

In Loving Memory of
Ella Phelps

July 11, 1934 - May 19, 2021



FRIDAY, JUNE 4, 2021 - 11:00 A.M.

Cotton Funeral Service

1025 Bergen Street • Newark, New Jersey

Obituary

Ella Phelps, daughter of the late Lester and Ella Williams, was born July 11, 1934 in Abbeville, South Carolina. She was the second of five children: James Williams, Emma Williams, Belton Williams Muhammad and Roosevelt Williams—who all preceded her in death.

Her family relocated to Newark, New Jersey in 1942 where she attended Newark Public Schools. She went on to graduate from West Side High School where she met her sweetheart, Johnnie Phelps. They married in 1952 and out of that union they had three sons: Daniel Phelps (deceased), Vincent Phelps, and Leonard Phelps (deceased). They were married for over 60 years until Johnnie predeceased her in 2016.

Ella worked for Aristocrat Textile for many years and was a fierce soldier for the Lord. Her entire life was guided by her faith in Jesus Christ. Ella had such a huge heart for her family and friends. Beside her three natural children she had three adopted God children, Mary and Richard Jordan's from Anderson, South Carolina and Patricia Freeman from Fayetteville, North Carolina. She was called by many names: Mom, Grandma, Aunt Ella, little Ella or Baby by her family, and Mother Phelps and Mrs. Phelps by her church family and loving community. She was a shining light to so many.

Ella Joined Light House Temple under the leadership of Bishop James W. Parrott Sr. where she served on many auxiliaries. 10 years later she joined Christian Pentecostal Church of Christ under the leadership of Bishop Elder Willie Smith. There she was on the Usher Board and Mothers' Board, and was able to serve by visiting the sick and shut in.

Ella loved hosting big family gatherings—cooking was her specialty. If you asked anyone what her favorite dish was I'm sure they would say, "banana pudding!" After her husband Johnnie retired they packed up and moved to Anderson, South Carolina. There she joined Zion Pentecostal Holiness under the leadership of Elder David Harris. Mother Phelps served as Vice President of the pulpit aide, President of the Usher Board, Vice President of bible mission, Missionary at Ellensburg nursing home, served with the NAACP, and she volunteered with Meals On Wheels. In 1977, Mother Phelps played a major role with other family members in planning the inaugural Williams & Tillman Family Reunion, which paved the way for future family reunions.

She leaves to cherish her memory: her son Vincent Phelps, daughter-in-law Kimberly Phelps, Carol Phelps, sister-in-law Shirley Burks, Elenore Muhammad; Grandchildren Sonya Phelps, Vincent Thomas, Amina Phelps, Marcus Phelps, Shakir Phelps, William Phelps; 4 Great Grands, 1 Great Great Grand, 3 Great God Grands; a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

"I love you all but I had to go. Take good care of yourself, I'm happy and very Blessed to be in the arms of my heavenly Father and my Mom & Dad again. I was always a Daddy's Girl!"

Order of Service

Processional

Selection

Scripture Reading

Old Testament

New Testament

Prayer of Comfort

Selection

Remarks

(Two minutes each please)

Acknowledgements

Obituary

Selection

Eulogy

Recessional

Interment
Fairmount Cemetery
Newark, New Jersey

I'm Free

Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free
I'm following the path God laid for me
I took his hand when I heard Him call
I turned my back and left it all.
I could not stay another day.
To laugh, to love, to work or play.
Tasks left undone must stay that way,
I found that peace at the close of day.
If my parting has left a void,
Then fill it up with remembered joy.
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss,
Oh, yes these things I too will miss.
Be not burdened with times of sorrow,
I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow.
My life's been full, I savored much.
Good friends, good times, a loved one's touch.
Perhaps my time seemed all too brief,
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief.
Lift up your heart and share with me,
God wanted me now, He set me free!
-author unknown

Acknowledgement

*The family acknowledges with deep appreciation all acts of kindness extended to them during this bereavement hour.
May God bless you for all your thoughtfulness and concern.*

Professional Services Provided By

COTTON FUNERAL SERVICE
130 Main Street
Orange, NJ
973-675-6400

1025 Bergen Street
Newark, NJ
973-926-6400

COTTON-PARKER FUNERAL HOME
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