

A SERVICE OF WORSHIP
CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF

Beatrice Geneva (Ward) Bledsoe

May 22, 1928 – August 2, 2023



FIRST MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH
ROANOKE, ALABAMA
SATURDAY, AUGUST 12, 2023, 11 AM

Order of

Prelude	Bro. Myron Fears
Processional	“Take My Hand, Precious Lord” Bro. Myron Fears & Congregation
Scripture Reading	
Psalm 23	Rev. Tommy Carwell
Revelation 21:1-4	Rev. Lonnie Houston
Invocation	Rev. Gilbert Staples
Hymn	“Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior” Bro. Myron Fears & Congregation
Obituary	<i>Read Silently</i>
Acknowledgements	Dr. Marion Brown
Words of Encouragement	Rev. Mario McDaniel
Hymn	“Hold to God’s Unchanging Hand” Bro. Myron Fears & Congregation
Expressions	Rev. Randy Kelley Deacon James Blake Sis. Maudie Howell Sis. Kia Smith
Solo	“I Shall Wear a Crown” Bro. JaJuan Ware
Eulogy	Rev. Dr. Melvin Owens
Solo	Bro. Myron Fears
Recessional	“Going Up Yonder” Bro. Myron Fears & Congregation

Worship

Interment

Skyview Memorial Gardens Cemetery
Welch

Repast

Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church
Five Points

*“My mission in life is not merely to survive,
but to thrive; and to do so with some
passion, some compassion, some humor,
and some style.”*

-Maya Angelou



Beatrice Geneva (Ward) Bledsoe

1928 –2023

MOTHER | COMMUNITY LEADER | SERVANT OF GOD



Beatrice Geneva (Ward) Bledsoe was born May 22, 1928, in Chambers County, Ala., to the late Charlene Allen Ward and the late Freeman Ward.

Her life was anchored in the Lord and in support of the Christian mission. She confessed Jesus Christ as her Lord and Savior early in life and united with the body of believers at Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church in Five Points, Ala., where she served faithfully throughout her life. Geneva was active in Macedonia’s teaching and choir ministries, where she also served as church clerk and financial secretary. She also served as counselor of the East Alabama Matron’s Department and counselor-at-large for the

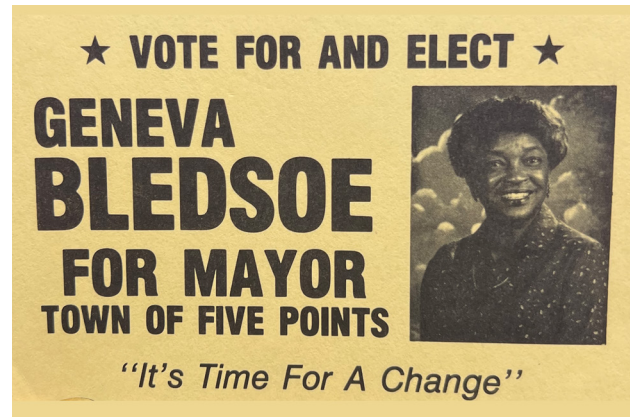
Northeast District.

Affectionately known as “Gen,” Mrs. Bledsoe graduated from the Chambers County Training School in Lafayette, Ala., and received a Bachelor of Science degree in Home Economics from Alabama A&M University in Huntsville, Ala., in 1957. Upon completing her education, Mrs. Bledsoe spent 36 years as an



educator in the Chambers County Public School System, teaching science and social studies at Phillips High School in Five Points, Ala., for 18 years and home economics at Chambers County High School in Milltown, Ala., for 18 years. “I had the most gratifying experience helping students develop into outstanding young men and women,” Mrs. Bledsoe said during Retired Teachers’ Day in 1993. “I’ve always loved to help people. Every day wasn’t easy, but seeing my students strive to do their very best made it all worthwhile.”

In 1992, Mrs. Bledsoe made history when she was elected the first Black and first female mayor of Five Points, Ala. She served the 250 residents of the southern town for 20 years. During her tenure as mayor, she secured federal grants to improve the town’s water and sewer services and placed tremendous emphasis on the growth of families and youth to build a safer and stronger community. She also initiated an annual Christmas tree festival and oversaw the renovation of the Five Points Community Center, adding features that made it handicapped accessible and installing central heating and air conditioning.



On May 23, 1953, she married her high school sweetheart, Randolph “Stony” Bledsoe, a United States Marine and the first Black police officer with the LaFayette (Ala.) Police Department. Their union was blessed with twin daughters, Sandra Faye and Wanda Kaye Bledsoe and a bonus daughter, Jacqueline Ward.

Mrs. Bledsoe was an active and impactful member of her community. She was a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, a



member of the Order of the Eastern Star, the NAACP, and the Alabama Conference of Black Mayors. Additionally, she acted as the chairperson of the Chambers County Alabama Democratic Conference and served on a variety of boards including for the East Alabama Mental Health Center, Chattahoochee Hospice, East Alabama Community Planning and the Chambers County Enterprise Community.

On Sunday, August 6, while surrounded by the love and prayers

of her family, Mrs. Bledsoe died and entered into the Lord's eternal care.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Randolph Bledsoe; daughter, Sandra Faye (Bledsoe) Ware; son-in-law, Eddy Maurice Ware; brother, Hubert "Pete" Ward; sister-in-law, Ollye Marie Ward; and great-grandchild, D'Marzavion Ferrell.

She leaves to cherish her memories one devoted daughter: Wanda (Kenny) Smith of Gadsden, Ala.; one extended daughter: Jacqueline Ferrell of Lanett, Ala.; one loving sister: Annie Winston of Five Points, Ala.; six grandchildren: Shawn (Joanna) Ferrell and Sonya Ferrell of Lanett, Ala., Kia Smith and Kamesha Smith of Atlanta, Ga., Jamal Ware of



Roanoke, Ala., and JaJuan (Adrianna) Ware of Huntsville, Ala.; seven great-grandchildren: Cameron Bothwell and Shai Smith of Atlanta, Ga., Amarah Faye Ware of Huntsville, Ala., and Shawnteria Ferrell, Hannah Brooks, Jaishawn Ferrell and Jamaanie Ferrell of Lanett, Ala.; and a host of nieces, nephews, family, colleagues and friends.

Mrs. Bledsoe's family is especially grateful to the medical staff at Gadsden Regional Medical Center in Gadsden, Ala., and the home care professionals who cared for her in the final years of her life: Angenette Boley, Denise Collins, Rebecca Curry, Elsie Gibbs, Joe Ann Johnson, Staci Oatis and Margaret Row.



Acknowledgements

OFFICIATING

Rev. Gilbert E. Staples, Pastor
Rev. Dr. Melvin Owens, Eulogist
Rev. Tommy Carwell
Rev. Lonnie Houston
Rev. Randy Kelley
Rev. Mario McDaniel

PALL BEARERS

Daryle Allen
Todd Swanagan
O'Bryan Vines
Sheldon Ward
JaJuan Ware
Jamal Ware

FLOWER ATTENDANTS

Matrons of East Alabama District Women's Convention

APPRECIATION

We gratefully acknowledge all acts of kindness and every courtesy that has come by way of your cards, telephone calls, floral offerings and heartfelt prayers during these difficult hours of loss. We solicit your continued prayers that God will enable us to reconcile our loss and make us whole again. Our sincerest prayer is that God bless each one of you.

The Family of Beatrice Geneva Bledsoe

Vines Funeral Home
Lafayette, Alabama
(334) 864-7128