

*A Celebration of Life*

*Mrs. Elsie Aiken White*



**PROOF**

**Sunrise August 12, 1931 ~ Sunset June 10, 2020**

**Thursday June 18, 2020  
11:00 AM**

**Hillcrest Abbey East ~ 1600 Wheaton Street ~ Savannah Ga 31404**

# *The Life Journey of Mrs. Elease Aiken White*

*"For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing."*

2 Timothy 4:6-8

Elease was born on August 12, 1931 to the late William and Maybelle (Singleton) Aiken of Hilton Head Island, South Carolina. She was the tenth child of fourteen born. She was preceded in death by siblings: Marion Aiken, Janie Grant, Laura Heyward, Martha Aiken, Annabell Simmons, James Aiken, Joseph Aiken, Charlotte Aiken (stillborn), and Peter Aiken; granddaughter Tracy Latrell White and great grandson Sonny Barnwell.

Elease attended Hilton Head Island Public Schools of South Carolina. She later transferred to the Chatham County Public School System in Savannah, Georgia, where she graduated from Beach Cuyler High School. Elease matriculated at Savannah State College, where she earned a degree in Nursing and graduated in 1961. She began her nursing career at Georgia Infirmary. She later continued her nursing career at Savannah Convalescent Center. After 35 years of selfless service in the nursing industry, she retired in 1996.

Elease was united in Holy Matrimony to James Edward White of Sylvania, Georgia on June 15, 1951. From this union, she gained one son, Edward, and bore seven (7) children: Eugene, Elaine, Alfred, Melvin, Kathy, Kenneth, and Angela. She was affectionately known as "Dutchess," "GG," "Ease," "Grandma," and of course "Momma" by her children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren.

At an early age, Elease joined Mount Tabor Missionary Baptist Church in Savannah, Georgia, under the leadership of the late Rev. Lamar Kelly and current Pastor Rev. Franklin Blackshear. She was a member of the Mt. Tabor Gospel Choir and Deaconess Board. She was also a member of the Women's Home Fellowship Ministry and The Praying Angels Ministry, where she was affectionately known as Ms. Chancellor. She served as a faithful and diligent member in these organizations until her health began to decline.

Elease Aiken White transitioned from labor to reward peacefully on Wednesday, June 10, 2020 at home surrounded by her children, grandchildren, family, and friends.

Elease leaves to cherish precious memories of her children, Edward White of New York, Eugene (Shirley) White of Glen Burnie, Maryland, Pastor Alfred (Virginia) White of Hinesville, Georgia, Elaine (Fred) Green, Melvin White, Kathy Barnwell (Vincent), Pastor Kenneth (Lisa) White, and Angela Figueroa all of Savannah, Georgia. Memories are also held by Elease's four surviving sisters, Ida (Benjamin - deceased) Stewart of Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, Evelena (James - deceased) White, Almetha (Harold) Frazier, Thelma (Elmore) Sams, all of Savannah, Georgia, and one brother, William (Julia) Aiken of Florida. She is also survived by twenty-four (24) Grandchildren, Ravenna, Terrence, Jared, Brian, Theresa, Jamar, Mikel, Aja, Cara, Melvin, Vincetta, Vincent Jr., James, Kenneth Jr., Kimberly, Marquell, Maurice, James, Timeka, Lexus, Tomas Jr., Aaron, Gabriela, and Victoria; thirty-seven (37) great grandchildren, two (2) great-great grandchildren; one (1) godson, James L. Moore; three (3) lifelong friends, Dorothy Jones, Rebecca German, and Mary Thompkins; and a host of other relatives and friends.



# *Order of Graveside Service*

Pastor Gerald Frazier, Presiding

Processional

Prayer of Comfort ~ Bishop Witherspoon

Old Testament Reading ~ Pastor Henry Gibbs, Psalm 23

New Testament Reading ~ Minister Barbara Simmons, 2 Corinthians 5:1-10

Selection ~ Aiken Male Choir

Reflections ~ As a Deacon ~ Deacon George Brunson , Mt Tabor Missionary Baptist Church

Tribute Poem ~ Courtney "Rayana" Stewart, Great Granddaughter

Solo ~ Jamar White, Grandson

Eulogy ~ Pastor Jerome Baker

Committal/Benediction ~ Reverend Franklin Blackshear

## *A Tribute to My Special Friend*

As I sit and think over the past 59 years that we have shared as friends it brings tears to my eyes. As I reminisce over raising our children together, going to nursing school together, and working side by side for 32-years it makes me count my blessings. To have a friend like you all those years is rare and something that I will cherish until we meet again. You have served your purpose on earth and God has called you home. God's grace and blessing on your life will always be shown through your children, grandchildren, and every member of your family. I am saying goodbye for now to my sister and my friend. Your family will always be my family because of the love that you have always shown to me and my family.

