was a devoted wife to her, until her timely death.

Willie Mae’s vocational skills showcased a wide range of talents. In 1986, she ventured into her employment at Orlando World Center Marriott where she worked for over 20 years. In 2002, her passion for nurturing others, “Tots 4 Toot” was established. Eventually, her love for her spoiled grands and their demanding extracurricular activities led to her decision to close her childcare center and retire.

Willie Mae will always be remembered as a woman of God. She demonstrated an unwavering faith in Jesus Christ. She was an active and faithful member of Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church in Winter Garden, Florida. She served faithfully and untiringly on several artilleries: Deaconess, Minister Wives and Widows, Trustee Ministry, Pastor’s Aide, Sunday School, Culinary Committee, Transportation Ministry, and Youth Ministry. She was an intricate part of Bethlehem Food Bank Ministry and Bethel.

The Butterfly Garden belongs to God. He decides when the butterflies are ready to be released. Willie Mae was preceded in death by her parents Willie J. Thomas and Frances E. Harris; her parents birthed from their hearts John W. Smith and Sarah F. Smith; Sister, Shirley A. Little, Brother, Donnie E. Harris, and Sister, Carolyn Harris Gary.

On Monday, February 17, 2025, God opened the stairways to heaven and released a beautiful butterfly from His Butterfly Garden.

Willie Mae leaves memories that will be cherished forever by her faithful husband: Gregory Thornton Burden; devoted and only Son, Nosakhere (Tandrika) Harris; Three loving Grandchildren: Drakkar (Gyriah), Nosharai, Nasiah Harris; three precious Great-grandchildren: Zahir and ZaiyIn Harris,

Zhuri Gibbs; Daughter, Rosland Burden and her 4 children of Sacramento, California; Son, Britton Burden and his 4 children of Atlanta, Georgia. Beloved Siblings: Jimmy (Dorthy) Harris of Cherew, South Carolina, Diane (Allen) Jones of Seneca, South Carolina; Valarie (Robert) Gregory of Greenville, South Carolina; Ronnie (Annette) Harris, of Odenton, Maryland; Elvis Telfair; Sue F. Harris, Janet G. Tilman of Cheraw, South Carolina; Sharon D. Thomas of Charleston, South Carolina. Brothers-in-law: Nathaniel Pugh, of Jacksonville, Florida; Earl J. (Darlene) Thompkins, of Madison, Florida. Supportive nephew, Terrance Harris; and a host of loving nieces, nephews, other relatives, many sorrowing friends, and her church family. Upon the fulfillment of her appointed day on earth, God summoned Willie Mae as stated, "But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint. Isaiah 40:31.

# Cemetery Details

## Oak Hill Cemetery

801 East Avenue  
Clermont, FL 34711

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB **23**. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church  
915 East Plant Street  
Winter Garden, FL 34787

## Service

FEB **24**. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Mark African Methodist Episcopal Church  
1968 Bruton Boulevard  
Orlando, FL 32805

# Tribute Wall

SJ

“ Stephanie & Marquel Jones purchased the EBN Mother - 9" Ebony Angel Figurine for the family of Willie Mae Burden.



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**Stephanie & Marquel Jones** - February 24, 2025 at 12:58 PM

JH

“ John H. planted a grove of 5 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Willie Mae Burden.

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**John H.** - February 23, 2025 at 03:02 PM

KL

“ Some 40 years ago, I met Toot, Greg & little 'Shakari when we became neighbors and fast friends. Even though we eventually moved to opposite ends of Otown, you were never far from my thoughts. Rest in peace my friend.

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**Kena Lewis** - February 22, 2025 at 08:42 PM

KE

“ Kena purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Willie Mae Burden.



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**Kena** - February 22, 2025 at 08:36 PM

LF

“ Larry & Alice Lee and family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Willie Mae Burden.

Larry & Alice Lee and family - February 21, 2025 at 08:06 PM

LF

“ Larry & Alice Lee and family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Willie Mae Burden.



Larry & Alice Lee and family - February 21, 2025 at 08:06 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Willie Mae Burden.



February 21, 2025 at 06:33 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Willie Mae Burden.

