



## Sarah Elizabeth Bethea Redden

April 1, 1948 - July 30, 2025

Sarah Elizabeth Bethea Redden, age 77, departed this earthly life on Wednesday, July 30, 2025, in Columbia, South Carolina, at Prisma Health Richland Hospital. Born on April 1, 1948, in Dillon, SC, Sarah was the second of eight children born to the late Samuel and Sarah Carmichael Bethea Sr. She was a proud graduate of Gordon High School, Class of 1966, in Dillon, SC. She earned her B.S. degree in Biology from Benedict College in 1971. While at Benedict, she pledged Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, embracing sisterhood, service, and scholarship. In 1969, she met the love of her life, Charlie Redden, and the two were joined in holy matrimony on April 3, 1971. Together, they shared 47 years of marriage until his passing in 2018. Following in the footsteps of her beloved mother, Sarah became a member of the Order of the Eastern Star P.H.A. (Queen Esther Chapter #1 for over 40 years), a past member of the Daughter's Auxiliary Cairo Court #125, and a past member of C. C. Johnson Assembly #1 (The Order of the Golden Circle), all examples of her deep-rooted commitment to faith, tradition, and service.

Professionally, Mrs. Redden devoted over 35 years of dedicated service as a Virologist to the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC). While there, she co-authored a book on sickle cells and researched and studied other genetic blood disorders. Even after retirement, she kept her oldest granddaughter for 2 years before her passion for community engagement led her to serve with the NAACP for 12 years.

Additionally, she volunteered her time at Bethel A.M.E. Columbia Learning Center in the after-school program. Affectionately known for her warm spirit and culinary gifts, Sarah found joy in baking and was especially known for her signature macaroni and cheese and fruit cake, dishes that brought comfort and connection to many. Sarah was an active member of the Bishops' Memorial African Methodist Episcopal Church, where she served in the following capacities: Steward Protem, Class Leader, Trustee Board, Women's Missionary, Church School member, and various committees.

In addition to her parents and husband, she was preceded in death by three siblings: Helen Bethea, David Paul Bethea, and Hattie Bethea Blackmon.

She leaves to cherish her legacy and memories of four devoted children, Ryan Leymone Bethea of Stjordal, Norway, Helen Ophelia Redden of Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, Dr. Charlotte Elizabeth (George) Hamilton of Blythewood, SC and Charlie Cornelius Redden, II of Columbia, SC; three beloved grandchildren, Gabriella Elizabeth Hamilton, Camille Ophelia Hamilton, and Samuel Jonove Bethea; two sisters, Lutricia Gadsen of Dillon, SC, and LaSandra (Robert) Bass of Florence, SC; two brothers, Samuel Lee Bethea of Dillon, SC and Derrick L. Bethea of Columbia, SC. Two sisters-in-law, Ms. Mary Redden of Philadelphia, PA, and Ms. Mary Sena Redden of Kingstree, SC, and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, extended relatives, and cherished friends.

Sarah Elizabeth Bethea Redden lived a life of grace, wisdom, and unwavering dedication to family, faith, and service. She will be deeply missed, yet her legacy will continue to inspire generations to come.

# Cemetery Details

## Memorial Gardens of Columbia

Columbia, SC

# Previous Events

## Visitation

AUG 4. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Palmer Memorial Chapel  
1200 Fontaine Place  
Columbia, SC 29223

## A Celebration of Life

AUG 5. 2:00 PM (ET)

Bishops Memorial AME Church  
2221 Washington Street  
Columbia, SC 29204

## Interment

AUG 5 (ET)

Memorial Gardens of Columbia  
Columbia, SC

# Tribute Wall

GF

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



**Gloria Harrison Brown and Family** - August 06, 2025 at 08:27 PM

TF

“ *The Gamble and Jackson Family purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Sarah Elizabeth Bethea Redden.* ”



**The Gamble and Jackson Family** - August 06, 2025 at 06:03 PM

TF

“ *The Gamble and Jackson Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Sarah Elizabeth Bethea Redden.* ”

**The Gamble and Jackson Family** - August 06, 2025 at 06:03 PM

GN

“ *Ms. Sarah was the sweetest and most kind lady that I have ever worked with. Love you, Ms. Sarah and I wish for your family strength and endurance during this difficult time. Gale Nash* ”

**Gale Nash** - August 05, 2025 at 03:27 PM

TR

“ *Tracie & Patsy Randolph purchased the Fiery Lily and Rose for the family of Sarah Elizabeth Bethea Redden.*



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**Tracie & Patsy Randolph** - August 04, 2025 at 09:23 PM

AB

“ *Annette Bethea McNair, Kareem & Bianca purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Sarah Elizabeth Bethea Redden.*



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**Annette Bethea McNair, Kareem & Bianca** - August 04, 2025 at 04:42 PM

TA

“ *With deepest condolences and prayers for strength and peace to the family, gone but never forgotten, she surely will be missed.*



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**The family of James Able** - August 04, 2025 at 03:49 PM

RM

“ *My condolences to the Family. She will be remembered and my prayers are with you all as you navigate through this difficult time.*

*Rosie Alford McCoy  
Gordon High School Class of 1966*

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**Rosie McCoy** - August 04, 2025 at 02:45 PM

RM

“ Rhonda Boone and Patricia Morgan purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Sarah Elizabeth Bethea Redden.



