

*Who can find a virtuous woman?
For her price is far above rubies. Proverbs 31:10*



Thelma PICKENS CLARK

October 6, 1920 - September 9, 2024



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LIFE REFLECTIONS

Thelma Pickens Clark was born on October 6, 1920, in Ozan, Arkansas, to Seneca and Lou Myrt Pickens. She was the youngest of four siblings, with three brothers—H.T, Monte, and Cleo—and one sister, Mel. Thelma's mother passed away when she was just 12 years old, and she was sent to live with her Uncle Andy and Aunt Nettie Pickens, who raised her as their own, along with their children.

Thelma attended elementary school in Ozan and graduated from Yeager High School in Hope, Arkansas. After high school, she moved to Poplar Bluff, Missouri, to continue her education, but fate intervened when she met and fell in love with L.E. (Lee) Clark. They were married in November 1939, and from their union, two daughters were born: Mildred Lee and Myrtle. Myrtle preceded her in death in 2010.

In 1943, Thelma and Lee moved to Chicago to seek greater opportunities and education for their daughters. Upon arriving in Chicago, Thelma quickly united with Southwestern Baptist Church under the leadership of Reverend B.H. January, becoming an active and devoted member of the Usher Board.

In Chicago, Thelma found employment in several positions before securing a role with the Kitchens of Sara Lee on Elston Avenue, where she was one of the original bakers. And yes, she could make a mean pound cake! She remained at Sara Lee until 1971, and it was there that she developed her keen interest in financial planning. Having been gifted with several shares of Sara Lee stock by the company's founder, Charles Lubin, Thelma continued to expand her portfolio over the years, including stock in Sears; where she worked part-time after leaving Sara Lee and moving to Libertyville, IL. Her financial wisdom became a cornerstone of her life, and she made sure to pass that knowledge on to her children and grandchildren, teaching them the importance of "paying what [you] owe" and being financially responsible.

Around this same time, Lee's work as a private chauffeur allowed them to adopt the snowbird lifestyle of wintering in Key Biscayne, Florida. This pattern of traveling south during the winter months and returning to Chicago after Easter became their norm for many years. Thelma loved their time in Florida, and she would look forward to the long drive down, stops along the way, enjoying the warmer weather and a relaxed pace of life.

Thelma was also known for her love of fashion, shopping, and traveling. She was always impeccably dressed and enjoyed attending fashion shows such as the annual Ebony Fashion Fair and other social events. She was a devoted mother and an indulgent grandmother, often taking her grandchildren on trips across the country to places like Washington, D.C., Canada, California, and of course, back to Ozan, Arkansas to name a few. Her trips to visit family in "the Harbor" East Chicago, Indiana, and daily phone calls with her cousin, Florida were among her favorite pastimes, as was spending time with her beloved sister-in-law, Bessie Clark.

In her spare time, Thelma enjoyed quilting, embroidering, and playing card games like Bid-whist, Pity Pat and Keno. She was also a lover of music and maintained an impressive collection of 33rpm and 78rpm records, which filled her home with the sounds of yesteryear.

Throughout her life, Thelma remained devoted to her church. She served Southwestern Baptist Church, now Miracle House of Prayer, faithfully for decades, under the leadership of five pastors. Her passion for the ministry and the church's vision was evident in her tireless efforts, whether selling banquet tickets, chicken dinners, hosting teas, or helping to raise funds for the building of the new church home. In her final role at the church, she served on the Mothers Board. Her dedication to her faith and community was unwavering, and she remained a pillar of strength for the congregation.

In 2016, at the age of 96, Thelma became a resident of Avantara of Evergreen Park. Though her ability to attend church services became limited, she continued to live with a vibrant spirit. Always determined to stay active, Thelma wheeled herself around the facility daily, visiting with other residents and attending her favorite Thursday Bingo games and beauty shop appointments, which were coordinated by special staff member and friend, Adrienne. Her sharp mind and strong will remained intact, and she took great joy in spending time with family and seeing her loved ones.

After Lee's passing in 1995, Thelma often spoke of the deep love she had for him and how much she missed him. Their marriage lasted 56 years, and she cherished every moment they shared together. They truly had a wonderful life.

Thelma leaves a legacy that spans five generations, including her daughter, Mildred Lee Washington; five grandchildren: Dr. JaTonya (Toni) Harris (Mark Sr.), Kimberly Robinson (Orlando), Dion Washington (Angie), Dr. Laron Washington, and Jennifer Lamptey (Prince pid); as well as 13 great-grandchildren, six great-great-grandchildren, and many nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends. She was also blessed by the kindness and frequent visits of Brother Tommie Little (Dorothy), a devoted member of her church, who often brought gifts and flowers during her later years.



A Life Well Lived



5 Generations



*"Even when I am old and gray, do not forsake me, my God, till
I declare your power to the next generation,
your mighty acts to all who are to come"*

Psalms 71:18



Mama,

You taught us what it means to live with grace, to give selflessly, and to love unconditionally.

Your wisdom and kindness shaped us into who we are today, and your love reached each of us in ways that words cannot fully express. We are forever grateful for the memories, the lessons, and the countless moments of joy we shared with you. Your generosity and care will live on in all of us.

Though we will miss you deeply, we carry your spirit within us. Rest peacefully, knowing that your teachings will continue to guide us for generations to come. You'll never be forgotten!

• **Love your Grand, Great
& Great-great grandchildren**

Mama,

As your child, I had the

extraordinary privilege of sharing 83 years by your side. Your love was steadfast, and your guidance unwavering, shaping me and all who were blessed to know you. You were my source of comfort, an anchor through life's storms, and a quiet but profound presence that remained until your very last breath.

