

Sunrise: November 28, 1931

Sunset: November 26, 2019

*In Loving
Memory
Of Our
Beloved*



Peggy

LOUISE WILLIAMS

Funeral Mass

Thursday, December 5, 2019

Family Hour: 10:30 a.m. - Funeral Mass: 11:00 a.m.

Sacred Heart Catholic

1000 Elliot Street, Detroit, Michigan 48207

Officiating Minister
Father Norman P. Thomas



The Obituary



Peggy Louise (Sawyer) Williams was born on November 28, 1931 to Stanley Sawyer and Wealthy Belle Guy-Sawyer in Blanchard, Michigan. She was the sixth child and youngest daughter born to this union. Peggy accepted Christ at a young age and was a longstanding member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Detroit, MI. She departed this life on November 26th 2019 at the age of 87.

Peggy received her early education in the Isabella County, Blanchard Public School System. She graduated with honors as the Salutatorian of the Blanchard High School class of 1949 and earned a scholarship to Central Michigan University in Mount Pleasant, Michigan. Shortly after Peggy graduated high school, she relocated to Detroit to continue her education in the Secretarial and Business field at Detroit area schools. During that time, she met her husband to be, Wallace Nathaniel Williams, a native Detroiter. They married on September 15th, 1950. They were married for 60 years before his death in 2011. Born to the couple were three children, Rochelle, Wallace, and Nanette.

In 1952, Peggy began a long and a successful career at Midwest Paper Products Company, a wholesale paper distributor that served Detroit and Warren, MI. She was the first African-American employee hired in their office. During her 43 year career, she held a number of positions in the company. She worked as the Accounts Receivable Manager, the Credit Collection Manager, and the Office Manager. She was a dedicated employee and the only remaining employee when the business closed in 1995.

It was during the early 1980's that Peggy began her journey as a family historian and as a genealogist. She joined the Detroit based Fred Hart Williams Genealogical Society (FHWGS). The organization was the first such organization in Michigan focused on the study of genealogical research from an African American perspective. The FHWGS is also named after Peggy's uncle by marriage. For over 30 years, she spent her free time doing extensive research and preservation of materials on the families of: Sawyer, Guy, Williams, and other extended families. She conducted numerous genealogical workshops and was a source of inspiration to many other genealogists.

Peggy's membership in the FHWGS led her to becoming the President of the organization in 1999, and she served in this capacity until 2005. Under her leadership, she has contributed to the success of Detroit 300, a celebration of the 300th birthday of Detroit; published *Our Untold Stories: A Collection of Family History Narratives*, worked in the creation of a ten panel traveling exhibit; *Every Family is a History*, which depicts the lives of four prominent Detroit families; and joined others in commemorating the Underground Railroad through the dedication of two monuments, Gateway to Freedom, on the Detroit side of the river, and Towers of Freedom, on the Canadian side of the river. Finally, it was during Peggy's presidency that the Society donated the Leontine Cole Smith Collection to the Detroit Public Library, Burton Historical Collection.

Peggy spent many years in the study, research and documentation of her ancestors; and as such, was a longtime member of the Daughters of the Union Veterans (DUV). The DUV is a patriotic organization that honors the memory of soldiers who fought in the Civil War.

In 1999, Peggy was included in a publication, "Special Women on the Move", and in 2004, her biography was included in the series titled, "Women of Commitment and Action", written by a good friend and author, Joann Davis. In 2006, Peggy was recognized for her outstanding contributions to the study of family history and genealogical research. Mr. Randy Riley, Special Collections Manager, Library of Michigan, Lansing, Michigan, presented her with the prestigious Genealogist of the Year Award, at the meeting of the Michigan Genealogy Council.

Still later in 2016, Peggy was the recipient of the 2016 Margaret McCall Thomas Ward History Maker Award. The award, which was conferred upon Peggy by the Fred Hart Williams Genealogical Society, acknowledged her decades long service to the Society and her contributions, in general, to the study and documentation of genealogical research from an African American perspective.

