



*Mrs. Willa Mae*  
WILLIAMS RHODES

SUNRISE: JULY 7, 1929 - SUNSET: OCTOBER 21, 2022

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2022**  
WAKE: 9:00 A.M. | FUNERAL: 11:00 A.M.

**NEW BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH**  
400 W. ADAMS AVENUE, LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89106  
BISHOP CHARLES MARSHALL

Scripture: 2 Timothy 4:7-8

"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.



GATHERING IN front of the Grand Army Hall in 1914 Monday were members of the Sidney Shorter & Son of the American Legion who were participating in the traditional Memorial Day march in National Cemetery. From rev. from left, are:



Frank Williams, Clarence King, Commander Robert Williams and escort Deputy Willie Jackson. Back row: Eddie Fields, Charles Williams, Gus Williams James Williams, Herbert Williams and Willie J Smith.

# THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF

## *Ms. Willa Mae*

### WILLIAMS RHODES

Willa Mae Williams Rhodes was born July 7, 1929 to the late Mr. Wilson Williams Sr. and Mrs. Ardella Randall Williams in Vidalia, Louisiana. She was the 9th of 10 children. At an early age, Willa was baptized and became a member of Young Chapel Baptist Church in Vidalia, Louisiana, where she, along with her siblings sang in the choir.

Mother Rhodes attended Concordia Parish Training School in Vidalia, Louisiana. After graduating from high school Mother Rhodes attended Frances Baldwin Beauty College in Natchez, Mississippi and became a licensed Cosmetologist specializing in hair and skin care.

In the late 1950's, Mother Rhodes moved to Las Vegas, Nevada working various jobs in the hotel and fashion industries. Willa then decided she wanted more, so she furthered her studies in Early Childhood Education and earned a degree in Nursing. She never settled and firmly believed that there was more to learn and master, which resulted in her obtaining various degrees and certificates. Mother Rhodes received achievements at Bible Study College held at St. John Church Of God In Christ and a certificate from the school of Ushering and Nursing held at New Jerusalem Baptist Church. Mother Rhodes also opened the first Alzheimer Center at Hillhaven Convalescent Center where she was the Special Care Unit Activities Director for many years.

Mother Rhodes was active in the American Legion Auxiliary Post 590 based in Vidalia, La. She looked forward to returning to her hometown every year, where she participated in the Memorial Day Parade started by the Randall/Williams Family over 100 years ago.

Mother Rhodes became a member of New Bethel Baptist Church in 1963 under the leadership of late Pastor I. W. Wilson followed by Pastor Jesse L. Wesley where she sang in the choir, was active in the Mission Ministry and President of the Nurses Auxiliary for over 20 years. She also coordinated field trips when asked and completed other duties within the church. She was still serving under the leadership of Bishop Charles E. Marshall where she sat on the Mother's Board and was still an active member of the Nurses Auxiliary and a Mother of Zion.

Mother Willa Rhodes leaves to cherish her daughter, Gwendolyn (Frederick) Rayford and son Elliott Wayne (Cynthia) Holmes of Las Vegas, NV; five grandchildren, Dexter (Tamika) Mitchell, Jeremiah (Stormy) Mitchell, Georgia Holmes, Gwendolyn Walker and Brittany (Dedrick) Payne, all of Las Vegas, NV; fifteen great-grandchildren and eleven great-great-grandchildren; a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Some of Willa's favorite sayings were "Sharing and Caring" and "May God supply and implies all my needs and grant me all my accomplishments".

TO THINE BE THE GLORY AND LET THE WORK YOU DO SPEAK FOR YOU.





