



Ms. Evangeline Willis Thomas

August 10, 1948 - May 30, 2024

Evangeline Willis Thomas was born in Sumter, South Carolina on August 10, 1948. She was the first child born to the late Levan and Rebecca Geddis Willis. She departed this life on Thursday, May 30, 2024. She was married to Anderson B. Thomas and with this union they have two sons.

Evangeline accepted Jesus Christ as her Savior at an early age and became a life member of Saint James United Methodist Church, Sumter, South Carolina. She loved her church. She was very active in the community (Pinedale Community Club), American Legion Auxiliary Post #202, and family reunions.

She graduated from Lincoln High School in 1967 and attended Morris College in Sumter, South Carolina. She worked at Sumter Parks and Recreation and in the Sumter School District for over thirty years. She retired and later returned as a Paraprofessional for a short time.

Evangeline was a storyteller. She would ask the children, "Who wants to go to story lane with me?" She gave them the rules and they all wanted to go. Evangeline composed several poems; a special one was sent to the former President of the United States, Barack Obama. President Obama responded with a letter of gratitude.

Evangeline seventieth birthday celebration, the former Mayor Joseph T. McElveen, Jr., declared August 10, 2018, as Evangeline Willis Thomas Day in the City of Sumter, South Carolina.

She loved shopping and was a fashionista (a person who follows trends in the fashion industry and continually adopts the latest fashions).

She took joy in serving her community through many unseen acts of kindness. She was a caring and giving person. She also enjoyed spending time with her family and church.

Evangeline leaves to cherish her memories; two sons, Anderson Bernard (Elenora) Thomas, and Kenneth Eugene (Mackenzie) Thomas, both from Dalzell, S.C.; four grandchildren; Bernard, Be'yonce, Breonna, Kynnedi; one great-grand, Sylas; one sister, Doris Willis Harvin, Fayetteville, N.C., and one brother, George L. (Angeletta) Willis, Lexington, S.C.; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, relatives and friends.

Evangeline was preceded in death by her sister, Beatrice Willis Dwyer and one brother-in-law, Easley Harvin.

Cemetery Details

Hillside Memorial Park

2561 Cains Mill Rd.
Sumter, SC 29150

Previous Events

Public Viewing

JUN 7. 1:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Palmer Memorial Chapel - Sumter
304 South Main Street
Sumter, SC 29150
(803) 773-3381
palmermemorialchapel@sc.rr.com
<https://www.palmermemorialchapel.com>

Funeral Service

JUN 8. 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM (ET)

St. James UMC Church
720 Broad Street
Sumter, SC 29150

Burial

JUN 8. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Hillside Memorial Park
3001 Cains Mill Rd
Sumter, SC

Tribute Wall

TF

“ *Our deepest sympathy and condolences and prayers to the family and relatives.* ”



Tammy Harrison Edwards and Family - June 08, 2024 at 03:27 AM

SW

“ *Evangeline was truly a remarkable friend and cousin. I will miss the nightly telephone conversation. Her beautiful personality will live forever in our hearts. From Shirley Washington* ”

Shirley Washington - June 07, 2024 at 05:45 PM

KW

“ *Katie G. Williams lit a candle in memory of Evangeline Thomas* ”



Katie G. Williams - June 07, 2024 at 12:04 PM

DT

“ *DIS Help Desk and Network Services Team purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Ms. Evangeline Willis Thomas.* ”



DIS Help Desk and Network Services Team - June 06, 2024 at 10:05 AM

AR

“ My condolences 🌸 to the Thomas family for the loss of their precious love one.
From Ann Ragin Sumter



Anniliza Ragin - June 06, 2024 at 12:34 AM

AR

“ Anniliza Ragin lit a candle in memory of Evangeline Thomas



Anniliza Ragin - June 06, 2024 at 12:30 AM

JH

“ Evangeline was a very nice person. I've known her for a very long time. She visited me, and we went to different functions at Church together. 2nd CORINTHIANS 5 and 8 says TO BE ABSENT FROM THE BODY IS TO BE PRESENT WITH THE LORD!!! This scripture has been a source of strength and comfort to me during my time of bereavement, praying that it will be the same for you and your family!!!

Janie Mae Holland - June 05, 2024 at 04:32 PM