



Willie Dorothy Ensley

January 11, 1925 - January 2, 2021

The Life of Willie Dorothy Ensley

Ecclesiastes 3: 1-8

To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven;

Ecclesiastes 3:2 - A time to be born, and a time to die....

Willie Dorothy Ensley (Martin) was born on January 11, 1925 in Belhaven, N.C. to her mother, Pearl Hemby and father, William Whitehurst. Dorothy was nurtured by her grandmother Lucy Martin. They shared a special bond for each other and a fondness for St. Mary's Episcopal Church. There, Dorothy gave her life to Christ at an early age. While at home in Southfield, MI and just 9 days before her 96th birthday, Dorothy peacefully transitioned to her eternal rest.

Ecclesiastes 3:2 - A time to plant....

Dorothy graduated in 1943 from Beauford High where she became one of their homecoming queens. Dorothy captured the attention of Rufus Ensley while attending a high school basketball game and at his high school prom, Rufus proposed to Dorothy. She accepted his proposal and agreed to wait until he returned from his service his Naval service to become his wife. While waiting on the love of her life, Dorothy moved to New York and reunited with

her mother, Pearl Anderson. While there, Dorothy honed skills to become a secretary and on February 4, 1946 Dorothy and Rufus were united in holy matrimony. This marriage was blessed with one adored son, Calvin.

Ecclesiastes 3:2 - A time to pluck up that which was planted....

Willie, affectionately called Dottie, dedicated her life to Christ, her husband, family, and the Episcopal Church. She was a strong and unmovable supporter of her loved ones and church family. She demanded respect and stood firm on her beliefs. She was devoted to her principals and loyal to family and friends. For years, Dottie worked as a real estate secretary for Kovabo Real Estate Company. She later dedicated 22 years of service to Fazio and Son's Oil Company as a highly respected office manager. Dottie then moved on to work as a Cardiogram Technician at King's County Memorial Hospital in New York for 5 years before she retired in 1978.

For over 30 years, alongside her husband, Dottie could be seen regularly on Sundays serving and worshiping at St. Thomas Episcopal Church or St. Augustine Episcopal Church in Brooklyn, New York. During her dedicated years of service at St. Thomas, Dottie was a Senior Warden and served on the Rector's Guild. As a result of her years of uncompromised commitment, Dorothy was presented with the Episcopal Church's highest honor, The Bishop's Cross, for her unwavering dedication and service to the church. Although Dottie was very proud of this honor and acknowledgement, she continued to serve her church with distinction. After relocating to Southfield, MI, Dottie attended St. David's Episcopal Church, where she brought the same spirit and eagerness to serve.

Ecclesiastes 3:5 - A time to gather stones together, a time to embrace...

Dorothy's mission in life was to serve God, her church and family with excellence. By her husband's side, she committed to work hard in life, and to enjoy the journey. She enjoyed attending events and affairs and socializing with her church family.

Her dream wedding came true when she renewed her vows after 50 years of marriage. Together with her true love, they were blessed to celebrate 70 years of marital bliss. She personally selected her 50th wedding anniversary gown for her home going celebration. Together they enjoyed over 13 cruises to various islands on some of the newest and largest ships of their time. In her personal time, Dottie loved planning trips for groups in the church and organized several group trips for many to enjoy. She also enjoyed sharing great conversation with close friends.

Ecclesiastes 3:8 - A time to love, a time of peace...

Dorothy leaves to celebrate and cherish her beautiful spirit: her devoted son, Calvin Ensley (Jacqueline), 2 loving granddaughters, Sherri Johnson (James) and Robin Anderson, 6 great-grandchildren (Caleb, Joshua, Michael, Leah, Myles and Ryan), 2 God sons, Paul Watford (Brenda) and Tommie McGee (Florence), an adopted son, Richard Pina along with a host of life-long devoted family and friends.

LIVESTREAMING INSTRUCTIONS FOR FUNERAL SERVICES AT ST.

DAVID'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH: Please click the link below to view services at St. David's.

<http://stdavidssf.infiplex.com/worship-protocol>

St. David's Episcopal is limiting visitors to 10.

Cemetery Details

Elmwood Cemetery

1200 Elmwood Street
Detroit, MI 48207

Previous Events

Visitation

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

Kemp Funeral Home & Cremation Services
24585 Evergreen Rd
Southfield, MI 48075
(248) 702-5367
info@kempfh.com
<https://www.kempfuneralhome.com>

Family Hour

JAN 9. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

St. David's Episcopal Church
16200 W Twelve Mile Rd
Southfield, MI 48076

Funeral Service

JAN 9. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. David's Episcopal Church
16200 W Twelve Mile Rd
Southfield, MI 48076

Tribute Wall



“ *Kemp Funeral Home & Cremation Services created a Visitation for Willie Ensley in memory of Willie Dorothy Ensley*



Kemp Funeral Home & Cremation Services - January 08, 2021 at 04:16 PM

MA

Not many 13 year olds can say they got to meet there great grandmother. But I can, grandma was such a great influence she always wanted me to be the best I can be. Just a few days before her passing I got to talk to my great grandmother and I'm glad I did! Every thanksgiving we would go down to Detroit Michigan to see not only my grandmother and grandfather but my great grandmother as well. Grandma will be missed and forever loved and I'm glad I got to know her.

