

*Celebrating the Life of
Mrs. Mary Ella Stamps*



February 3, 1926-March 3, 2021

Friday, March 19, 2021, 11:00 a.m.

Pipkin Braswell Chapel of Peace

6601 E. Colfax Avenue

Denver, Co 80220

Officiating and Eulogist, Rev. Dr. Eugene Downing, D. Min.

Memories...

Aunt Mary was our Rock, our connection to deep-rooted familial love. In addition to her guidance for all of us in Denver, her love extended over many state lines. There is not really a place you can go in the Denver Community, where people are not familiar with Mary Stamps. At the mention of her name the reaction is always the same, huge smiles and true endearment. It has always felt good to know that I have the bloodline of legends. From Denver to Mississippi, the Salter girls left their mark on whomever they encountered. Just as her siblings, her wisdom, love, and southern charm, is forever engraved in our hearts and minds. Aunt Mary embodied class, and what I always found intriguing was how she held steady for so many of us, but we never saw her quake. Rocks do not quake, they stand firm under pressure, they may shift and move but they hold their form; solid. I will miss her infectious laugh, how she could give just an expression that would say a whole sentence, her love for God and understanding of the Bible in its entirety. I thank God for the time He allowed us to have with her, and I know God is smiling with all of Will and Judie's Children home. Rest well Steele Magnolia, until we meet again. LaTanya Fuqua and family.

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Cousin Mary, you are my greatest example of God's Psalms 31, the virtuous woman. You have always been so Regal to me. I am so thankful for the endless "Wisdom Gems" you shared with me. I will never, ever forget you; much like you remembered so much about our amazing family history! I will lovingly cherish all of our precious moments together. We were such a great team, and eventually our flow became an Art. I will always smile shaking my head, while looking up to Heaven and laugh out loud when I remember the way you would say, "there you go", when I got something right! I enjoyed the family storytelling, Bible Studies, singing, praying and praising God together. I also enjoyed watching your favorite TV shows and sports. I must also mention how much I enjoyed your famous cooking and baking lessons. Some names I called you simply because I held you in such high esteem include, auntie, beautiful, gorgeous, exquisite, brilliant and queen. I will always love you and will forever miss you. Thank you, Lord my Heavenly Father, Rose, Floyd and Jerry, for trusting me with the honor of caring for your beautiful mother, Mary Ella Salter Stamps.

Respectfully, Cheryl Denise Sykes, Daughter of Emma Ruth Cleaver

I cannot choose a single memory that encapsulates who Grandma Mary was, the joy we shared, or the love I had, and still have for her. Too many images come to mind: how Grandma always had fully stocked cookie jars when we were kids, her love of baseball, her lil' crush on Von Miller, her generosity, her cooking and willingness to make vegetarian options for picky ol' me, how her home was always open to new people, her razor sharp memory (I swear she could remember the weather on a random day in 1950 if you asked her), and the way she said "I love you."

Grandma always said, "I love you," with tenderness behind each word. I. Love. You. Her voice was thick like honey and the words stuck to you, saccharine sweet. She did not care if you were stepping out of the house for a minute or about to leave for a three-day trip, Grandma wanted you to know, to feel, that she cared for you no matter the moment or circumstance. I will always miss the way she said it. I love you too, Grandma. We all do...Grace C. Stamps

Transcendence is no enemy to man or woman. In the case of Mayella, a true example from a long line of pious and godly women, it is the moment when the Most High says "well-done servant". She traded her earthly crown for the ultimate heavenly crown. Auntie Dolling...we love you yesterday, today, tomorrow, and forevermore. Signed, Notorious (a long standing inside joke between Aunt Mary and I) great-nephew.

One of Lamar Blackwell's memory of Grandma

When I was a kid in middle school, Grandma Mary would often pick me up from my sports practices. I remember just like it was yesterday seeing that white Oldsmobile with her in the driver's seat patiently waiting for me to finish my practice. I was a young boy and they worked us pretty hard. I was understandably pretty tired after practice, but Grandma had one rule in her car... no sleeping allowed. Apparently, I am a pretty hard sleeper and she could not wake me up after I had fallen asleep. It took me a long time to understand, until one time I woke up in the dark garage and found hours had passed. I walked inside and Grandma was cooking dinner and I asked her, "What happened Grandma?", She started laughing and said, "I told you I couldn't wake you up".

