

# A Celebration Of Life for Mary Frances Williams

## *Pallbearers*

Nephews and Great Nephews

## *Flower Attendants*

Nieces and Great Nieces

## *I'm Free*

Don't grieve for me, for now I am free. I'm following the path God laid for me. I took his hand when I heard him call. I turned my back and left it all. I could not stay another day to laugh, to love, to work or play. Tasks left undone must stay that way. I found that place at the close of the day. If my parting has left a void, then fill it with remembered joy. A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss, ah yes, these things I too will miss. Be not burdened with times of sorrow, I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow. My life has been full; I've savored much, good friends, good times, a loved one's touch. Perhaps my time seemed all too brief; don't lengthen it now with undue grief. Lift up your heart and share with me, God wanted me now, He set me Free!

## *Acknowledgement*

The Williams family wishes to thank you for the outpouring of love and compassion during our time of bereavement. We are sincerely grateful for your condolences and acts of kindness as we mourn the loss and celebrate the life of our beloved sister, aunt, caretaker, and friend, Mary Frances Williams.

~The Family~

Arrangements in care of:



4315 N. Main Street  
Jacksonville, FL 32206

410 Beech Street  
Fernandina Beach, FL 32034

904-765-1234  
Tyrone S. Warden, FDIC  
[www.tswarden.com](http://www.tswarden.com)



*Sunrise*

March 21, 1934

*Sunset*

December 16, 2020

## *Service*

11:00 AM, Monday, December 28, 2020

*Samuel C. Rogers, Jr. Memorial Chapel*

4315 N. Main Street  
Jacksonville, Florida 32206

*Bishop Kevin Hardy, Officiating*

# Obituary Mary Frances Williams

**Mary** went home to be with the Lord on December 16, 2020, having lived a rich and full life. **Mary** was born to John Henry and Alberta Williams on March 21, 1934 in Vidalia Georgia. She attended primary school in Georgia and in Jacksonville, Florida. As a young girl, she enjoyed spending time with her family, and was fiercely protective of her siblings. As a teenager, Mary attended Matthew Gilbert High School in Jacksonville, FL, where she played the saxophone in the high school band. Mary received her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Education from Florida State Normal and Industrial College, and later received her Master of Education Degree from Florida A&M University.

**Mary** used her degrees to change the lives of children, working as an educator in the Duval County Public Schools for over 36 years. During this time, she was selected Teacher of the Year numerous times and was known as one of the county's foremost educators, employing her own unique brand of tough love. Simultaneously, she owned and operated a successful neighborhood day-care center, setting an example in education, entrepreneurship, and faith for all to follow.

**Mary's** love for music in early adulthood led her to serve faithfully in the choir at Church of God Saints in Christ Holiness Church in Jacksonville, Florida. She was a self-taught organist, pianist, and vocalist. Later, her passion for God and musical gifts led her to form the gospel sensation, Excelsior Gospel Singers. She was passionate about her relationship with God, serving faithfully in the music ministry at Church of God Sanctuary of Praise for many years, and hosting weekly prayer meetings in her home for over 40 years. The Excelsior Gospel Singers, under the direction of Mary F. Williams, was elected to the Gospel Hall of Fame in 2016.

**Mary** was preceded in death by her father, John Henry Williams; mother, Alberta Williams; sister, Margaret Powell; and brother, John Henry Williams, Jr.

**Mary** leaves to mourn her passing one sister, Betty Williams Small and a host of nieces, nephews, great nieces and great nephews, spiritual family, and friends.

## Order of Service

Torrance Thomas, Presiding  
Pastor of Youth and Family Evangelism Church of God  
Sanctuary of Praise

**Processional** ..... The Family

**Prayer** ..... Minister Shirley Baker  
Church of God Sanctuary of Praise

### Scripture:

Old Testament Reading ..... Mrs. Joi Singh

New Testament Reading ..... Mr. Keith Buckner

**Selection** ..... Mrs. Coralene Parker  
Excelsior Gospel Singers

**Obituary** ..... (Read Silently)

**Reflections** ..... Mrs. Kia Warren  
Mr. Albert Buckner III  
Ms. Marjorie Williams Johnson

**Acknowledgements** ..... Ms. Catrina Jordan

**Selection** ..... Sister Debra Rasheed

**Words of Comfort** ..... Bishop Kevin Hardy, Senior Pastor  
Church of God Sanctuary of Praise, Jacksonville, Florida

### Recessional

### Interment

Edgewood Cemetery  
4519 Edgewood Avenue  
Jacksonville, Florida 32219