

### **Pallbearers**

The Deacons of Zion Baptist Church

#### Floral Bearers

The Deaconesses of Zion Baptist Church

# I'm Free

Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free, I'm following the path God laid for me. I took his hand when I heard his call, I turned my back and left it all. I could not stay another day, To laugh, to love, to work, to play. Tasks left undone must stay that way, I've found that peace at the close of the day. If my parting has left a void, Then fill it with remembered joy. A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss, Ah yes, these things I too will miss. Be not burdened with times of sorrow, I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow. My Life's been full, I savoured much, Good friends, good times, a loved one's touch, Perhaps my time seemed all too brief, Don't lengthen it now with undue grief. Lift up your heart and share with me, God wanted me now, He set me free.

## **Expressions of Gratitude**

The family of Elizabeth M. Paige deeply appreciates your acts of kindness, prayers and words of consolation during this time of our bereavement. "To live forever in the hearts of family and friends is to never die."

The Family



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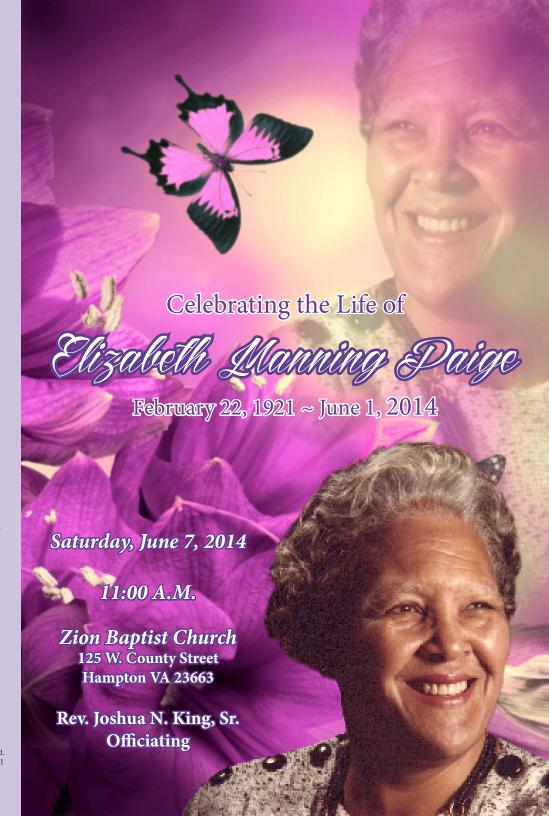
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Kenneth C. Alexander, Proprietor





# Elizabeth Manning Paige

Elizabeth M. Paige, 93, passed away peacefully Sunday, June 1, 2014 in Hampton, VA following a long illness.

Mary Elizabeth Manning was born February 22, 1921 on a farm in Franklin County, North Carolina, the tenth of thirteen children born to the late George Washington Manning and Sarah Ward Manning.

She was educated in the Franklin County school system, graduated from Albion Academy and attended Fayetteville State Teachers' College.

She followed her older siblings to the Philadelphia, PA area, where she met and, on June 15, 1950, married the Rev. Charles Thomas Paige, who preceded her in death on September 6, 1973.

Faith and family were the cornerstones of her life. At an early age, she joined St. Mary's AME Zion Church in Kittrell, North Carolina. She played the piano and sang in the choir, activities she continued as she and her husband moved from Philadelphia to Texas to Tennessee. Along with their eight children, they returned to her husband's ancestral home in Phoebus in November 1963 and joined Zion Baptist Church, where Rev. Paige had been ordained. A ninth child was born shortly thereafter.

She was in her element when her family gathered. After eating her fine cooking, all would gather around the piano and sing, her soprano soaring.

She was predeceased by her three sons, Milton, Robert and Jesse, a grandson, Corey, step-son Tommy Jr., her brothers Frank, Eddie, James, Zollie, Thad, and Belvie and her sisters Lelia, Marie, Inena, and Belle.

Left to cherish her memory: six daughters, Helen P. Wilkerson, Jeanette C. Paige, Sarah P. Scott (Vernon), Inena P. Rice, all of Hampton, Carlena P. Belt (James) of Stafford, and Vivian J. Paige (Ann) of Norfolk; a step-daughter, Jacqueline P. Reeves (Slick) of Lynchburg; fourteen grandchildren, Jacqueline E. Bellamy, Jason H. Robinson, Janna H. Robinson, Ashley P. Gay, Tonya Paige-Tucker, Theon Christopher Paige, Alfred K. Rice, Jr., Damiun L. Rice, Felicia Ford, James M. Belt, Jr., Catrina M. Belt, Quavon Major, Donavan Major, and Micah Major; two step-grandchildren, Ethel R. Coles and Kelvin Reeves; 12 great-grandchildren; 1 great-great-grandchild; a sister, Maranda Allen (Loyal) of Wenonah, NJ; a brother, Rev. George Manning (Virginia) of Washington, DC; and many nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