Michael Anderson - January 08, 2021 at 04:38 PM

 Vela Amerson

Mr and Mrs Ensley was like family to me, they were loving, kind, and gave me advice when necessary. Mother Ensley would call me once or twice a week to go to the Casino which she loved to do. When mother E got sick and was unable to do much I remembered Calvin and Jackie made it possible for her to have went to casino with many help, it was difficult but she was very happy. I will miss her. I am glad I met her and her husband. RIP mother Ensley.

Vela Amerson - January 09, 2021 at 10:06 AM



“ *Willie Dorothy Ensley*

September 27, 2022 at 08:40 PM



“ *Willie Dorothy Ensley*

September 27, 2022 at 06:52 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Willie Dorothy Ensley.*



January 10, 2021 at 05:47 PM



“ *Calvin and Jackie,
May happy, precious memories of your mother provide comfort
through your
times of sadness. Although we are miles apart, you are in my
thoughts, heart and prayers.*

*Dr. Louise Campbell,
Savannah GA.*

Dr. Louise Campbell - January 09, 2021 at 02:36 AM

TG

“ What can we say? We have been privileged to call Mrs. Ensley our friend! What a spunky, witty, thoughtful and generous person! We have so many fond memories of the time we spent not only w/ Mrs. Ensley, but also Mr. Ensley. They enriched our lives in so many ways...sharing vacations together, many dinners and a very special 50th Anniversary Celebration. She was a planner and had great taste...everything was always first class! Who hires opera singers from the NYC Metropolitan Opera for a 50th Anniversary Celebration? Mrs. E!!!! Who planned vacations/cruises and invited, not only family, but very lucky friends? Mrs. E. We will miss her so very much!

Roy & Theresa Green

Theresa & Roy Green - January 08, 2021 at 03:45 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Willie Dorothy Ensley.



January 07, 2021 at 12:34 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Willie Dorothy Ensley.



January 07, 2021 at 12:00 AM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Willie Dorothy Ensley.*



January 06, 2021 at 11:53 PM



“ *Mother i miss you so much we'd talk two times or more everyday you gave me an honor that i don't know what i did to deserve you called me your adopted son and with Calvin has a brother and Jackie as a sister that is a special honor , there are so many things we talked about and shared has we shopped or just drove around ,one evening in particular you dad and I were watching your beloved Yankees in the playoffs and we all fell asleep you suddenly woke up and i was still asleep in dad's chair you looked at me in a panic startled saying how'd you get in here , now I'm up and so was dad my heart was pounding has you said did i break in dad started to laugh his hardy laugh and you started to smile my heart started to relax and your beloved Yankees won, you taught me about picking out good pole beans , cabbage and too many things to mention, I wish that i could tell you that every second with you was special , your now in Heaven with dad looking down at us all guiding our every step , I wanted end by saying I love you ❤️ “RIH”
Your son Richard 💧*



Richard Pina - January 06, 2021 at 11:45 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Willie Dorothy Ensley.*



January 06, 2021 at 07:27 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Willie Dorothy Ensley.*



January 06, 2021 at 03:50 PM



“ *The Brigettes Group Detroit Michigan purchased the Sunny Memories for the family of Willie Dorothy Ensley.*



The Brigettes Group Detroit Michigan - January 06, 2021 at 01:00 PM



“ *I am deeply sadden to hear that Mrs. Ensley has Transition to be with the Lord. I am happy that I got a chance to speak to her before Christmas, December, 2020. I enjoyed our talks and seeing her throughout the years that I knew her. Rest in Peace now and you will be with Mr. Ensley. A Friend, Laverne*

Laverne Porter - January 06, 2021 at 12:44 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Willie Dorothy Ensley.*



January 06, 2021 at 12:24 PM



“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



Robin Ensley Anderson - January 06, 2021 at 11:31 AM



“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



Robin Ensley Anderson - January 06, 2021 at 11:31 AM



“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



Robin Ensley Anderson - January 06, 2021 at 11:30 AM

RA

“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



Robin Ensley Anderson - January 06, 2021 at 11:30 AM

RA

“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



Robin Ensley Anderson - January 06, 2021 at 11:29 AM

RA

“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



Robin Ensley Anderson - January 06, 2021 at 11:29 AM

RA

“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



Robin Ensley Anderson - January 06, 2021 at 11:28 AM

RA

“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



Robin Ensley Anderson - January 06, 2021 at 11:28 AM

RA

“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



Robin Ensley Anderson - January 06, 2021 at 11:28 AM

RA

“ 1 file added to the *tribute wall*

Robin L Anderson - January 06, 2021 at 11:17 AM

RA

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall

Robin L Anderson - January 06, 2021 at 11:16 AM

JP

“ Jacquie & Armand Parchment purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Willie Dorothy Ensley.



Jacquie & Armand Parchment - January 05, 2021 at 10:02 AM

JD

“ Mrs. E., where do i begin as a child growing up at St. Thomas, Brooklyn you and i always laugh and chatted. Fast forwarding you took a liking to my son Armand and him you, your fry chicken and potato salad will be Missed!

Your conversation on the phone with us ...e.g. when you teased Armand about the girls

You lived your life to the fullestThe Casinos lol,

Love you and We will miss you dearly, take your rest, good and faithful servant.

Our condolences to Calvin & Jacqueline and rest of the family

Always,
Jacqueline & Armand Parchment

Jacqueline F DAnjou - January 05, 2021 at 09:49 AM