

A portrait of an elderly African American woman, Audrey Mae Watson, with short dark hair, wearing a light-colored top, a pearl necklace, and large hoop earrings. She is smiling slightly. The background is a light blue gradient with a faint floral pattern. A larger, semi-transparent version of her portrait is visible in the upper left background.

*The Matriarch,
Beautiful*

Audrey Mae Watson "Ma"

Sunrise
June 7, 1941

Sunset
January 25, 2013

Service

Friday, February 1, 2013 - 11:00 a.m.

Cotton Funeral Service

130 Main Street

Orange, New Jersey

Rev. Edward Steed, Officiating



*Precious
Memories*



Reflections of Life

Audrey Mae Watson was born June 7, 1941 to the late Isaac Gilliard and Vernell Gilliard in Raleigh, NC. Audrey Mae was a precious child, a gifted singer and exceptional dancer. Audrey loved to dance at Chavis Park in Raleigh, NC with her dance partner “Pro” Rufus Williams. They were “untouchable”.

Audrey attended Crosby Garfield Jr. High School, Washington High School and graduated from Oberlin High School. Strongly independent, Audrey left her family in the South at the young age of sixteen to establish a new life in Long Island, NY. Audrey enjoyed her new big city life attending concerts and shows, socializing with friends, and shopping for the best clothes. Her fabulous wardrobe was desired by all of her friends. Never forgetting the cooking skills that her mother taught her, she continued to hone her legendary culinary skills. Audrey was a phenomenal and well known chef that so many would come to enjoy and love.

In 1956, Audrey began corresponding with her one and only true love Horace Watson, Jr. of Raleigh, NC while stationed at Ft. Stewart 805 Military Police Detachment. Their story is a true love story. Horace was so smitten with beautiful Audrey that he honored her by emblazoning a tattoo on his arm, “Audrey My Heart”. The two love birds married in 1963 in East Orange, NJ and raised five beautiful happy children, Horace James Watson, Donald Watson, Ronald Watson, Indira Kimberly Watson and India Karon Watson. Thus, the Watson Family began their journey in life.

Audrey was an exceptional wife and extremely devoted mother. Audrey worked arduously for her family and everyone on Grove Street in East Orange, NJ knew and loved Mrs. Watson. Forever an advocate of her family and education. She never forgot her family she left behind in Raleigh, NC. In 1965, Audrey brought her mother Vernell Gilliard and two younger sisters, Ann and Teresa who affectionately called her “Margie May” to East Orange from Raleigh, NC. Audrey helped raise her sisters and was instrumental in their upbringing. Her two brothers Perry and Eddie would soon join the family in NJ where they all lived happily together.

Audrey was a brilliant and artistic woman who could create the finest foods and crafts from scratch. She was a fabulous dresser that wore the most beautiful clothes. Audrey instilled in her

children to do the right thing and to help mankind. Higher education, travel and achievement of dreams was something Audrey instilled in her children and family. The intense love of her family is one of her biggest gifts.

Audrey attended Kean College of NJ and worked for Orange Memorial Hospital in Orange, NJ, Mount Carmel Guild in Montclair, NJ and the Lord Stirling School in Baskinridge, NJ where she worked as a Special Education Teacher. Audrey was always admired and loved by her colleagues and students. She was an extremely gifted and talented teacher that made a difference in many lives.

Audrey was an exceptional human being of the highest caliber. She possessed the finest character, strength, will and grace. A beautiful woman that honored and devoted her life to her family and many friends. She was loved and respected by all in the community. Audrey was indeed the “Matriarch” of her family and always kept the family together. She exuded a melodious charm with dancing eyes and a beautiful smile that warmed many hearts. Her heart was so extraordinary and kind, she would always feed and help anyone.

Heralded by Audrey, the Watson Family celebrated life with many wonderful large family gatherings and dinners. These gatherings were always filled with fun, love and laughter always highlighted by Audrey’s spectacular meals. Audrey was indeed a true champion of life, love and zest. Her love and devotion to her husband of fifty years, children and grandchildren was simply divine. It is her family that she treasured the most.

The unimagined loss of Audrey is untold but her beautiful face, smile and spirit will remain among us forever and ever. Audrey is survived by her loving husband of fifty years, Horace Watson, Jr.; five children, Horace James Watson, Donald Watson (Kisha), Ronald Watson, Indira Kimberly Watson and India Karon Watson; her grandchildren, Yolanda Nicole Jackson, Ronald Devon Watson, Donald Watson, Jr. (DJ), Alexis Evans, Tyler Watson, Tianna Watson, Justin Watson, Tiffany Watson and Brandon Watson; great grandchildren, Kareem Knight (BO), Riley Watson and Nyah Watson; siblings, Perry Gilliard, Robert Gilliard, Ann Gilliard and Teresa Simmons and the late Vernell G. Price, James E. and Isaac W. Gilliard; nieces, Beverly Gilliard, Linda Long and Sherise Simmons; nephews, Isaac “Gill” Gilliard, Sean Patrick Gilliard, Reginald Price, Billy Price, Greg Simmons and Greg Washington; sisters-in-law, Doris Paige, Sally Peoples and Elsie Mae Watson; brother-in-law, Robert Price; best friends, Aloma Williams and Ann Scott; and a host of many loving friends and colleagues.

Order of Service

Processional

Prayer

Scripture Reading Kim Mutter

Reflections

Song Donald Connors

Reading of the Obituary Shena Grimes

Eulogy

Benediction

Recessional

Interment

Glendale Cemetery
Bloomfield, New Jersey

Pallbearers

William Espinosa Horace James Watson
James Pitts Donald Watson
Reginald Price Ronald Watson
Gregory Washington

*Family and friends are invited to gather for
a repast in celebration at:
The Montclair Women's Club
32 Union Street • Montclair, NJ 07042*

Psalm 23

*The Lord is My Shepherd; I shall not want.
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures;
He leadeth me beside the still waters. He
restoreth my soul. He leadeth me in the path
of righteousness for His name's sake. Yea,
though I walk through the valley of the
shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for
Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff they
comfort me. Thou preparest a table before
me in the presence of mine enemies. Thou
anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth
over. Surely goodness and mercy shall
follow me all the days of my life; and I will
dwell in the house of the Lord forever.*

Acknowledgements

Perhaps you sent a lovely card or sat quietly in a chair.
Perhaps you sent a floral piece If so, we saw it there.
Perhaps you spoke the kindest words as any friend could say.
Perhaps you were not there at all just thought of us on that day.
Whatever you did to console our hearts, We Thank You,
Whatever the part.

Professional Services Provided By

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1025 Bergen Street
Newark, NJ
973-926-6400

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