

CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF

Bonita M. Nelson
"Bonnie"



Saturday, May 17, 2025

11:00 AM

**United Church of
God by Faith**

800 Symonds Avenue
Winter Park, FL 32808

Officiating
Superintendent / Pastor
Garry Shelton

Interment

12:30 pm

Monday, May 19, 2025

Florida National Cemetery

6502 SW 102nd Avenue
Bushnell, FL 33513

Services Entrusted To
Robert Bryant FH
Orlando, Florida

SUNRISE – October 1, 1940 • SUNSET – April 17, 2025



A Legacy™

a heritage: character qualities, memoirs . . .

“Yet we have this assurance: Those who belong to God will live; their bodies will rise again! Those who sleep in the earth will rise up and sing for joy!”

– Isaiah 26:19 NLT



Bonita M. Nelson was born in Winter Park, Florida on October 1, 1940 to her proud parents, Jimmy Maxwell, Sr. and Ruth Taylor Maxwell. Bonita was a proud graduate of the historical Crooms Academy class of 1959.

Bonita met and married the love of her life, Mr. Albert Nelson, and the happy couple instantly became a blended family, over time adding three additional children who were born to their union.

In support of her husband’s dreams and career goals, this young family relocated to Charlotte, North Carolina for a short spell, and eventually moved to Durham, North Carolina, so that Mr. Nelson could complete his undergrad studies at Johnson C. Smith College. He later earn a Master’s degree in Public Administration from the University of North Carolina. Meanwhile, during this time, “Bonnie” as many affectionately called her, continued *her* studies while raising their growing family.

In 1972 they came back to Central Florida, where the City of Orlando Mayor, Carl Langford, hired Al as the Director of Human Relations, a position that soon became nationally recognized because of the work he put in. Bonnie was there every step of the way, supporting him in his endeavors. As the spouse of a Kappa, she took much pride in being a Silhouette.

Bonnie continued to take meticulous care of their home, but also worked outside the home as a LPN, taking private cases among many of Orlando’s affluent families. She later earned her Real Estate license, and continue to flourish in her personal quest of being a loving wife, a doting mother, AND an encouraging friend to many.

As a mother Mrs. Nelson was always generous with saying “*I love you*” to her children. She always said things to her children to encourage them to greatness. Needless to say, she was big on education, and for her, honesty was second to none. She demanded that no matter what, her children tell her the truth. Bonnie was an excellent mother, a great cook, and she would do anything for anybody.

Bonnie enjoyed traveling with her husband, but after he went to be with the Lord in 2009, as a widow, she immensely enjoyed visiting her kids in their various homesteads. She cut her own yard up until she was 80 years old, and also enjoyed driving around seeking out a good yard sale!

Bonita M. Nelson was preceded in death by her **parents**, her **husband** of 48 years, Mr. Albert Nelson (2009), a **granddaughter**, Courtney Nelson (2017), **brothers**, Bruce Maxwell, Bernard Maxwell, and Gregory “Dickie” Maxwell, and devoted **nephew** and **niece**, Albert Lee Turner, and Judge Sharon Mullins.

She leaves behind many beautiful memories to be cherished by:

sons – Jeffrey and Jay Nelson; **daughters** – Debbie (Walter) Settles, and Jackie Sims; **grandchildren** – Albert Settles and Chance Isaiah Nelson;

sisters – Joan Gwinn, Lisa Maxwell Taylor, and Veronica Maxwell;

sister-in-law – Ivy Maxwell;

devoted **nephews & nieces** – Robert Lee “Bobby” (LaFran) Turner, Shaunda Turner, David (Deidre) Maxwell, Pamela (Charles) Minna, Lisa (Darrell) Bowles, and Holly (Ronald) Maxwell;

godchildren – Nathan Stephens, Leo Davis, Marcus, Neal, Michael D. Relford, Allen Williams, and Anthony L. Dale, Sr.;

close friends – Congressman James Clyburn, James (Elvira) Bowden, Leroy (Edna) Scott, Norman (Yvette) Pettis, Donald (Verdell) Henderson, I, and a host of other relatives and many friends.

