



## Mrs. Iris Williams

February 28, 1954 - February 1, 2019

### Her Story:

Celebrating the life and legacy of Mrs. Iris Elaine Williams who went home to be with her Savior on Friday, February 1, 2019. Iris was born February 28, 1954 in Detroit, Michigan. She was the eldest of five children (Reka, Anthony (who preceded her in death), Twana and Terrence) born to the union of James and Margaret Ann Sanderson (who both preceded her in death).

Iris was born and raised in Detroit, Michigan and attended the Detroit Public Schools, graduating from Cooley High School where she proudly represented her Cooley Cardinals. Iris successfully gained employment shortly after high school and worked many years in management for the defense industry. Iris ended her work career in 2000 to become a full-time caregiver for her father, James Sanderson.

Iris met the love of her life Herron Williams “her rock” in 1974 and were married on her birthday, February 28, 1976. They happily shared 42 plus years in marital bliss. Raina Ja’Nee Thomas and Charles Blair Sanderson, are a testament to the lighthearted and loving mother, she was. However, there are a host of people that refer to her as mom. Whether a hand to comfort and help, or lending an ear for advice and to make you smile she was always there for her children.

At an early age, Iris accepted Christ as her Lord and Savior and attended Detroit Unity Temple, with her mother at a very young age thus growing her love and interest in becoming an active servant of the church. She was devoted and committed to her role as the lay ministry for the tour guides, active on the bereavement committee, sang in the church choir and enjoyed participating in church functions such as: the annual church picnic and fashion show. There was no limit as to what she would do to show her support, love and insert her energy and charisma in everything she did.

Iris was the true example of Christ, love and compassion. When in her presence you would feel an overwhelming amount of infectious energy because she brought joy, laughter, passion and the “spice of life.” Iris was genuine in the friendships she built, the strangers she met and, in the advice, and support she gave. You would never know what to expect from Iris because she followed the beat of her own drum and enjoyed keeping people in suspense from her clothes to her various hairstyles. She was truly a movie star in her own right. No two days were the same for Iris because her goal was to be present and enjoy life and she did so by taking trips, attending family gatherings, golf outings with her husband and being present in any event involving her children/grandchildren, who she absolutely loved more than anything. Her motto was “every day is a holiday.”

# Previous Events

## Family Hour

Saturday, Feb. **16**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Detroit Unity Temple  
17505 Second Blvd.  
Detroit, MI 48203

## Funeral Service

Saturday, Feb. **16**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Detroit Unity Temple  
17505 Second Blvd.  
Detroit, MI 48203

# Tribute Wall



“ *Mrs. Iris Williams*

January 21, 2023 at 09:34 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mrs. Iris Williams.*



February 15, 2019 at 03:13 AM



“ *Gerberas and Palms Spray was purchased for the family of Mrs. Iris Williams.*



February 14, 2019 at 03:58 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mrs. Iris Williams.*



February 14, 2019 at 12:02 PM



“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mrs. Iris Williams.



February 14, 2019 at 10:05 AM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mrs. Iris Williams.



February 13, 2019 at 06:42 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mrs. Iris Williams.



February 13, 2019 at 03:59 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Mrs. Iris Williams.



February 12, 2019 at 10:22 PM

TF

“ Tolbert & Wilson Family purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Mrs. Iris Williams.



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**Tolbert & Wilson Family** - February 12, 2019 at 03:24 PM

LF

“ Love, Shawn Flynn and Family purchased the Simply Chic Mixed Plant Basket for the family of Mrs. Iris Williams.



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**Love, Shawn Flynn and Family** - February 12, 2019 at 10:27 AM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Mrs. Iris Williams.



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February 08, 2019 at 10:42 PM

SD

“ Mrs. Iris,  
My very first time meeting Ms. Iris she told my Cousin Zack her name was "pointing to her Eye and her Wrist" Eye wrist so he could remember it!!! 😭😭!!!! I instantly fell in love with her Crazy sense of humor, her infectious laugh and her outgoing personality! And as I got to know her better not only did she have a lovely spirit she was incredibly friendly, charming, and like her name was just as refreshing as a Spring day she told it like it was no nonsense and would share her incredible Pearls of Wisdom with you and make you feel so blessed being in her presence! I am going to miss you Ms. Iris your cheering us on while busting a move on the Dance Floor! Your singing Frankie and Beverly and Maze with Me and my Daughter Haley and our amazing road trip down the Cape to visit with my Mom! You have left an incredibly beautiful mark on my and my Children's Heart and I am truly going to miss you! I will try my best to remember your lessons on love and family and be there for my family like you were for yours! You radiated your love for your family in waves it was almost tangible and all those around her that were extended adopted family know what a blessing you were to them! You will always be in my heart as one of my most treasured memories! I love you to the Moon and Back Mom !!! May God Bless you Always! He has called Home one incredible Angel! Love Always  
Susan Dowdie & Family

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Susan Dowdie - February 08, 2019 at 10:30 PM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Mrs. Iris Williams.



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February 07, 2019 at 10:11 PM

GB

“ From the moment I met mom to the day she called me her Boston son to every moment that I was blessed to be in her joy, I will always smile remembering the love and joy My Detroit Mom always gave me. Rest in Excellence Mom.  
Love you ALWAYS  
your Boston son.

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**George “Smooth” Boyles.** - February 07, 2019 at 09:36 PM

CB

“ I can remember the first time I met Iris. We were both new at Guest Elementary school in Detroit. We were in class together when she turned around to me and said “Hi, my name is Iris.” By the end of the school day I felt as if I’d known her all my life. She was and is my friend to the end. Cynthia Brown

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**Cynthia Brown** - February 07, 2019 at 02:34 PM