

## When Tomorrow Starts Without Me

*When tomorrow starts without me, and I'm not here to see,  
If the sun should rise and find your eyes, filled with tears for me.*

*I wish so much you wouldn't cry the way you did today,  
while thinking of the many things we didn't get to say.*

*I know how much you love me, as much as I love you,  
and each time you think of me, I know you'll miss me too.*

*When tomorrow starts without me, please try to understand  
That an angel came and called my name and took me by the hand*

*The angel said my place was ready in heaven far above  
And that I'd have to leave behind all those I dearly love.*

*But when I walked through Heaven's gate, I felt so much at home*

*When God looked down and smiled at me from His great golden throne.*

*He said, "This is eternity and all I've promised you."  
Today my life on earth is past, but here it starts anew*

*I promise no tomorrow but today will always last  
And since each day's the same day, there's no longing for the past.*

*So when tomorrow starts without me, don't think we're far apart,  
For every time, you think of me, I'm right there in your heart.*

## Pallbearers

Paul Holmes  
Saquan Gordon  
Chayce Gordon

Kevin Washington  
Cameron Gordon  
Chance Nesbitt

Dan Woodruff

## Floral Bearers

Family and Friends

## Acknowledgement

We, the family of Mrs. Leila McClain Washington, would like to thank each of you for your prayers, love, and support shown to us during the passing of our loved one. It is our prayer that the Lord blesses each of you in a very special way.

A life well lived,  
A heart so kind,  
Grandma's love  
Will always be found.  
Though now she rests,  
Her spirit bright  
Shines on us,  
A guiding light.

## *Homegoing Service Celebrating the Life of*

**MRS. LEILA MCCLAIN WASHINGTON**



**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 13, 2025  
11:00 A.M.**

**BROOKLAND BAPTIST CHURCH  
1066 SUNSET BOULEVARD  
WEST COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA**

**REVEREND DR. CHARLES B. JACKSON, SR.  
-PASTOR-**

### CONTACT US:

Taylor Street Chapel  
803-771-7799

Lower Richland Chapel  
803-776-6922

WWW.LEEVY.COM

I. S. Leevy Johnson  
-Owner-

Services Entrusted To:

**Leevy's**  
Chris Leevy Johnson  
-Managing Director-

SIGN THE ONLINE REGISTRY:



Leverette A. Williams, II  
-General Manager-

# Obituary

Mrs. Leila McClain Washington was born on November 18, 1938, in Dunbar, South Carolina, with the assistance of her aunt, Annie Liza McClain Johnson, a midwife. She was the first child of the late Ernest and Mary Eliza McLeod McClain and was affectionately known as "Lee." From the very beginning, she was her parents' pride and joy.

At the age of three, Leila and her family moved from South Carolina to New Jersey, where she spent the next ten years and welcomed four siblings: James "Buddy," Ernest "Junior," Alton, and her only sister Margaret. Eventually, the growing family moved to Brooklyn, New York, where Leila welcomed her baby brother, Theodore.

Leila attended Clara Barton High School in Brooklyn and, after graduating, began working as a telephone operator at Bell Telephone Company in New York City. One day, while out with her cousins Otis and Loretta Lynch, a charming young man named Waymond "Ray" Washington noticed her. He asked her cousin Otis for an introduction, and after six weeks of courtship, "Ray" proposed to her. Leila and Ray married on July 11, 1959, in Brooklyn, New York, in a beautiful ceremony surrounded by family and friends, albeit two hours late due to the groom's tardiness. Out of their union, they welcomed five children: Crystal, Donna, Paul, James "Gee," and Regina, and her love only grew with each new addition. The family eventually settled in Queens, New York, where "Ray" and "Lee" hosted family gatherings with delicious food, great company, and an abundance of love.

From an early age, Leila was taught to trust and serve God. She attended Saint John's Fire Baptized Holiness Church in Brooklyn, where she was baptized and dedicated her life to Christ. Leila often reflected on her mother's prayers and instilled the same faith in her children. While living in Queens, Leila and her family became members of Lemuel Haynes Congregational Church, which served as their church home until they relocated to the South.

In 1992, after "Ray's" retirement, Leila and "Ray" moved to Columbia, South Carolina. Their priority was finding a church home, which led them to Brookland Baptist Church, where Leila joined the Deaconess Board. Due to her love for children, she opened her home as a babysitting business, caring for over 50 newborns, infants, and young children from 1994 to 2009. The families of those children became extended members of Leila's family, and she maintained relationships with them as they grew.

Leila had many interests, including bowling, watching Jeopardy, Wheel of Fortune, and reruns of Cops. An avid card player, she particularly enjoyed Spades and Bid Whist. Coming from a musical family, she loved all genres of music, with a special fondness for Gospel and Blues.

Leila transitioned to join the Ancestors on August 2, 2025, surrounded by her loving husband, Waymond "Ray," her two children, Donna and James, and her second-oldest grandchild, Kevin, in her home in Columbia, South Carolina. She was preceded in death by her parents, Ernest McClain and Missionary Mary Eliza McClain; her three brothers, Theodore, Alton, and James; and her sister, Margaret.

Leila leaves behind her husband, Waymond "Ray"; her brother, Ernest "Junior"; five sisters-in-law; and one brother-in-law. She is survived by her children: Crystal, Donna, Paul, James "Gee" (Dwan), and Regina (Dante); eighteen grandchildren; and seventeen great-grandchildren whom she adored. Additionally, she is survived by three goddaughters and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, great-nieces, and great-nephews. Leila is also remembered by two special neighbors, Dan and Lindsay, who cared for and honored her greatly.

# Memories



# A Service of Remembrance

Musical Prelude....."Total Praise" .....Mr. Michael Gramby, Organist  
 Processional  
 Viewing.....Funeral Directors  
 Congregational Hymn....."Blessed Assurance"  
 Video Montage.....Brookland Baptist Church Media Ministry  
 Scripture Readings.....Minister Jerome Bracey, Brookland Baptist Church  
 Old Testament - Psalm 27:1  
 New Testament - Colossians 4:2-6  
 Prayer of Comfort.....Deacon Donald Turner, Jr., Brookland Baptist Church  
 Musical Selection.....Ms. Alexa Dancy, Granddaughter  
 "Change Me Oh God"  
 Reading of Obituary.....Mr. Arthur Fennell, Cousin  
 Solo.....Ms. Takiya Ballard, Niece  
 "His Eye Is On The Sparrow"  
 Words of Comfort.....Reverend Dr. Charles B. Jackson, Sr.  
 Solo.....Ms. Eboni Huggins  
 "I Don't Know About Tomorrow"  
 Recessional  
 Postlude



## Committal, Benediction and Interment

1:00 p.m.  
 Fort Jackson National Cemetery  
 4170 Percival Road  
 Columbia, South Carolina