



## Ella May Weathers

May 1, 1928 - July 30, 2018

Ella May Jackson Weathers was born on May 1, 1928 to James P. and Lula Louise Jackson, the sixth of eleven children. She was born in her parents' bedroom in Reading, Pennsylvania. Her mom described her as, "a cute little baby that slept all day and stay up all night." She continued the pattern throughout her life. Mom often spoke about her fond memories of Reading. A thick blanket of snow always brought excitement and memories of sliding down the hill near her house in the snow. Her father taught her, at six years old, how to exchange money when selling newspapers on the corner. She got up every day before school and sold papers. One week she made 30 cents. This began her attitude toward saving money. A host of early experiences, such as these formed the industrious, tenacious, and untiring spirit we saw in Mom.

She married the late Reverend Joseph Tull and they relocated to Philadelphia. There she gave birth to a daughter, Deborah Ann Tull.

She and Reverend Tull later divorced and Ella and Deborah moved back to Reading.

She entered a nurses training program at Wernersville State Hospital, to support her young daughter. Ella landed her first job on the Psychiatric ward. She was responsible for calming down agitated and uncontrollable patients and putting them in an immersion tank. She loved working on the Psychiatric ward and had some wonderful stories to tell.

Industrious and visionary, she, in her early twenties, considered buying land to open up a restaurant across the street from Howard University. Before her venture could materialize, a terrible motor vehicle accident derailed her plans. The accident resulted in critical injuries—a fracture of the hip, patella, sternum, and skull, along with internal bleeding. Attendants placed her on the side of the hospital room to die. The next day the doctors were astonished she was alive, fighting for her life. Unconscious for twenty-nine days, they thought she would be a total "vegetable" and never walk or talk again. They did not know Ella May! Not only did she walk again, those injured legs marched with Martin Luther King Jr. to fight for civil rights. She walked the entire neighborhood to raise 36 pints of blood for a young boy with an unusual blood disease. She delivered Meal on Wheels for

seniors. Those legs stood for hours in her husband's office while he sutured patients. She walked back and forth soothing many babies, as a nurse, in The Well Baby Clinic where she worked. Not only did she talk again, she became an advocate for Domestic Violence Victims and for women. She used her voice to help keep the Catholic Schools open. She organized raffles, sold chicken dinners, held festivals. One summer, she raised over five thousand dollars to keep the doors of the school open. Not only did she regain her mental faculties, she became campaign manager for several elected Aldermen. She registered hundreds of people to vote. In 2000, she made 1,964 calls for her political party. Nothing was going to keep her from recovering and from living her fullest life. That industrious spirit and God Almighty keep her going.

While living her fullest life, she met Dr. William Weathers, and after dating briefly, they were married. He was a Captain in the U.S. Army. After several years of traveling in the military, they ended their travels in Louisville, Kentucky in 1961. Mom devoted the rest of her nursing career to her husband's practice. The first week of his practice, he did not have one patient. Mom went door to door to promote his practice. She handed out cards to everyone and told them, "There is a good looking doctor in town." When patients came to the office and saw her there they would say, "What are you doing here?" Mom told them, "That good looking doctor is my husband." She built his practice from no patients to the point they had to turn away patients.

Two things you knew if you visited Ella's house. First, you were going to experience great southern hospitality and gain five to seven pounds. Mom was a true "Kentucky Gal." Whatever on the menu, ribs or cake and ice cream, she served you with flair, insisted you eat seconds, and you prepared a plate to take home. No matter if it was seven people or seventy, she never ran out of food or Kentucky Bourbon. Second, you knew you were going to the horse races. She loved Kentucky horses and threw extravagant Kentucky Derby parties. There is a saying in Kentucky, "Kentucky is the land of beautiful women and fast horses." Some people say it is "the land of beautiful horses and fast women." Pick your choice.