Order of Service

Officiating – Superintendent / Pastor Garry Shelton • Presiding – Pastor Jesse Covington
Music provided by United Church of God by Faith

Public Viewing w/ Meditative Music

Processional – “*Soon and Very Soon*”Officiants, Clergy, and The Nelson Family

Invocation Pastor Garry Shelton

Scripture Readings

Old Testament – *Psalm 23*

New Testament – *John 14:1-4*

Solo – “*May the Work I’ve Done Speak for Me*”Sis. Polly Green

Reflections and Cherished Memories (*limit your remarks to 2 minutes or less, please*)

Cynthia Gilmore [**cousin**]

Holly Holman [**niece**]

Debbie Settles [**daughter**]

David Maxwell [**nephew**]

Michael D. Redford [**godson**]

Solo – “*He’ll Do It Again*”Mrs. Ivy Maxwell

Reflections – Open to Family and Friends (*limit your remarks to 1 minute or less, please*)

Resolutions and Acknowledgments Church Clerk

Reading of the Legacy (*silently to soft music*)

Words of Comfort Pastor Garry Shelton

Committal Service..... Pastor Garry Shelton

Recessional – “*When We All Get to Heaven*” / “*When the Saints Go Marching In*”

Interment

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Florida National Cemetery

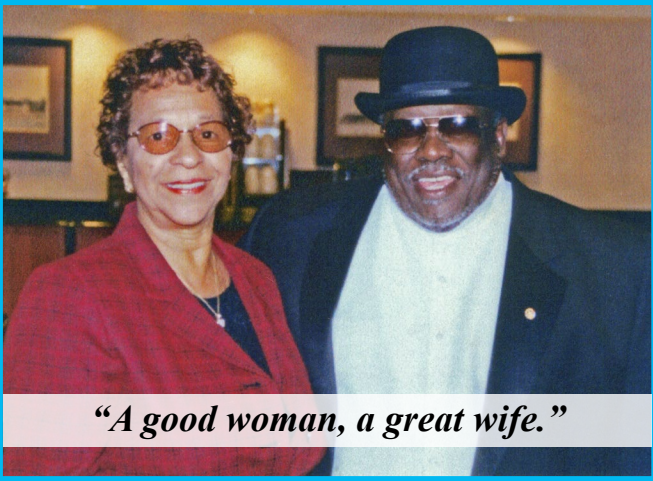
6502 S.W. 102nd Avenue Bushnell, FL 33513

(352) 793-7740

She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue. She looks well to the ways of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness.

Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her: ‘Many women have done excellently, but you surpass them all.’

Proverbs 31:26-29

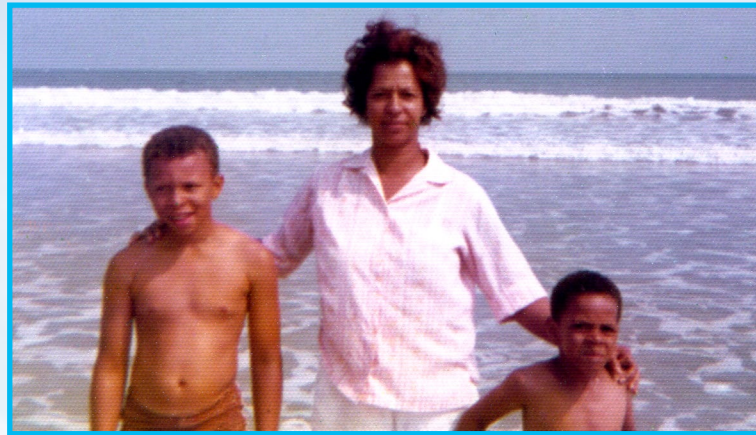


“A good woman, a great wife.”

A Repast – Immediately after the service, a Repast will be held here at United Church of God by Faith.