February 21, 2025 at 05:29 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Willie Mae Burden.*



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February 21, 2025 at 05:29 PM



“ *LaShara and Christopher Lofton planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Willie Mae Burden.*

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**LaShara and Christopher Lofton** - February 21, 2025 at 12:58 PM



“ *LaShara and Christopher Lofton purchased the Pretty Please for the family of Willie Mae Burden.*



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**LaShara and Christopher Lofton** - February 21, 2025 at 12:58 PM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Willie Mae Burden.*

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February 21, 2025 at 11:59 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Willie Mae Burden.*



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February 21, 2025 at 11:59 AM



“ *Stanley & Patricia Lay planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Willie Mae Burden.*

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**Stanley & Patricia Lay** - February 21, 2025 at 09:31 AM



“ *Stanley & Patricia Lay purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Willie Mae Burden.*



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**Stanley & Patricia Lay** - February 21, 2025 at 09:31 AM



“ *After the tears have dried and the goodbyes have been said, all we must hold onto are the happy memories and the laughter that we've shared with our beloved one Deaconess Willie Mae Burden, who have transition to be with our Lord and Savior, this is what keeps her alive in our hearts and in our minds, and she will continue to live on, through us.*

*Loyld & Earline Glenn*

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**Loyld & Earline Glenn** - February 20, 2025 at 08:55 PM

LG

“ Loyld & Earline Glenn planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Willie Mae Burden.

Loyld & Earline Glenn - February 20, 2025 at 08:48 PM

LG

“ Loyld & Earline Glenn purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of Willie Mae Burden.



Loyld & Earline Glenn - February 20, 2025 at 08:48 PM

CC

“ From: Ceola & Issac Cross planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Willie Mae Burden.

Ceola & Issac Cross - February 20, 2025 at 08:18 PM

CC

“ Ceola & Issac Cross purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Willie Mae Burden.



Ceola & Issac Cross - February 20, 2025 at 08:18 PM

D&

“ Damond Williams & Family purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Willie Mae Burden.



Damond Williams & Family - February 20, 2025 at 08:14 PM

MM

“ *Mary Lois Morss lit a candle in memory of Willie Mae Burden*



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**Mary Lois Morss** - February 20, 2025 at 01:16 PM

SB

“ *Our beloved Sister and Deaconess of Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church. You will truly be missed, but our loving memories of you will never be forgotten ❤️. From the Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church Usher's Ministry.* 🙏🙏💖



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**Sharron Beauford** - February 20, 2025 at 10:27 AM

LB

“ My beautiful friend Toot. The beautiful smile. You were always the same. Never changed over the 60 years we've known each other. I will forever remember and cherish our Saturdays of going to Rockingham, NC to eat Godfather's Pizza in your purple Gremlin. And going to the baseball games on Sunday afternoons. Or out to Cheraw State Park when there wasn't a ball game going on. Going down to Ms. Frances' house on Sunday to eat fried chicken because no matter what she cooked on Sundays we knew she had some fried chicken. So many memories. I would have never guessed that the last time we talked, you called to check on me concerning the incident that happened at my house over the weekend, that would be the last time we talked. I was looking forward to coming to see you in March and us sitting on that screened in back porch drinking coffee. Drika had already talked about planning a girls' trip. Maybe she will plan something to celebrate your life at a later date. For now, my friend, take your rest. Heaven has gained an angel.

Love,  
Lucinda

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**Lucinda Barksdale** - February 20, 2025 at 10:27 AM

KW

My husband Melvin and I send sincere condolences to the Burden family. Some of my fondest memories are visiting the Smith family on Sundays after church and playing with the Smith Girls and Willie Mae beforehand going back to BTU. We wish the family the comfort of God's grace in these trying times. Rest in Peace.

Karen Lashley Wilkerson (Tina)

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**Karen Lashley Wilkerson** - February 25, 2025 at 08:10 PM

SB

“ I will miss you my sister 💕💕🙏🙏



Sharron Beauford - February 20, 2025 at 09:35 AM

JB

“ THE BROWN FAMILY



Jacqueline Brown - February 20, 2025 at 08:52 AM

BB

“ Mrs. B. So mean memories, from day 1 when we meet when you came and drove busses with me, and then to daycare can't thank you enough for daycare. You will always hold a special place in our heart. Gone but not forgotten love always Bernita, Antwan and Maurisha



Bernita Blake - February 19, 2025 at 11:25 PM

DS

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Dondrea Stevens - February 19, 2025 at 10:41 PM

DS

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**Dondrea Stevens** - February 19, 2025 at 10:35 PM