One of my favorite memories of time with Ms. Mary is when I had the flu shortly after Floyd and I were married. I was working in the nursing home and caught the flu from one of the patients. She told Floyd to bring me over to her house and she would "fix me right up". When I got there, she was boiling a "hot toddy" for me in a pan on the stove. As soon as it stopped boiling, she gave me the biggest cup of this very strong brew. It smelled and tasted horrible, but she said drink it and I did. About 20 minutes later I was "knocked out". I swear she tried to kill me :) but, when I woke up, I felt so much better. I never told her when I was sick after that because I knew she would fix me one of her special "hot toddy's" again!

Jennifer Stamps

My favorite memory of Grandma Mary is: When we were kids, grandma would take us to the dog track. She would let us go look at the dogs and make our own little bets. Even if we did not win she would always give us the money back so that we did not feel bad about losing. We always had so much fun hanging out with Grandma at the dog track.

Malayah Stamps

I found it impossible to identify just one memory about Aunt Mary. From infancy, she has been a constant force in my life. Mayella as we called her never missed an opportunity to support me. From preschool recitals, taking my driver's test, to college graduation, I could always count on her to be looking on with a proud smile. For her 95th birthday, I am eternally grateful for the chance to tell her how much she meant to me on a video message. Through that I explained her countless contributions to who I am today. Her light will forever shine, I will cherish all our laughs, candid conversations, her stories and famous dance moves. She could cut her eyes and mash her lips at me in a way where I knew exactly what she was expressing. I will miss that silent, seamless connection that needed no words and will do my best to continue her legacy as she was the epitome of unwavering love.

Brandi Summers Alexander





Precious Memories

Mary Ella Stamps

On February 3, 1926, God blessed the home of Will and Judie Pruitt-Salter, who resided in Good Hope, Hickory, Mississippi with their fourth child who they named Mary Ella. She was often referred to as “Mayella”. She accepted Christ as her Savior at an early age and united with the Good Hope Missionary Baptist Church. After joining, the Pastor Rev. Moore baptized her in Walker Pond. She attended the Good Hope Elementary School from 1st through 8th grade built by family members and the Mt. Mariah Community (a 2-room school).

Living on the family farm in Good Hope required hard work for everyone. One of Mary’s chores was plowing in their fields, which she executed as well as any young man. The high school, for Colored people living in several counties was in Jasper County, Mississippi. Consequently, after she matriculated to high school, she would reside with her maternal grandfather, Simon Pruitt and her step grandmother, Sofronia Bullock-Pruitt until she graduated high school. Simon’s first wife, Judie Jones-Pruitt died after the birth of Mary’s mother, Judie. Mary graduated from Jasper County Agricultural High School under Principal John Palmer. She then attended Jackson Teachers College in Jackson (later re-named Jackson State University), Mississippi. After graduation, she taught school at the Good Hope School and advanced to the position of Principal.

In 1947, Mary and her sister, Ruthie took a train trip from Mississippi to Denver, Colorado to see their sister, Classie Rosetta Salter-Chapman and her husband, Elbert Hezekiah Chapman’s first baby-a son, Willie Elbert (all deceased). They both became Denver residents. Mary would jokingly say, “I came to see the baby and I am still seeing him.”

Shortly after relocating to Denver, she united with the New Hope Baptist Church, under the Pastorate of Rev. Alvin C. Dones. While residing with her sister and brother-in-law at 2541 Welton Street, Denver, Colorado, she continued her Education at Barnes School of Commerce in Downtown Denver-in conjunction with waiting tables at the Minute Spot Restaurant, located in the heart of Denver’s Five Points Business District. She later went on to receive her master’s degree in Accounting from Regis University, Denver.

There was a young United States Airman named Lee Russell Stamps, who was a regular

customer at Chappie's Café, owned by her sister, Classie. The combination of his personality, his military status and the fact he was a fellow Mississippian, spurred Classie to introduce him to her sister Mary, and they were married on April 24, 1956. To this union three children were born: Floyd Lee Stamps, Jerry Lamar Stamps and Rose Marie Stamps.

