

*A Service of Celebration for the  
Life and Spirit  
Of  
Sister Mildred Benford Taylor*



*She is clothed in strength and dignity and  
laughs without fear of the future      Proverbs 31:25*

Tuesday, May 7, 2024  
12:00 P. M.

*Williams Memorial Chapel*

712 North Avenue C  
Elgin, Texas 78621

Under the Auspices of  
*Word of Life Faith Center*

Overseer James Jacobs, VFO  
Elder Gilli Branch, Officiating

## *Mildred's Footprints of Life*

*October 17, 1942 – May 1, 2024*

Mildred was promoted from our loving care to the loving care of our Heavenly Father on Wednesday, May 1, 2024. She was born October 17, 1942, in Bastrop, Texas, to Lelia Ray (Roberson) and Ross Benford. She was the oldest of six siblings and was like a second mother to them. Her parents taught her about God, the importance of family, and a desire to learn and grow. Mildred accepted Christ at an early age and was baptized.

As a mother, Mildred was a beacon of love and care. She married her high school sweetheart, Ardell Williams, in 1962 and together they moved to Austin to start a family. Her devotion to her children was unwavering, as she dedicated herself to providing them with a strong Christian foundation, nurturing their gifts, and guiding them on their life paths.

After moving to Austin, Mildred joined Pleasant Grove Baptist Church (Rev. J.J. Dixon) and later True Light Missionary Baptist Church, pastored by her brother-in-law, Revered J.R. Williams. She was the choir president and sang in the choir along with her four children for many years, while her oldest son played the piano. Mildred was a product of a singing family. Her mother, grandmother, and aunts sang together at different local churches and special programs. Later, Mildred joined Victory Christian Center, guided by Pastor Lee Boss. After remarrying in 1986, Mildred moved south of Austin becoming a member of Word of Life Faith Center led by Pastor James Jacobs. She continued growing in her faith and teaching the Word of our Lord and Savior.

Mildred's professional journey was marked by her dedication and compassion. She worked in the healthcare industry, including at Holy Cross Hospital, for many years. Later, she transitioned to special education, working at Travis State School and Hays Independent School District as a paraprofessional for special education elementary and middle school students. In her retirement, she provided unwavering care for her husband, Oliver Taylor, until his passing in October 2012.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Lelia Rae and Ross Benford, Sr.; sister, Maggie Rae (Benford) Crayton; three brothers, Ross, Sr., James Roland, Audrey Louis; and grandson, Jairon Michael Godfrey.

Mildred leaves to celebrate her legacy one sister, LaVern Marshall; four children, Keith Allen Williams, Paul Edwin Williams (Lisa), Deidre Rechel Smith (Desi) and Sonja Mechelle Smith (Charles); four grandsons, Joshua Ross Washington (wife Brandi), Desi Antoine Smith, II, Devan James Smith (Deidre and Desi), Xavier LeBron (Paul and Lisa); and two great-grandchildren, Kinsey Rayne and Kyrie Micah (Josh and Brandi); and many nieces, nephews, family, and friends.

# *Celebration Service*

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie  
down in green pastures: *Psalms 23*

Melodic Reminiscence

Entrance of Clergy, Bearers, and Family  
*Sealing of the Bier*

Silent Reading of the Obituary

*Holy Spirit*

DeLeon

Scripture Reading

Old Testament Reverend Clarence Roberson

New Testament Elder Gillis Branch

Prayer

Overseer James Jacobs

*The Goodness of God*

Cece Winans

Tribute to Mom

Deidre Smith,  
Daughter

*I Love the Lord*

Whitney Houston

Expressions of Love

(2-minute limit please)

Video Tribute

Eulogy

Bishop James Jacobs

Acknowledgments

Tresha Silva

Recessional

Clergy, Casket Bearer, and Family  
*Bless Me ~ Kirk Franklin*

# At a Glance



## Reflections

Mama taught us *the Legacy of Love,*

A wife, a mother, a grandma too,

This is the legacy we have from you.

You taught us love and how to fight.

You gave us strength; you gave us might.

A stronger person would be hard to find,

And in your heart, you were always kind.

You fought for us all in one way or another.

Not just as a wife not just as a mother.

For all of us you gave your best,

Now the time has come for you to rest.

So go in peace, you've earned your sleep,

Your love in our hearts, we'll eternally keep

*The Legacy of Love we learned from Mama...*

*With All Our Love,*



# Men Of Honor

Joshua Ross Washington  
Devan James Smith

Desi Antoine Smith, II  
Xavier LeBron Williams

## Acknowledgment

*And be ye kind one to another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.*

*Ephesians 4:32*

The service today is conducted to the Glory of God and in honor of Mama's life. On behalf of her family and friends, who love her, we communicate to all that we are not here to mourn her death but to celebrate her life. Thank you for all the acts of kindness you may have given. May God Bless!!!

*With Love and Appreciation*

~Mildred Taylor's Children

## Final Resting Place

Wednesday, May 8, 2024 ~ 11:00 AM

Central Texas State Veteran Cemetery  
Killeen, Texas



**ELGIN** | 712 N. Ave C  
512-281-5697  
elginfuneralhome.net

*Service and Compassion from a Family that Genuinely Cares*

**Josh and Jamie Hausladen and Staff**  
[Info@elginfuneralhome.net](mailto:Info@elginfuneralhome.net)