



*When Great Trees Fall
Maya Angelou*

*When great trees fall,
rocks on distant hills shudder,
lions hunker down
in tall grasses,
and even elephants
lumber after safety.
When great trees fall
in forests,
small things recoil into silence,
their senses
eroded beyond fear.*

*When great souls die,
the air around us becomes
light, rare, sterile.
We breathe, briefly.
Our eyes, briefly,
see with
a hurtful clarity.*

*Our memory, suddenly sharpened,
examines,
gnaws on kind words
unsaid,
promised walks
never taken.*

*Great souls die and
our reality, bound to
them, takes leave of us.*

*Our souls, dependent upon their
nurture, now shrink, wizened.*

*Our minds, formed
and informed by their
radiance, fall away.*

*We are not so much maddened
as reduced to the unutterable ignorance of
dark, cold caves.*

*And when great souls die,
after a period peace blooms,
slowly and always
irregularly. Spaces fill
with a kind of
soothing electric vibration.*

*Our senses, restored, never
to be the same, whisper to us.
They existed. They existed.*

*We can be. Be and be
better. For they existed.*



Celebrating the Life of...



Elver Jean Cheatham McCullough
October 15, 1956 ~ March 31, 2024

grandchildren, Ja'niya, Ky'Ra, and Serenity who all were an additional source of joy and pride in her life. The grandchildren fondly called her "Granny or Butterball" and fondly remember her dancing with them, singing, laughing, and she sharing with them about all the black colleges. They shared many happy and precious moments together.

By profession, Elver was employed as a CNA for the Julia Temple Center. She was hard-working, dedicated, and performed her duties with a spirit of excellence.

A woman of faith and belief in the Lord, Elver was a member of Zion Baptist Church. She joined the church under the pastoral leadership of Reverend Frank M. Davis. At the time of her passing, she had been a member for over six years.

Elver was a fun-loving woman, who enjoyed life and those she encircled. In her free time, she loved the quality time spent with family and friends. She will be missed by all who were fortunate enough to have known this kind and wonderful woman, who had a smile that would lite up any room she entered and she was full of joy. To know Elver Jean was to love her.

Elver Jean is preceded in death by her husband, and both her children.

Elver Jean Cheatham McCullough departed this life to the embrace of the Lord on March 31, 2024, in her home in Denver, Colorado. Those left to cherish her memory and mourn her loss include 3 brothers, Lash L. Jackson, Clifton L. Phifer, and Victor L. Phifer; 5 sisters, Marilyn L. Jackson, Rosie M. Phifer, Claudia D. Phifer, Cynthia D. Cheatham Clemons, and Donna M. Cheatham; 10 grandchildren; 3 great grandchildren; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives, and many friends.

