

Our Matriarch

She was the root from which we grew,
A woman of faith, steadfast and true.
A mother, grandmother, great-grandmother
dear,
Whose love and wisdom still linger near.
With gentle hands and strength untold,
She taught us lessons worth more than gold.
Through sacrifice, hard work, and prayer,
She showed us how to love and care.
Her footsteps carried dignity and grace,
Leaving light in every place.
A trailblazer in Al-Islam's way,
Guiding her family night and day.
She chose the blessed name Maryam,
A name of devotion, peace, and Islam.
Like the honored woman of Sura Nineteen,
Her faith was steadfast, pure, and serene.
She lived the oneness of Allah with pride,
Keeping His mercy close by her side.
Her legacy is woven deep
In every promise we will keep.
Dedication, commitment, a hardworking soul,
A woman who made broken spirits whole.
Though our hearts ache with sorrow today,
Her love will never fade away.
For a matriarch's spirit does not depart—
She lives forever in each heart.
She will be missed by so many near and far,
Yet never forgotten for the blessing she was.
And through generations still to come,
Her light, her faith, her work lives on.

Grandchildren:

Naimah Allen (Raymond Allen)
Kamal Marshall
Tyesha Wilkins
Kasib Marshall
Taheerah Rogers
Raushanda Jones
Surayyah Mack
Saleemah Marshall
Takiya Rogers
Khalil Mack
Yusef Rogers
Mahlia Shareef
Azizah Codner
Sajjaad Marshall
Jamahl Shareef Jr.
James Nixon
Joshua Canaan



IN
LOVING
Memory

of
Hajjah Maryam Elizabeth
Shareef



Sunrise: October 14, 1942 Sunset: May 10, 2026

Wednesday, May 13, 2026

1:00 p.m.

Leevy's Funeral Home Chapel

1831 Taylor Street

Columbia, South Carolina

Brother Ahmed Lake, Officiating

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

Life's Reflections

It is with deep sorrow and heartfelt love that we announce the passing of Hajjah Maryam Elizabeth Shareef, of Winnsboro, South Carolina, who entered eternal rest on May 10, 2026.

Maryam was truly the definition of a matriarch — a pillar in her community whose love, generosity, and wisdom touched countless lives. She prided herself on being a caregiver in every aspect of her life. Whether she was giving a stranger a ride, providing food and groceries to neighbors, or simply offering comfort and guidance, Maryam carried herself with compassion and grace. To know her was to experience true generosity.

Born on October 14, 1942, Maryam graduated early from McCroy-Liston High School before relocating to Connecticut as a young woman. During her time there, **She Was Introduced To Islam And Became The First Person In Her Family To Embrace The Faith — A Decision That Would Help Shape Generations To Come.** While living in Connecticut, she met the love of her life, James D. Thaxton-Shareef (known as “Big Daddy” to children & grandchildren). The two shared 37 beautiful years of marriage before his passing in the month of Ramadan. Maryam was a hardworking and dedicated woman who served as a state employee for over 30 years. She was also a proud entrepreneur, who owned her own convenience store and nursing home. Her work ethic, independence, and determination were admired by all who knew her. She also went to “Hajj,” which is one of the 5 pillars of Al-Islam. A spiritual journey all Muslims are obligated to attend, if possible, in their lifetime. One of Maryam’s greatest joys in life was cooking and gardening. Feeding others was her love language. Her kitchen was a place where family, friends, and even strangers were welcomed with warmth and a good meal. Her presence made people feel at home. Leaving behind a legacy of unforgettable memories are her beloved children, Kalimah Shareef (Doudou Bah), Sakinah Shareef-Mack (the late Ralph Mack), Zakiyyah Shareef, Baheerah Shareef, Jemina Shareef, Jamahl Shareef (Ivy Shareef), and Najeebah Shareef ; seven siblings; fifteen (15) grandchildren; twenty-six (26) great-grandchildren; along with a host of extended family members, friends, neighbors, and loved ones, whose lives she impacted deeply.

In addition to her husband, Maryam was preceded in death by her parents, Otis Watts and Hadiyah Muwwakkil (Ella Lou Watts); her siblings, Willie Watts, Elijah Watts, and Bertha Warren. Hajjah Maryam Elizabeth Shareef’s legacy of love, faith, service, and generosity will continue to live on through all who were blessed to know her. She will be deeply missed and forever remembered.

Memories



A Service of Remembrance

Opening Prayer Al-Fatihah.....Brother Ahmed Lake
 Expression of Gratitude.....Kalimah Shareef
 Poem.....*Our Matriarch*.....Children
 Remembrance.....Grandchildren
 Words of Comfort.....Brother Ahmed Lake
 Prayer for the Deceased
 Closing Prayer.....Brother Ahmed Lake

SURA 2:248

REMARKS & REFLECTIONS WILL BE MADE
 AT MASJID AL-SALAAM.