Ella traveled and lived all over the world. She survived the typhoons of Okinawa. She watched the beautiful rains come down in Japan. Mom sat on the shores of Korea. She toured all of Germany and The Black Forest. She drank Pina Coladas on the beaches of Antigua and Montserrat. She marveled at Anne Frank's home in Amsterdam. She camped out at the foot of the Eiffel Tower in Paris with her grandson William. Twenty years ago, she joined her daughter, Vivian, in North Carolina.

The biggest joys of her life were her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and

great-great grandchildren. She was so proud of her four daughters, the fruits of her labor. Ella would tell anyone who would listen about her girls. When Deborah first became a Methodist Minister, Mom told everyone Deborah “could preach better than T. D. Jakes.” When Rita was an accountant for Habitat for Humanity, Mom told all her friends “the only reason people were able to get free housing is because Rita managed the books.” When Vivian joined the faculty at East Carolina University, Mom told everybody “Vivian ran the whole school of Medicine.” The moment Denise became President of the Board of Alderman, Mom told everyone “Denise was more important than the Mayor of Louisville”. Ella Weathers was a trailblazer from the first day of her life to her last 90 years.

Ella leaves to celebrate her life two sisters, Mrs. Ruth Jackson of Reading, Pennsylvania; Mrs. Shirley Jackson of Maryland; four daughters, Reverend Deborah Speakes of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Mrs. Rita Mason and her husband, retired CMSAF Maurice Mason , Jr. of Richmond, Kentucky; Dr. Vivian Weathers-Bryant and her husband Dr. Dwayne Bryant of Apex, North Carolina; and, The Honorable Denise Bentley of Louisville, Kentucky;

seven grandchildren, Jamal Speakes and his wife Bernadette; William Robinson and his wife Kristie; Michael Robinson and his wife Brandy; Jeremiah Speakes and his wife Toya; Maurice Mason III and his wife Beth; Candice Bentley-Braxton and her husband Xavier; Marcus Bentley, and James Mason; thirteen great grandchildren, Ashley Miller and her husband Shakil; Sharar Speakes, Amber Robinson, Dymond Robinson, Jamal Speakes, Jr., Michael Robinson, Jr., Hazel Speakes, Aleyah Bentley, Jade Robinson, Zander Mason, Ezekiel Robinson, Jeremiah Speakes, Jr., and William Robinson, Jr.; three great-great grandchildren, Jayceon Miller, Camerie Fishback, and Callie Miller.

It takes a village to care for an aging senior. Everyone tries to do their part. A few people deserve a honorable mention. William Robinson came over to his grandmother’s house every night, for four years, to watch television and eat a bowl of ice cream. Ashley Miller gave up a summer to help her great grandmother. Yolanda Morris, Delores Plummer, and Fatima Bardon assisted with Mom through the years. Dr. Dwayne Bryant, her son-in-law, supervised her medical care in the hospital, sat with her in the emergency room, took her to the doctor, help pay for her care, and laughed with her when he fed her dinner . A very special thank you for Rex Rehab and Nursing Care for the excellent care they gave Mom.

# Cemetery

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## Raleigh Memorial Park

Glenwood Avenue

Raleigh, NC,

# Events

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**AUG 11** **Viewing and Visitation** 10:00AM - 12:00PM

**11**

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Renaissance Funeral Home and Cremation  
7615 Six Forks Rd, Raleigh, NC, US, 27615

**AUG 11** **Funeral Service** 12:00PM

**11**

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Renaissance Funeral Home and Cremation  
7615 Six Forks Rd, Raleigh, NC, US, 27615

# Comments

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“ 8 files added to the album Funeral Program



**Renaissance Funeral Home** - August 13, 2018 at 04:39 PM

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“ My prayers are with you cousins Debbie, Vivian, Rita and Denise. I will never forget the many wonderful times spent with your mother as she hosted her gatherings. Aunt Ella, was instrumental in my involvement in politics and assisted me in obtaining, my first political job, She would help anyone with a need. I will forever be grateful.

We, the Thompson family, have been overwhelmed by the magnitude of her love. Know that we are forever thankful.