THE CELEBRATION SERVICE OF  
*Ms. Willa Mae*  
WILLIAMS RHODES

Prelude.....Soft Music  
Processional.....Clergy & Family  
Musical Selection.....Brother Robert Eli Alford & Praise Team  
Scripture (Old & New Testament).....Evangelist Maxine Westby  
Prayer of Comfort.....Evangelist Luella Wooley  
Musical Solo.....Minister Vilisa Tomlin  
Words of Encouragement.....Elder Joseph Terry  
Obituary/Acknowledgements/Condolences/Resolutions.....Mrs. Brittany Payne  
Poem.....Sister Alma Williams  
Musical Selection.....Brother Robert Eli Alford & Praise Team  
Expressions:  
    Mother's Ministry.....Mother Doris McCollum  
    Nurses Ministry.....Sister Mary O'Hara  
Remembering Mother Rhodes.....Family & Friends (2 Minute Limit)  
Musical Selection.....Brother Robert Eli Alford & Praise Team  
Eulogy.....Bishop Charles Marshall  
Parting View.....Giddens Memorial Chapel

INTERMENT  
Palm Downtown Mortuary & Cemetery  
1325 N. Main St.  
Las Vegas, NV 8910



# Family Tree



Family Is Everything

LOVING TRIBUTES TO  
*Ms. Willa Mae*  
WILLIAMS RHODES

FULFILLMENT

I have walked the fertile path and planted a garden, So I know what faith is.  
I have listened to the birds singing in the morning at dusk, So I know what beauty is.  
I have sat before a wood fire with old friends, So I know what companionship is.  
I have walked the path of quietness along the forest floor, So I know what peace is.  
I have seen the miracle of Spring, the fruition of Summer, and the beauty of Autumn,  
followed by the pause of Winter, So I know what life is.  
I have cried unto God with my voice he gave ear to me, So I know what prayer is.  
And because I have perceived all these things, I know what God is.

Author Unknown

Submitted by Georgia Holmes

BROKEN CHAIN

We little knew that day, God was going to call your name.  
In life we loved you dearly, In death, we do the same.  
It broke our hearts to lose you. You did not go alone.  
For part of us went with you, The day God called you home.  
You left us beautiful memories, Your love is still our guide.  
And although we cannot see you, You are always at our side.  
Our family chain is broken, And nothing seems the same,  
But as God calls us one by one, The chain will link again.  
We love you and miss you mom,  
Your daughter & son

LOVING TRIBUTES FROM  
*Ms. Willa Mae*  
WILLIAMS RHODES

A MOTHER'S MESSAGE TO HER CHILDREN

When tomorrow starts without me Please try to understand That an angel came and called my name  
And took me by the hand The angel said my place was ready In heaven far above And That I would  
have to leave behind All those I Dearly Love But When I walked through Heaven's Gates I felt so  
much at home When GOD looked down and smiled at me From his golden throne He said This Is  
Eternity And All I promised you Today for life on earth is done But Here it starts a new  
I promise no tomorrow For today will always last And Since each day's the exact same way There is  
no longing for the past So When Tomorrow starts without me Do not think we're apart For every time  
you think of me Remember I'm right here in your heart

## ACTIVE PALLBEARERS

Deacon Marcus Mathew  
Deacon Leslie Johnson  
Deacon Marc Tomlin  
Deacon Edwin Westby  
Brother Dexter L. Mitchell  
Brother Jeremiah Mitchell

## HONORARY PALLBEARERS

Dexter L. Mitchell, Jr.  
Justin Jeremiah Brown  
Anthony McConnico  
Elder Roderick Coleman  
Elliott Holmes III

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Our sorrow is easier to bear with the help of friends. Special thank you to Mother Doris McCollum for helping with mom. Brother Robert Eli Alford and Praise Team for the beautiful music. Physician Choice Palliative Care and Del Sol Hospice Care for your compassionate attentiveness towards our mother. A special heartfelt thank you to New Bethel Baptist Church Family for your continuous love and support.

Lastly, the family would also like to thank each one of you for your prayers, calls, visits, cards, gifts, meals, condolences, flowers, and any act of kindness rendered. We love you all and you will never be forgotten. May God continue to richly bless you.

The Rayford/Holmes/Williams Family



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