



Mrs. Mae Helen Wilson James

August 2, 1933 - August 6, 2015

Mae Helene Wilson James
(August 2, 1933 to August 6, 2015)

Mae Helen (Wilson) James born August 2, 1933, daughter of Jessie M Wilson Sr. and Helen (Babe) Grant Wilson. She was born into a family of teachers at Prairie View A&M University, Prairie View, Texas and died on August 6, 2015. Her father Jessie M Wilson was an Industrial Arts Tailoring Professor. Her mother Helen Grant Wilson taught at the University in addition to doing private piano lessons. Mae was quickly discovered to possess a beautiful coloratura soprano voice which was adapted to light classical songs, and she was soon called upon to perform locally in the Prairie View community.

Upon graduating from High School she was awarded a full music scholarship to Howard University in Washington D.C. where she earned a Bachelor's Degree in 1956, while singing in the renowned Howard University Choir. She earned her Master's degree in Music from Prairie View in 1957. She shared her inspirational voice performing at church functions and special community events throughout her life. Her voice is recalled by many as piercingly clear, opera like, beautiful, yet powerful.

She taught music in high schools for several years in the Johnson City-Binghamton, New York area and Waller-Prairie View Texas area before

retiring. Her contributions to Prairie View were many to include; Secretary for the city of Prairie View, secretary to the Dean of Women, Dormitory Director for the Honor Dorm L.O. Evans, as well as other dorms on campus. She was the music director, lead vocalist and pianist for St. Martin De Pores Catholic Church in Prairie View, and a member of the St. Katharine Drexel Parish Choir.

Mae is survived by her brother Jesse M. Wilson Jr. of Austin Texas, and her four children: Everett Michael James of Prairie View Texas; Suzanne K. James Donovan (Lionel) of Lithonia, Georgia; Kevin T. James (Marcia), of Corona, California; and Shawn D. James (Tina) of Towanda, Pennsylvania. Mae Helen has eight grandchildren.

Mae Helen Wilson James will be laid to rest at The Evergreen cemetery Austin, Texas. She will rest alongside her Mother Helen (Babe) Grant Wilson.

Cemetery Details

Private

Previous Events

Rosary

AUG 12. 9:30 AM (CT)

St' Katharine Drexel Catholic Church
800 Fm 1488
Hempstead, TX 77445

Mass

AUG 12. 10:00 AM (CT)

St' Katharine Drexel Catholic Church
800 Fm 1488
Hempstead, TX 77445

Tribute Wall



“ *Mrs. Mae Helen Wilson James*

January 28, 2023 at 11:58 AM



“ *RIP and I was honor to work with her in student affairs. She was a lady and it was a honor to have known her. God speed*

Ell-roy Stevenson - September 07, 2021 at 09:47 AM



“ *I met Mae Helen while I sang in the church choir at St. Katherine Drexel Catholic Church. She was one of the sweetest people I ever met, and she had the voice of an angel. I know she is now singing with angel choirs. Eternal rest grant unto her, oh Lord. She will be missed.*

Carrie Gourley

Carrie Gourley - August 26, 2015 at 12:38 PM



“ *To Mrs James family. She will truly be missed. Her participation in the Christmas Cantata at 1st UMC Prairie View, TX will have a link missing. Rest in peace Ms James from Ida and JoKeisha Campbell.*



Ida/JoKeisha Campbell - August 11, 2015 at 11:33 AM

DK

“ *It is always sad to lose a loved one. It has been four years since my mother left me. I know it is a difficult time, but you have to look at the fact that she is not suffering anymore. Time will make it easier, but take a lesson from losing her to cherish the other members of your family that are still on this earth*

Darryl Kemp - August 10, 2015 at 04:32 PM

EM

To the Wilson and James family, you can take comfort in knowing that Mrs. James loved her community and shared her talents, musical and otherwise, with the community. She had a beautiful soprano voice which drew attention whether as a soloist or a choir member. She enjoyed singing and was quite generous in providing music for many religious and secular programs. She will be sorely missed.

Edward W. and Pearl Martin

Edward W. & Pearl E. Martin - August 11, 2015 at 07:25 PM

SA

To the family of Mae Helen James. Please accept our sincere condolences. Mae Helen was such a lovely and genteel lady. She always thought to remember our family on holidays and special occasions. We miss her. May she rest peacefully.

The Robert G. Williams'

Robert, Sarah, Marcus, Sarajane

Sarah - August 23, 2015 at 07:58 PM