Rest in Peace my Dear Friend  
Love you always Dorothy Jones



## *A Tribute to My Neighbor*

I have known Mrs. White for over 40 years. I grew up with her children in the neighborhood. Mrs. White was a beautiful and kind lady. She loved her family unconditional. When I use to see Mrs. White going out to work, church or family outings she was such a sharp dresser. I would say to myself this is a classy lady. When I grow up, I am going to be just as classy and sharp as her. Even when she took ill, she kept pearls around her neck and a purse on her arm. Now, in the purse was no money just her snacks. When Mrs. White health started to decline her children rallied more around her. There was not a day that did not go by that they were not there making sure she was cared for. Elaine, Kathy, and Angie came every single day and her sons came just as much. The dining room table was the family gathering hole. They fed her there, ate with her, and sing her favorite song (sign me up for that Christian jubilee) at the table. One day Angie and I decided that we were going to sing her song with her, and we missed some words she gave us the Aikens look (side eyed) and stop singing. I said to Angie "Nah." When it was time for her to go to bed her children who was there sing a song and pray with her before she fell asleep. The last faces she would see were her children and the first faces she would see when her eyes open in the morning were her children

Now Mrs. White was a funny when it came to Mr. Big Boy. If you wanted to get her roused up just mention his name and she would give you the Aikens side eye. One day Elaine told her that I knew Big Boy and she said, "Who know Big Boy?" I said oops," time to go." I just loved her.

"Those we love and lose are always connected by heartstrings. The love is contagious, and the memories of their life will live forever." May you all find peace during your time of bereavement

Phyllis Nichols "The Neighbor "



## *Mothers Never Die*

### *They Just Keep House Up In The Sky*

When we are children, we are happy and gay  
And our mother is young and laughs as we play.  
Then as we grow up, she teaches us truth  
And lay's life foundation in the days of our youth  
And then it is time for us to leave home  
But her teachings go with us wherever we roam,  
For all that she taught and all that we did  
When we were so often just such a "bad, little kid"  
We will often remember and then realize,  
That mothers are special and wonderful wise  
And as she grows older, we look back with love  
Knowing that mothers are gifts from above.  
And as she grows older, we look back with love  
Knowing that mothers are gifts from above.  
And when she goes home to receive her reward  
She will dwell in God's Kingdom and  
"Keep house for the Lord"  
Where she will "Light up" the stars  
that shine through the night.  
And keep all the moonbeams "Sparkling and bright"  
And then with dawn she will put the darkness away  
As she scours the sun to new brilliance each day  
So dry tears of sorrow, for mothers do not die  
They just move in with God and "Keep house in the sky"  
And there in God's kingdom, mothers watch from  
Above to welcome the children with undying love

We Will Miss You Always Mother!!!  
Your Loving Children

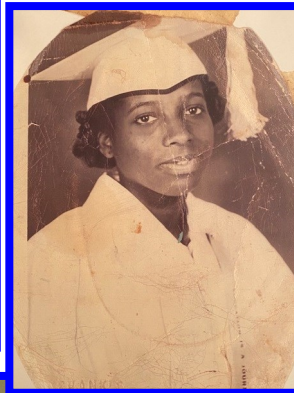
## *Our Angel*

when I think of you GG,  
I think of countless things  
the way you loved to dance  
the way you said anything that came to mind  
and the way you always loved to have a good time  
though your departure from us has brought sadness,  
it has also brought great joy  
for you have gained your wings  
and now rest in heaven's great doors  
your voice, your smile,  
your love will certainly be missed  
your laughter, your spunk, your beauty – I cannot  
help to reminisce  
I will not shed tears that you are gone  
but smile knowing I have memories  
to cherish and live on  
today, tomorrow, and every following day we will  
hold onto you in our hearts  
GG, the moments we shared  
with you will never depart  
though we lost you from your passing,  
we gained so much from you living  
until we meet again my angel  
I love you. we love you always.

We Will Miss You Always GG!!!  
Your Loving Grands



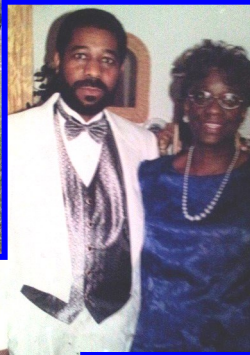
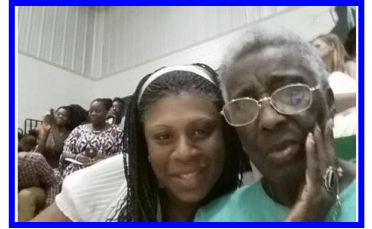














## *Acknowledgements*

### **Thank You!**

The family of the late Elese A. White, "Dutchess" wishes to express sincere gratitude for all acts of kindness during our time of bereavement. Your phone calls, visits, flowers, gifts, thoughts, and prayers have helped us tremendously during this difficult time. It is our prayer that God may continue to bless each of you. Many thanks to Melba Cody, Sherry Jones, and the staff of Georgia Hospice, who assisted during her final transition.

*Active Pallbearers*

**Grandsons**

*Floral Attendants*

**Family and Friends**



Final arrangements for our loved one entrusted to:

**Adams Funeral Services, Inc.**

"Your Loved Ones Deserve the Very Best"

510 Stephenson Ave.

Savannah, Georgia 31405

(912) 354-6260

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