During her lifetime, Mary made many contributions to her church, family, and other organizations. She was a former member of Electra Chapter #16, Order of Eastern Star, Prince Hall Affiliated. Her contributions through church work at New Hope, dates back to cutting stencils to make church bulletins and extends to Women's Day Chair, Sunday School Teacher, Superintendent of the Children's Department, Majestic Praise Choir, Instructor for the Ollie M. Eldridge Circle #11- of the Viola M. Harris Missionary Society, Youth Counselor, and teacher at Vacation Bible School. Mary also served as Secretary for the Western States Sunday School and Baptist Training Union Convention of the Colorado, Wyoming, and Utah region.

Mary's occupation for 35 years was a Civil Service Clerk, working for the Air Force Finance and Accounting Center, located in a Federal Complex on 48th and York Street, later relocating to Lowry Air Force Base. Mary retired to provide care for her aged mother. After her mother transitioned to the Balcony, she returned to working for Teletech-a Converges, until her final retirement.

Mary was an amazing, encouraging, supporter of her children, grandchildren, and an auntie-mom to her nieces, nephews, great-nieces, and great-nephews, until the day she transitioned to the Balcony.

Mary is preceded in death by her husband, Lee Russell Stamps, Sr.; her parents; siblings; two nephews, Willie Chapman and James Chapman; and one grandson Brandon Burbach.

Mary Ella Stamps departed this life on March 3, 2021 in Denver, Colorado.

She leaves to cherish her memory 2 sons, Floyd Lee Stamps (Jennifer) of Aurora, Colorado; Jerry Lamar Stamps of Denver, Colorado; 1 daughter, Rose Marie Stamps, of Aurora, Colorado; 1 grandson, Lamar Blackwell (Isabelle), of Arvada, Colorado; 2 granddaughters, Malayah Stamps, of Littleton, Colorado and Grace Stamps, of Fort Collins, Colorado; and a host of additional family and friends.

Order of Service

Processional..... “*Order my Steps*”*Minister Daryl Walker*
(*Glenn Burleigh*)

A Glimpse Til Glory..... *Funeral Directors*

Old Testament Scripture..... *Rev. Oscar Chapman Jr.*

New Testament Scripture..... *Rev. Marlon Chapman*

Prayer of Solace..... *Rev. John Chapman III*

Selection..... “*Amazing Grace*”*Minister Daryl Walker*
(*John Newton*)

Acknowledgements and Condolences.....*New Hope Baptist Church. Condolence Clerk*

Obituary..... *Read Silently*
Instrument Speaks

Video Life Dedication..... *Pipkin-Braswell Team*

Selection..... “*In the Upper Room*” *Mrs. Jackie Sample*
(*Mahalia Jackson*)

Tributes (3 minutes please)

Dr. Dorothy Jean Hayden-Watkins, Ph.D.

Rev. James Thurston Pruitt

Ms. Shirley Chapman

Ms. Betty Gaiter

Dr. Sandi Seale, Ph.D.

Selection..... “*God Is*” *Minister Daryl Walker*
(*Robert Fryson*)

Eulogy..... *Rev. Dr. Eugene Downing D. Min.*

Committal/Closing Prayer/Benediction

*Recessional..... “I’ll Fly Away” Minister Daryl Walker
(Albert Brumley)*

*We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord.
2 Corinthians 5:8 (NIV)*



Active Pallbearers

<i>Rev. Marlon Chapman</i>	<i>Aaron Chapman</i>
<i>Darrick Hezekiah Alexander Jr.</i>	<i>Joe Louis Fuqua</i>
<i>Alan Pruitt</i>	<i>Ebony Pruitt</i>

Honorary Pallbearers

<i>Yarabbi Alexander</i>	<i>Desmond Chapman</i>
<i>Roger Lee Stamps</i>	<i>Lamar Blackwell</i>

The family of Mrs. Mary Ella Salter-Stamps (affectionately referred to herself as a M.E.S.S.) wishes to convey their appreciation for every expression of sympathy and prayerful support. Special thanks to Mr. Alvin Braswell and the Pipkin Braswell Mortuary Staff, Rev. Dr. Eugene Downing, D. Min., Rev Jerry A. Ochsner, Minister Daryl J. Walker, Sunday School Superintendent John T. Jones, Missionary Lisa Stephenson, The New Hope Baptist Church Condolence Committee, All service participants, all of our family members and the entire New Hope Baptist Church Family.

Final Resting Place – Monday, March 22, 2021 – 2:00 p.m. Stage Area A,

Fort Logan National Cemetery, Denver, CO

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