

To My Second Mom,

Words can't express my love and appreciation for all you did for me. You chose to be there for me when I needed someone to step in and help me pick up the broken pieces of my life. Thank you for being there for me in good times and bad times. I'd of never made it this far without your love and guidance. You spent years trying to prepare me for the day you'd no longer be able to be here for me. You wanted me to be able to "Stand Alone." At the moment, I can say you did a good job with the task. You were the one who took charge. I still hear your voice giving directions. You did so much for me. I hope I made you proud. I hope I'll continue to make you proud. You're a very dear woman. I hope to be as loving and as giving as you were.

I Love You Mother.

Rest Well, you'll truly be missed!

Tareva

Pallbearers

Mark P. Temple, Jr.
Kristi Pendleton Harrison
Charles Wilson

Andre McCorvey
Steve Linzy
Joann Sicard

Honorary Pallbearers

Deacons, Ebenezer Baptist Church
Trustees, Ebenezer Baptist Church
Oklahoma Funeral Directors

Flower Bearers

Deaconess, Ebenezer Baptist Church

Interment

Rose Hill Burial Park
Chickasha, Oklahoma

Please drive with your lights on for safety and fasten your seat belts.

Acknowledgement

The family of Willie Ruth Kirby wishes to express our sincere gratitude for the many act of kindness through cards, flowers, calls, words of encouragement and prayers during our time of bereavement. For all you've done "Thank You."

Repat immediately following service
Ebenezer Baptist Church



SERVICES UNDER THE DIRECTION OF
TEMPLE AND SONS FUNERAL DIRECTORS, INC.
2801 North Kelley Avenue
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73111
Phone: 405-427-8321
"We Care"



Diamond Printing & Publishing, Inc. ◊ 405.524.5600

Celebration of Home Going

for

Willie Ruth Kirby



Sunset ~ February 17, 2020

Services

Wednesday, February 26, 2020 - 11:00 a.m.

Ebenezer Baptist Church

*3600 N. Kelley Avenue
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma*

Reverend Derrick A. Scobey, Pastor - Officiant

Willie Ruth Kirby

Jessie Willis Sessions and Julia Ann Simms Sessions were blessed with three daughters. Willie Ruth was the youngest daughter born in Jacksonville, Cherokee County, Texas. Shortly after Willie was born, her mother passed away. The children were divided and living separately with friends and distant relatives until her mother's brother, W.E. Simms (who taught at Langston University), and his wife Eunice, moved Jean and Willie Ruth to Langston, Oklahoma.

Willie Ruth attended Langston University Training School from 4th to 8th grade. She graduated from Langston High School and later attended Langston University.

She later moved to Santa Barbara, California where her sister Jean was living as well as aunts, uncles and cousins. Willie was employed at General Telephone Company for a number of years. Family was an important part of Willie's life. She would spearhead family gatherings of card games with food, laughter and fun. Willie loved sports and was an excellent softball and basketball player, bowler and avid golfer. She would often pick up her nieces, nephews and younger cousins to attend her games and tournaments.

Willie Ruth united with Lewis Chapel CME Church in Santa Barbara where she was an active member.

She moved her church membership to Greater Cleaves CME upon moving back to Oklahoma and later became a member of East Sixth Street Christian Church where she served as an ordained deacon. Willie later joined Ebenezer Baptist Church where she remained a faithful member. She loved working with others in the culinary ministry.

Willie was a one-time member of the Prince Hall Masonic family holding membership in Ruby S. Lewis Chapter #57, Order of the Eastern Star and Victoria Hawkins Court #71, Heroines of Jericho, Oklahoma Jurisdiction.

Upon returning to Oklahoma, Willie pursued her dream by attending Central State University majoring in Mortuary Science.

She was employed by McKay Davis for several years. After being away from funeral service industry, Mr. John Temple, Sr. asked her to return. This was returning to her dream. One of her greatest joys in addition to working in the church and providing loving care to others, was working with John Temple, Sr., Mark Temple, Jr., Chris Temple, Tommy Potts, Gus Embry, Milford Clayton, Ron Miser and Curtis Foreman. Willie said, "This profession will not be needed when we get to heaven. We will all have a glorious time!"

Willie truly loved the Lord and was a devoted servant. She was gifted with a servant's heart. She discovered her purpose in life and embraced it. She spent most of her time caring for others. This ministry was the initial reason for her return to Oklahoma City to care for her uncle, Professor W.E. Simms, who raised her. Her gift of service was extended to United States District Attorney John Green, Sr., Attorney H. McKinley Rowan and many others. Willie also accepted the blessing of guardianship over Tareva Talley, whom she dearly loved.

After being surrounded by love, laughter and prayers from her family and friends, God took Willie home on February 17, 2020. Her work was completed, she had kept the faith and finished her course. Willie was preceded in death by her parents Jessie Willis Sessions and Julia Ann Sessions, and sister Juanita Smith.

She leaves precious memories with sister, Jean Herrell of San Jose, CA; nephew Ronnie Herrell (niece-in-love Samantha) of Corona, CA, niece Anita Smith of Oakland, CA, great niece Gina Evans (Eric) and great-great niece Analise Evans of San Jose, CA, great nephew Pierce Herrell of Corona, CA, godchildren Todd Simms (Heidi) of Pleasant Hill, CA and Wanda Thomas of Santa Barbara, CA, along with a beautiful bouquet of family and friends.

In addition to her immediate family, she leaves loving thoughts with Tareva Talley, Tiny Stallings, John Temple, Sr., John Green, Jr., Don Smitherman and Shirley Golden.

Order of Service

Processional Ministers, Funeral Directors, Family

Solo

Scriptures

Old Testament (23rd Psalm) Minister

New Testament Reverend Joe Brooks

Prayer Reverend Anthony Fonteno

Song Ebenezer Baptist Church Choir

Resolutions and Acknowledgements

Reflections Mr. John P. Temple, Sr.

Mr. John E. Green, Jr.

Mr. Don Smitherman

Mrs. Myra Todd-Hill

Dr. Wanda Johnson

Mr. David Shelton, III

Obituary (Read Silently)

Instrumental Solo Amazing Grace

Special Tribute Reverend Ronnie E. Herrell

First Baptist Church, Duarte, CA

Eulogy Reverend Derrick A. Scobey, Pastor

Ebenezer Baptist Church

Recessional Ministers, Funeral Directors, Family