Peggy, a third generation Michiganiaan on both parental lines (Sawyer & Guy), was a direct descendant of some of Michigan's first free Black Pioneer Settlers in Isabella, Montcalm, Berrien and Van Buren counties during the 1860s and 1870s. She was also a member of the Old Settlers Reunion Association in the Mid-Michigan area of Mecosta County, where annual reunions continue to be held.

In addition to Peggy's accomplishments, she was an outstanding mother of three children; Rochelle Lynne, Wallace Nathaniel Jr., and Nanette Kay. Family was her priority and she had strong family ties with her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. In addition to being a devoted wife, mother, and grandmother, she was dependable and supportive of others efforts.

Relatives and friends remember her and the "Williams Family", who graciously hosted many events at their homes in Detroit and Wild Goose Lake, near Chelsea, MI. In 1995, she began hosting the annual "Sawyer-Guy Family Reunion" and also produced the "Sawyer-Guy Connection", an annual family newsletter.

Preceded her in death was her husband of 60 years, Wallace Nathaniel Williams Sr.; her parents, Stanley and Wealthy; four brothers, Lyle, Worthy, Max, and Robert; and one sister, Donna.

Peggy will be missed by family members and friends who had the opportunity to know and love her. Those who mourn her loss include her three children; Rochelle Hurst (James), Wallace Williams, Jr., and Nanette Williams-Armstrong; sister, Marjorie Ione Sawyer-Todd; her six grandchildren, James Edward Hurst III, Morgan Lynnette Hurst, Evan William Hurst (Amy), Aleigha Renee Williams, Wallace Nathaniel Williams III, and Alanna Louise Armstrong; her great-grandchildren, James, Jada, Liana, Aliza, Chase, Evan, and Brooke. She also leaves her caregiver and "BFF" Pat Perry, and a host of friends, relatives and acquaintances.

The Order Of Service
Celebrating The Life of Our Beloved
Peggy Louise Williams

Processional Opening Hymn....“Blessed Assurance”.....Music Ministry
Prayer.....Fr. Norman P. Thomas

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Scripture Reading.....Brenda Borders
Responsorial Psalm.....Music Ministry
Gospel Acclamation.....Congregation
Gospel Reading.....Fr. Norman P. Thomas
Song.....“If I can Help Somebody”.....Music Ministry
Obituary.....Aleigha Williams
Remarks.....Grandchildren
Wild Goose Lake Representative, Michael Russell
Fred Hart Williams Genealogy Society (FHWGS) Representative, Leslie Williams
Daughters of the Union Veterans (DUV) Representative, Bennie Latimer
Eulogy.....Fr. Norman P. Thomas

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Song.....”His Eye is on the Sparrow”.....Music Ministry
Presentation of the Gifts.....
Eucharistic Prayer.....
The Lord's Prayer.....Congregation
Communion Song.....”Old Stockholm”.....Ralphe Armstrong
Final Blessing.....Fr. Norman P. Thomas
Recessional Song..... “Total Praise”.....Music Ministry

(Drivers in Funeral Procession Please Turn on Headlights for Safety.)

Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.

John 14:1-3



Pallbearers

James Hurst Jr.
James Hurst III
James Hurst IV

Evan Hurst
Wallace Williams III
Craig Arnold

Flowers Bearers

Family Members & Friends of the Family

Final Arrangements Entrusted To

James H. Cole Home For Funerals

2624 W. Grand Blvd.

Detroit, Michigan 48208

(313) 873-0771

16100 Schaefer Hwy.

Detroit, Michigan 48235

(313) 835-3997

You may leave messages of condolences for Peggy Louise Williams at
www.jameshcole.com

Interment

Holy Sepulchre Cemetery

25000 W. Ten Mile Road - Southfield, Michigan 48033

**Family Repast Will Be Held In The
Sacred Heart Church Activity Building**

Acknowledgment And Appreciation

In this time of celebration, the Peggy Louise Williams family would like to acknowledge the overwhelming out pour of love, support and condolences. You have made us know that we do not have to experience this time of sorrow alone.

On behalf of the Peggy Louise Williams Family, we would like to thank each of you for coming out today, especially those of who have traveled from afar, we are praying for traveling mercies until you reach your home destination. May God bless each of you, as your presence has blessed us. A more personal acknowledgment will be made at a later date.