Jay, Mom, and Jeffrey



Jeffrey, Mom, and Jay



By the house in North Carolina



Mom with Grandson



Dad and Mom celebrating



Mom with Grandson



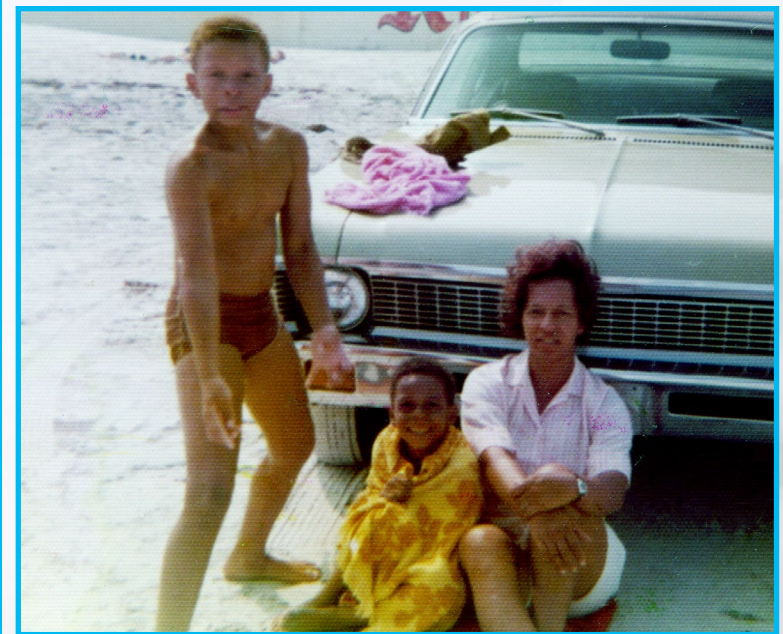
Jeffrey and Mom



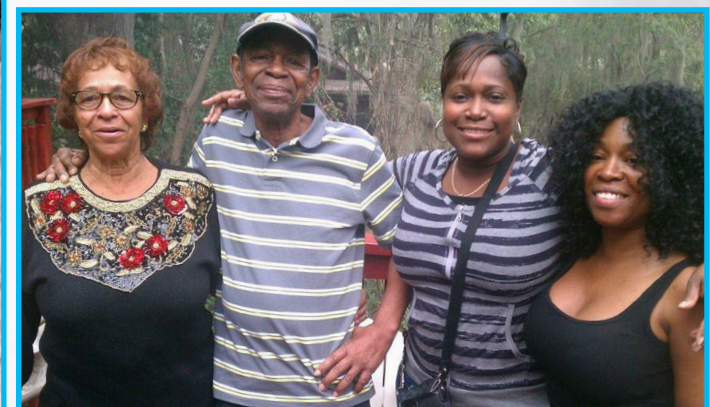
Family



Dad's Postpartum Civil Rights Wall of Fame Induction



Fun times at the beach – Jeffrey, Jay, and Mom



Mother's Day 5/8/22

Grandma

Mom and Jay

Mom and her sisters

Thanksgiving 2021

Mom with her mother and niece Cynthia

Grandma

Mom, Aunt Joann, Aunt Veronica and Mrs. Glinda

Courtney, Jay, Mom, Jeffrey, and Pop

Family

And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there will be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain; for the former things are passed away.

– Revelation 21:4



For always being there for us,
To understand and care for us
We Love YOU!

For all our close and special times,
The warm and giving gentle times
We Love YOU!

For letting us reach out to you,
Turn to you, lean on you
For loving us the way you did
We Love YOU!

We will always be so grateful!

– Your Children, Grandchildren, and Family

Pall Bearers

Michael D. Relford
David Maxwell
Anthony L. Dale
Leo W. Davis
Ronald Holman
Jeffrey Nelson

Flower Attendants

Friends and Family

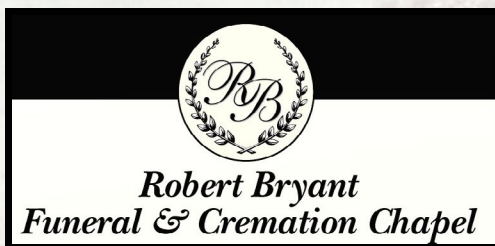
In Appreciation

The Family of Bonita M. Nelson would like to express their gratitude with deep appreciation for the many comforting messages, prayers, texts, telephone calls, e-mails, flowers, acts of kindness, concerns and expression of sympathy which has helped us during this very difficult time.

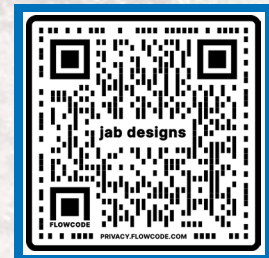
We take comfort in 1 Corinthians 2:9...

*“Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man,
the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.”*

– the Family



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