



## Geneva M Bell

August 5, 1936 - November 22, 2023

Geneva Millender Bell, 87, passed on November 22, 2023, in New Windsor, New York. Born to Minion and Dollie Millender on August 5, 1936, in Alpine, Alabama, Geneva lived her life to the fullest, laughing often, enjoying beautiful things, standing up for just causes, always keeping family central and God first. Moving to New York with her family at 16, she very much made her new city her home. Its vibrancy matched her personality, and she participated in all it had to offer. Whether it was introducing her daughters to theatre and museums, joining a protest march to obtain a park in her community, or broadening her innate sense of style with floral design courses, she was ahead of her time, an eclectic mix of culture, social justice and just plain style. Her continual desire to learn new things meant that each decade found her on a different career path, from keypunch operator in the 1960s to paraprofessional, assisting teachers in the 1970s to special education teacher in the 1980s and 90s, earning a couple of degrees along the way, and enjoying all of it. Never one to be left behind by technology, she bought a computer back in the 90s, teaching herself to email and to keep up with social media even before her kids did.

Retirement brought Geneva back to Alpine where, as usual, she dived into activities that seemed to beckon to her, including volunteering at the Civil Rights Museum in Birmingham and with the local Democratic party in Talladega in addition to leading Bible studies for church and enjoying daily swimming with the water aerobics class at the recreation center. More than

anything, she loved spending time with her grandchildren, and later, her great grandchildren. Having married Emanuel "Buddy" Bell in 1980, they found fulfillment in doing so many of these activities together in a marriage that spanned 40 years.

Geneva is survived by a large family that includes two brothers: Larry (Inez) Millender of Royal Palm Beach, FL, and Mallory (Jacqueline) Millender of Augusta, GA; a sister-in-law, Lorraine Millender of Syracuse, NY; as well as three generations of descendants that include her daughters, Denise Facey of Atlanta, GA and Melba Fawcett Sands of New Windsor, NY; a stepdaughter, Alvetta Robinson of Birmingham, AL; two stepsons: Michael (Madeleine) Bell of Pelham, NY, and Roderick (Christine) Bell of Port St. Lucie, FL; two granddaughters: Shanna (Kenneth) Muigai and Stacey (Andre) Lee; a grandson, Sean Sands; five step grandsons: Ariel (Josephine) Facey, Spencer Bell, Ryan Bell, Justin Bell, and Michael Bell Jr.; two step granddaughters: Elizabeth (Preston) Robinson King and Mica Robinson; six great-grandchildren: Hunter Muigai, Hayden Muigai, Emory Muigai, Lenox Lee, Avery Lee, and Andre Lee, Jr., and four step great-grandchildren: Xavierre Gilchrist, Jr., Johnavan Sparks, Camila Johnson, and Preston King, Jr. as well as many cousins, nieces and nephews. Geneva was preceded in death by her parents and husband as well as her sister, Melba Faye Taylor, and her brother Charles Millender.

# Cemetery Details

## Millender Family Cemetery

Barclay Road  
Alpine, AL 35014

# Previous Events

## Public Viewing

DEC 2. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

S.M. Goodson Funeral Home Chapel  
217 Coosa St. East  
Talladega, AL 35160

## Celebration of Life

DEC 2. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

S.M. Goodson Funeral Home Chapel  
217 Coosa St. East  
Talladega, AL 35160

# Tribute Wall



“ Our awesome Mother Bell eays such a light to us (Francine and Roosevelt Strown). She will forever shine in our spirits. One of her favorite things to say is "God is awesome" and we will echo that phrase as often as possible. Our lives were enriched because He blessed us with the privilege to know her, pray with her, and love her. Rest well.



Francine Garrett-Strown - November 30, 2023 at 03:41 PM



“ Jessica Joseph and Family purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Geneva M Bell.



Jessica Joseph and Family - November 30, 2023 at 02:17 PM



“ Oh our sweet Mother Bell, you were definitely the light that made our small group Bible study the greatest in Talladega We not only studied but we became a small family I'm so glad God saw fit to place you in my life's journey. Your words of wisdom and knowledge of our lord and savior Jesus Christ will always embrace my memories and I will definitely become what my purpose has been called. Get your rest my beloved and may our Heavenly Father say we'll done my faithful servant ##love you beyond the grave##your small group child Aretha

Aretha Lawrence-freeman - November 29, 2023 at 09:46 AM

CW

*To my family of Geneva Millender Bell, my thoughts and prayers are with you all as we celebrate Geneva's life. Such a lovely and inspirational person to everyone she met. Her love for family runs deep and her smile would lighten a room as if it was Christmas. She knew the background history of the family and listening to her stories you would think you were there back in the day. 😊. I wish I could have shared this celebration with you today, but my prayer and heart are with you and much love ❤️ ❤️ ❤️. Weeping may endure for a night but I know that Joy will come in the morning...*

**Cecelia Woods** - December 02, 2023 at 12:55 PM

HM

“ *Condolences to the Millender-Bell families. A beautiful soul has found sweet rest.*

**Helen Millender** - November 28, 2023 at 09:49 PM

JB

“ *God has gained another beautiful Angel. I shall treasure my memories of her always! Blessings and Love to her entire family and friends!!!*

**Julia Bell** - November 28, 2023 at 06:26 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Geneva M Bell.*



November 28, 2023 at 05:26 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Geneva M Bell.*



---

November 28, 2023 at 10:40 AM



“ *Love, Kharine & Tami purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Geneva M Bell.*



---

**Love, Kharine & Tami** - November 28, 2023 at 10:30 AM



“ *Sincere condolences*



---

**Minister Zee Moore** - November 27, 2023 at 09:58 AM



“ *Mother Geneva Bell was like a mother to me and our children's. Always telling others about Jesus, and helping others out with their walk with Jesus. We will truly miss you.*

---

**Carolyn Williams** - November 25, 2023 at 12:41 PM

AS

“ Sister Bell was such a beautiful beautiful woman of God, I remember when my sister Carolyn Evon got married she and her husband Buddy had a gathering at her home in Alpine to celebrate Vone & Wayne marriage, it was a joyful time, sending my deepest condolences and prayers to the family 🙏❤️

Audrey Swain - November 25, 2023 at 12:04 PM

RE

A dear precious woman of God, who showed her love for God and people, to be in her presence in bible study together or sharing a meal or conversation, it was always a blessing, to have gotten to know her and spend time with her and Buddy was a blessing. My prayers and comfort to the family 🙏🙏

Renee - November 28, 2023 at 10:38 AM

DF

Dear Denise, Melba, and entire family of our beloved and precious Geneva, please know that Doris Antley Chisolm and my children, including Jay Peter-Shahid M. Allah, Geneva's god-son; Tamba Eileen; and Tuneen Eleese - extend our deepest sympathy to you. We will greatly miss her and pray God's further comfort, bolster, uplift, and cover over you in and through all. As faithful Believers in God, we join you in accepting His will for Geneva to be at rest while our loving memories of her will live within us.

Doris Antley Chisolm and Family - November 28, 2023 at 04:43 PM

CO

*Godmother Geneva, as my mother's best friend from NY on 123rd St, you were the best godmother to me, my mother could have even chosen. As a devout woman of God, you would remind me, that he is in charge and his will, will always be done and in HIS time.*

*Denise and Melba, I thank you so much for blessing her with love, laughter and wonderful family memories. I will definitely miss her laughter and spiritual wisdom.*

*I pray that each day you and your family will find strength in the memories you shared and comfort in the support of those that surround you,*

*Cookie, Luther and Kira Clark*

---

**Cookie** - November 30, 2023 at 05:46 PM