May He be glorified,

Ron, Sharon and Chelsey

**Sharon Thompson** - August 10, 2018 at 12:53 PM

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“ Love and Blessings...Ron..Sharon..Chelsey Thompson purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Ella May Weathers.



**Sharon Thompson** - August 10, 2018 at 11:34 AM

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“ The Class Leaders of Bethel AME Church of Lansdowne PA are praying for our Pastor Deborah Tull Speakes and family for comfort during this time . Find comfort in knowing God has your mother in His arms. We love you!  
The Class Leaders



Valerie Lynne - August 08, 2018 at 09:14 PM

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“ To Rev. Deborah Tull-Speakes & Family,  
To my dearest family, some things I'd like to say...  
but first of all, to let you know, that I arrived okay.  
I'm writing this from heaven. Here I dwell with God above.  
Here, there's no more tears of sadness; here is just eternal love.  
Please do not be unhappy just because I'm out of sight.  
Remember that I'm with you every morning, noon and night.  
That day I had to leave you when my life on earth was through,  
God picked me up and hugged me and He said, "Ella, I welcome you."  
It's good to have you back again; you were missed while you were gone.  
As for your dearest family, they'll be here later on.  
I need you here badly; you're part of my plan.  
There's so much that we have to do, to help our mortal man.  
God gave me a list of things that he wished for me to do.  
And foremost on the list, was to watch and care for you.  
As you lie in bed at night, the day's chores put to flight.  
God and I are closest to you....in the middle of the night.  
When you think of my life on earth, and all those loving years  
because you are only human, they are bound to bring you tears.  
But do not be afraid to cry; it does relieve the pain.  
Remember there would be no flowers, unless there was some rain.  
I wish that I could tell you all that God has planned.  
But if I were to tell you, you wouldn't understand.  
But one thing is for certain, though my life on earth is o'er.  
I'm closer to you now, than I ever was before.  
There are many rocky roads ahead of you and many hills to climb;  
but together we can do it by taking one day at a time.  
It was always my philosophy and I'd like it for you too...  
that as you give unto the world, the world will give to you.  
If you can help somebody who's in sorrow and pain,  
then you can say to God at night....."My day was not in vain."  
And now I am contented....that my life has been worthwhile,  
knowing as I passed along the way, I made somebody smile.  
So if you meet somebody who is sad and feeling low,  
just lend a hand to pick them up, as on your way you go.  
When you're walking down the street, and you've got me on your mind;  
I'm walking in your footsteps only half a step behind.

And when it's time for you to go.... from that body to be free,  
remember you're not going.....you're coming here to me.

Ruth Ann Mahaffey (author) Copyright 1998-2009

Sorrowfully,  
Raymond & Joan Charles

Joan C Charles - August 08, 2018 at 03:18 PM

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“ To Rev. Deborah Tull-Speakes and family:  
We are deeply saddened by the loss of your Mother. When we lose a loved one here on earth, we gain an angel in heaven that watches over us. May you take comfort in knowing that you have an angel to watch over you now. We extend our most sincere condolences to you. Take comfort in knowing that she is resting in the arms of our Lord.

Sorrowfully,  
Raymond & Joan Charles

Joan C Charles - August 08, 2018 at 03:10 PM

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“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Ella May Weathers.



August 08, 2018 at 08:40 AM

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“ I will never forget Mrs. Weather's hospitality.



Kathy Newby - August 06, 2018 at 11:10 PM

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“ Mary Jackson-Waters lit a candle in memory of Ella May Weathers



Mary Jackson-Waters - August 06, 2018 at 01:43 AM

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“ We, the Steward Board of Bethel A.M.E.Church-Lansdowne, extend our most heartfelt sympathy to our beloved Pastor Deborah Tull Speakes in the passing of her mother. You and your family are in our thoughts and prayers during this most difficult time.

Sorrowfully,  
Valerie Lindsey Beulah  
Nicole Foushee  
Katty Gordon  
Wilbert Prattis

Valerie Beulah - August 04, 2018 at 06:06 PM