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**Rhonda Boone and Patricia Morgan** - August 04, 2025 at 08:56 AM

GF

“ Sending our deepest sympathy and condolences and prayers to the family and relatives and friends.



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**Gloria Harrison Brown and Family** - August 04, 2025 at 04:22 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Sarah Elizabeth Bethea Redden.



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August 04, 2025 at 02:59 AM

SC

“ I'm so sorry for your loss. Prayers for all of you during the difficult times ahead.

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**Stephanie Curry** - August 03, 2025 at 04:36 PM

CD

“ Cynthia D. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Sarah Elizabeth Bethea Redden.

Cynthia D. - August 03, 2025 at 11:41 AM

DS

“ DAC staff purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Sarah Elizabeth Bethea Redden.



DAC staff - August 02, 2025 at 03:31 PM

KF

“ Karen Traylor Brown and Family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Sarah Elizabeth Bethea Redden.



Karen Traylor Brown and Family - August 02, 2025 at 11:30 AM

TA

“ Dear Charlotte and family, I am so deeply sorry for your loss of your beloved mother. Though I only met her a time or two, I see how her commitment to community and love of family live on in all of you. Sending you comfort as you grieve the loss of a very special person. Warmly,  
Tina Alessandria



Tina Alessandria - August 01, 2025 at 09:50 PM

AS

“ *My condolences to the Redden Family*

Augustus Singleton - August 01, 2025 at 02:48 PM



“ *Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Sarah Elizabeth Bethea Redden.*



August 01, 2025 at 02:33 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Sarah Elizabeth Bethea Redden.*



August 01, 2025 at 11:25 AM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Sarah Elizabeth Bethea Redden.*

August 01, 2025 at 11:25 AM

VP

“ *To the Redden Family. Please accept my sincere condolences and may God continue to bless each of you. Sarah was such a sweet and loving ❤️ person. My association with her was her services with the SC State NAACP. In loving kindness. Vertelle Pondexter-Jamison*

Vertelle Pondexter-Jamison - August 01, 2025 at 10:14 AM

GR

“ *Gwendolyn Rush lit a candle in memory of Sarah Elizabeth Bethea Redden*



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**Gwendolyn Rush** - August 01, 2025 at 07:14 AM

VM

“ *Mrs. Sarah Redden was a very nice person. To the family, you have my sincere condolences. Ms. Velda Mack*

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**Velda Mack** - July 31, 2025 at 07:10 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Sarah Elizabeth Bethea Redden.*



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July 31, 2025 at 05:52 PM



“ *On behalf of the Carmichael-McClellan Reunion, we send our love and sorrow on the loss of a cherish member of our Family. It was just last year that Sarah was organizing the Reunion for the 2024 Carmichael-McClellan Reunion but was unable to complete the arrangements. Bernice Pittman Johnson.*

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**Bernice Johnson** - July 31, 2025 at 05:20 PM

JG

“ Jay, Tara, and Jared Givins purchased the Laven der Reflections Spray for the family of Sarah Elizabeth Bethea Redden.



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**Jay, Tara, and Jared Givins** - July 31, 2025 at 04:53 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Sarah Elizabeth Bethea Redden.



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July 31, 2025 at 04:52 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Sarah Elizabeth Bethea Redden.

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July 31, 2025 at 04:52 PM

DU

“ Donald Moss, Dean, Saybrook University purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Sarah Elizabeth Bethea Redden.



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**Donald Moss, Dean, Saybrook University** - July 31, 2025 at 03:42 PM

DU

“ Donald Moss, Dean, Saybrook University planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Sarah Elizabeth Bethea Redden.

Donald Moss, Dean, Saybrook University - July 31, 2025 at 03:42 PM

AA

“ Anthony Cochran,Robin Arnette&Family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Sarah Elizabeth Bethea Redden.



Anthony Cochran,Robin Arnette&Family - July 31, 2025 at 01:34 PM

AA

“ Anthony Cochran,Robin Arnette&Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Sarah Elizabeth Bethea Redden.

Anthony Cochran,Robin Arnette&Family - July 31, 2025 at 01:34 PM

RM

“ Sarah and I were childhood friends. We grew up together and attended school in Dillon County. She was a good friend and she will be greatly missed. (Gordon High School Class of 1966)

Rosie Alford McCoy

Rosie McCoy - July 31, 2025 at 10:37 AM

IA

“ Ibrahim Alhamzah purchased the Serenity Wreath for the family of Sarah Elizabeth Bethea Redden.



Ibrahim Alhamzah - July 31, 2025 at 03:59 AM

IA

“ Ibrahim Alhamzah planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Sarah Elizabeth Bethea Redden.

Ibrahim Alhamzah - July 31, 2025 at 03:59 AM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Sarah Elizabeth Bethea Redden.



July 31, 2025 at 02:54 AM

GF

“ Our sincere sympathy and condolences and prayers to the family and relatives and friends.



Gloria Harrison Brown and Family - July 31, 2025 at 02:24 AM

SM

“ *We'll never forget her smile that expressed her joy and happiness! Our deepest condolences! Love, The Wright and Moore families*



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**Sarah Wright Moore** - July 30, 2025 at 09:54 PM