Your legacy is one of resilience, compassion, and boundless kindness. In every challenge, you showed grace; in every joy, you shared your light. Your devotion to our family was immeasurable, and the lessons you imparted to us will live on for generations.

I am eternally grateful for the gift of your life, for the countless moments of wisdom and love that we shared. Though words feel inadequate, they are my humble offering of honor, love, and respect for a woman whose impact on this world and on my life is beyond measure.

Rest peacefully now, Mama. Your spirit remains with us, woven into the very fabric of who we are. We will carry your memory with us always, in our hearts and in the lives we live, forever grateful for all you gave to us. -

*Your loving daughter,
Mildred*

Saturday, September 21, 2024
10:00AM Visitation 11:00AM Service

Miracle House Of Prayer
8638 S. Michigan Avenue
Chicago, Illinois
Pastor: Reverend Dr. Keith Edwards

Prayer and Scripture: Elder Aaron Young -The Go Church

Musical Selection: Miracle House Of Prayer Choir

Obituary Reading: Mark Harris, Sr

Remarks and Memories (2-minute maximum per)

Musical Selection: Miracle House Of Prayer Choir

Eulogy: Reverend Dr. Dwight Craig

Final Reviewal: Nabors Family Funeral Home Directors

Interment

Mount Hope Cemetery
11500 South Fairfield

Repast

Lower level
Miracle House Of Prayer
immediately following burial

Pallbearers

Mark Harris Jr
Nahum Hickman
Glenn Hart

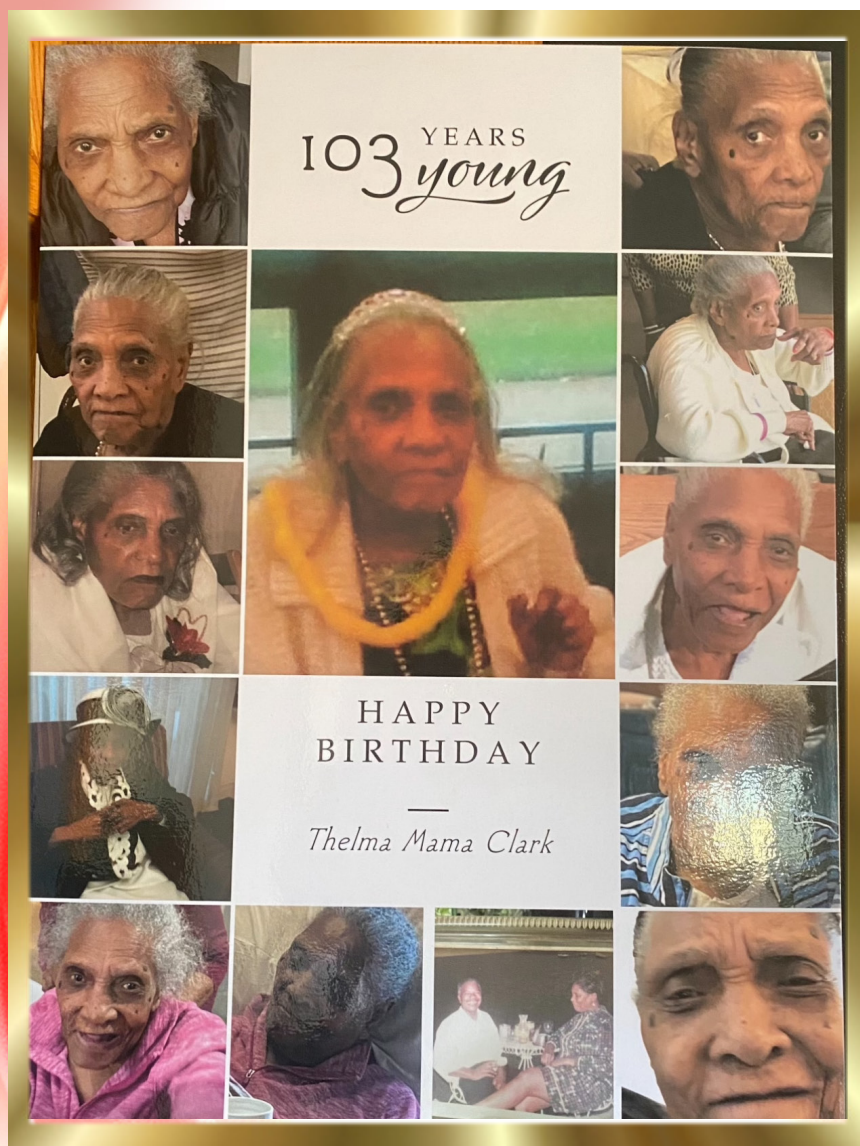
D'Angelo Anderson
Nicholas Washington
Ehric Washington

Honorary Pallbearers

Dion Washington
Laron Washington

Mark Harris Sr.
Kiera Long





*"Honor her for all that her
hands have done,
and let her works bring her
praise at the city gate."*

Proverbs 31:31

Acknowledgements

The family of Thelma Clark would like to express their sincere appreciation for your cards, phone calls, floral tributes, visits, prayers, and all other expressions of kindness shown during this time May God bless you all!

A very special thank you to Dr. Dwight D. Craig and our sincere appreciation to Pastor Keith Edwards and the Miracle House Of Prayer members.

Arrangements Entrusted to:

Nabors Family Funeral Home

Lillie Nabors, L.F.D.E.

470 W. 172nd St

Thornton, Illinois 60476

Office/Cell: 708-704-5023

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and Receive Greater.*

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