

Celebrating the Life of

Melba Evans

Sunrise:

March 28, 1941



Sunset:

January 24, 2025

Thursday, February 13, 2025

Family Hour: 10:00 a.m. | Service: 11:00 a.m.

From the Heart Church Ministries®

5055 Allentown Road | Suitland, Maryland 20746

Bishop John A. Cherry, II - Pastor



Obituary

On Friday, January 24, 2025, Melba Evans made a peaceful transition to eternal life. She was born Melba Easterling on March 28, 1941, in Mobile, Alabama, to the late Curtis Easterling and Katherine Russell Easterling.

It was discovered through a cousin that Melba was musically inclined, and she began piano lessons at the age of 5. She excelled in her musical skills, and by age 9, after dedicating her life to Jesus Christ, Melba led her first children's choir at her local church in Mobile. This was the beginning of a lifelong passion for music. Over the years, she served as a church musician and music teacher, playing at various churches and civic events. She served at over 2,000 documented homegoing services and taught over 300 students from 5 to 80 years old, leaving a lasting impact on the musical community.

In 1954, she relocated to Gary, Indiana, to complete her high school years at Roosevelt High School. She had an adventurous and humorous spirit with hobbies she shared with her favorite cousin, Willie "Dick" Floyd Russell, which included motorcycle riding (Harley Davidson 350) for over 60 years, drag car racing in Indiana, and occasionally helping her uncle, Willie Floyd, Sr., drive 18-wheeler transit trucks for his business.

As a young person, Melba was active in the civil rights movement in Alabama, accompanying her mother and grandmother, Laura Katherine Russell, to historic events like Bloody Sunday on the Emmett Pettus Bridge in 1965, the March on Washington, and the lunch counter sit-ins in Mobile. Taught to be active in the civil rights movement, she had the opportunity to attend the historic event of Emmett Till's funeral with her best friend, Addie Rose Dunlap, in Chicago and served as an alternate musician. She graduated from Gary Roosevelt in 1958, continuing her musical studies at Indiana University Bloomington in music education, and acquired the ability to play 37 instruments with a concentration in organ. During her time at Gary Roosevelt, she met William Powell Garrett; the two shared a joint interest in piano. In 1960, they married while in college, and one daughter, Darmita Garrett, was born to their union.

After college, Melba continued her studies in music and metalogical sciences. She was employed at Inland Steel Corporation as a metalogical scientist. In 1987, she married Carey Evans of Ohio at Prayer House of Faith Church, where she served as the church choir director for 25 years.

Melba retired from Inland after 27 years of service in 1997 to move to Maryland to be close to her family and grandchildren. Melba joined From the Heart Church Ministries in 1997, taught music at From the Heart Christian School, and served in the Music Ministry, playing at homegoing services and church events. She also continued playing the organ for other churches and ministries in the Washington metropolitan area.

Melba was a loving and devoted mother and grandmother, always serving her family. Her grandchildren were the light of her life. She will be dearly missed by all who knew and loved her. Melba leaves to cherish her memory her daughter, Darmita Garrett Wilson of Bangor, Maine; bonus daughters, Antionette Green of Maryland, and Lane Garrett Henderson-Mainor of Michigan; grandchildren: Rebekah Wilson of New York, Renata Wilson of London, England, and Paul M. Wilson, II of Maryland; bonus granddaughter, Faith Jiles; nephews and niece: Michael Brazier, Newman Brazier, and Vivian Williams of Alabama; cousins: Sandy (Samuel, Sr.) Cook of Maryland, Jane (Gregory, Sr.) Reed Martin-Calhoun of Georgia, Carmen, Lawrence, Marlon Russell, and Tracy Russell Youngblood of Indiana; and a host of other relatives, friends, and students.

Melba was preceded in death by her sister, Thelma Brazier, and nephew, Bruce Easterling.

Order of Service

Invocation

Congregational Hymn “I’ll Fly Away”

Scripture Reading

Old Testament: Psalm 31:1-5

New Testament: John 14:1-6

Prayer of Comfort

Selection FTH Psalmist

Acknowledgements

Remarks

*Bishop Philip S. Watkins, Pastor
Greater Morning Star Apostolic Church*

Rebekah Wilson, Renata Wilson, Paul Wilson II, Grandchildren

*Reverend Michelle LeGrand, Pastor
New Life Family Fellowship Christian Church*

Darmita Wilson, Daughter

Obituary (Read Aloud) Ms. Antionette Green

Song of Preparation FTH Psalmist

Message of Hope Minister Vance Page

Call to Christ

Recessional

Interment
*National Harmony Memorial Park
7101 Sheriff Road | Hyattsville, MD 20785*





Family Sentiments

Dearest Ms. Melbi,

After my Mom gained her wings. You became my bonus Mom. I experienced love, support and concern when I needed it most. It was as if you were my own. I hope you'll always hold dear what your love and support meant to me. I know I will. I was truly blessed to have you in my life.

~ Love Toni Green, Family Friend

Mother Evans,

Trailblazer and Master of Music, mother, grandmother, sister and friend. She will be missed with her sassy responses in truth, but you will walk away feeling lighter. Rest in peace, Mother Evans.

~ Love, Patsy Walker, Family Friend

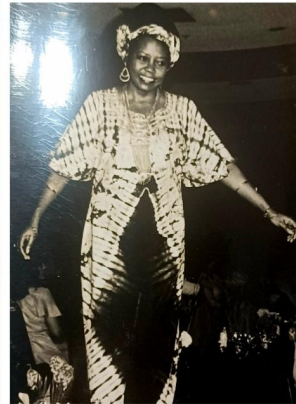
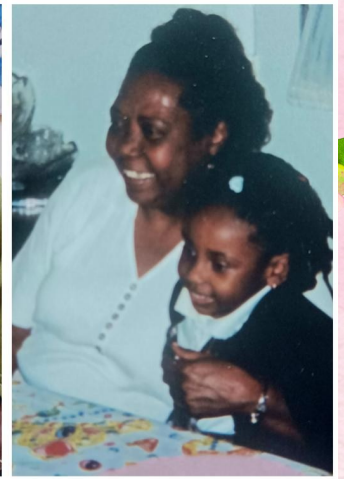
Our Dearest Melba,

Our hearts will forever overflow with warm memories of the incredibly wonderful times that we shared throughout the years. Your infectious smile was always welcomed. We delighted in your ability to seem to always know the perfect songs to play for whatever occasion. Your exquisite command of the piano brought us much joy. You touched both of our lives in such a special way. We praise God for bringing you into His heavenly Kingdom and knowing that we will be joining you at the appointed time.

~ Family Love, Larry & Jenice







Congregational Hymn



I'll Fly Away

*Some glad morning when this life is over, I'll fly away.
To a home on God's celestial shore, I'll fly away.*

Chorus

*I'll fly away, O, Glory, I'll fly away.
When I die, Hallelujah, by and by, I'll fly away.*

*When the shadow of this life have grown, I'll fly away.
Like a bird from prison bars has flown, I'll fly away.*

Chorus

*Just a few more weary days and then, I'll fly away
To a land where joy shall never end, I'll fly away*

Chorus (2x)

Acknowledgement

The family of Melba Evans acknowledges with deep appreciation every act of kindness and expression of love shown to us during our time of bereavement. May God richly bless you. We love you all.

Flower Bearers

Soulful Sister Circle

Services Entrusted to:

*Downeast Direct Cremation, LLC
254 Washington Street | Bangor, ME 04402*

