



## Ethel Holmes

November 18, 1952 - November 19, 2020

Ethel Holmes was born on November 18, 1952 to George and Cora Ward of Crawford, Mississippi. Ethel was the seventh of seven daughters born to the couple, and she used her status as the baby to her advantage whenever she could!

Ethel came to know Christ at a very young age at Oakland Missionary Baptist Church in Crawford, Mississippi. Her faith kept her as she completed her education and moved to Chicago to begin working and rearing her daughter, Terrika.

Ethel worked for Greyhound Bus Company for 20 years. Her second career was with Forms Management where she retired in 2015. She was a fiercely independent woman who worked hard from a young age to have what she wanted out of life.

To her family's pleasure and surprise, Ethel met and fell in love with Leonard Holmes, the love of her life, and the couple was married on September 14, 1991. No children were born to this union, but between them they had four children.

She loved her two grandchildren and the many great-nieces and nephews that were born into the family over the years. The noisy chaos of Sunday evening gatherings at George and Cora Ward's house was something she looked forward to on a regular basis. There she could indulge in two of her greatest pleasures: cooking and laughter. Ethel would light up the room when she walked in, and she would always find something funny to say to you or about

you, but it was always said in a spirit of love!

Ethel departed this life on November 19, 2020, the circle is broken, and there is a void in our lives that she used to fill, but we are comforted in knowing that her suffering has ended and that we all will see her again. She leaves the following beloved family and friends to cherish her memory:

Husband, Leonard Holmes; daughter, Terrika R. Willis; six sisters and brothers-in-law: Voneva (Richard) Randle of Battle Creek, MI; Rosie (Lewis) Jackson of Waverly Hall, GA; Eliza (Cleveland) Thomas of Kankakee, IL; Anna (William) Randle of Kankakee, IL; Verga (Clezell) Rainey of Brooklyn Park, MN; Hattie (Murray) Cleaves of St. Anne, IL; brother-in-law, George Stevenson; two grandchildren Emmanuel and Skyler; a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, twelve loving brothers and sisters-in-law, three step-children, twelve step-grandchildren, and dear special friends: Judy Johnson of Dolton, IL, Regina Hewlett of Chicago, IL and Wonda Hall of Chicago, IL  
Ethel was preceded in death by her parents, George and Cora Ward.

# Cemetery Details

## Kankakee Memorial Gardens

Kankakee, IL

# Previous Events

## Visitation

NOV **24**. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Lax Mortuary  
187 S. Greenwood Avenue  
Kankakee, IL 60901  
(815) 935-0090  
laxmortuary@laxmortuary.com  
<http://laxmortuary.com/>

## Visitation

NOV **25**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Lax Mortuary  
187 S. Greenwood Avenue  
Kankakee, IL 60901  
(815) 935-0090  
laxmortuary@laxmortuary.com  
<http://laxmortuary.com/>

## Service

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NOV **25**. 11:00 AM (CT)

Lax Mortuary  
187 S. Greenwood Avenue  
Kankakee, IL 60901  
(815) 935-0090  
[laxmortuary@laxmortuary.com](mailto:laxmortuary@laxmortuary.com)  
<http://laxmortuary.com/>

# Tribute Wall

BF

“ *Sending prayers and condolences during this time to the family.* ”



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**Brenda Felton** - December 02, 2020 at 06:32 PM

VG

“ *Velma Green lit a candle in memory of Ethel Holmes* ”



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**Velma Green** - November 30, 2020 at 03:10 PM

JW

“ *My deepest sympathy to the family as you cherish Ethel's memory.* ”



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**Jeanette Whalum-Chambers** - November 28, 2020 at 02:37 AM

EB

“ *Elder Danny C. Brewster lit a candle in memory of Ethel Holmes* ”



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**Elder Danny C. Brewster** - November 25, 2020 at 06:10 PM



VD

“ *My condolences to the entire family*



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**Verlean Dunigan** - November 24, 2020 at 10:14 AM

TW

“ *Terry Wilson-Lloyd lit a candle in memory of Ethel Holmes*



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**Terry Wilson-Lloyd** - November 24, 2020 at 12:01 AM

TW

“ *My condolences to the family. May she rest safely in the Arms of the Almighty...*

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**Terry Wilson-Lloyd** - November 24, 2020 at 12:00 AM

EC

“ *May God give the Ward family strength and peace during this period of sorrow.*



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**Elayne Coffie** - November 23, 2020 at 10:05 PM

CB

“ *Crystal Bryant lit a candle in memory of Ethel Holmes*



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**Crystal Bryant** - November 23, 2020 at 09:50 PM

MC

“ *Our condolences to the family Ethel was such a beautiful person we all grew up together on the south side we will miss her love Annie B.&Mark Calbert*



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**Mark&Annie Calbert** - November 23, 2020 at 09:16 PM

MB

“ *Minnie Brewster lit a candle in memory of Ethel Holmes*



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**Minnie Brewster** - November 23, 2020 at 06:19 PM

SJ

“ *My deepest condolences and sympathy to the family of Ethel. She was a beautiful person inside and out and will be dearly missed. May God bless and strengthen you all.*

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**Sue Jenkins-Bllings** - November 23, 2020 at 05:47 PM

CR

“ *Carolyn Rice lit a candle in memory of Ethel Holmes*



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**Carolyn Rice** - November 23, 2020 at 02:55 PM

TF

“ *The Collins' Family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Ethel Holmes.*



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**The Collins' Family** - November 23, 2020 at 08:54 AM