



Eula B. Gray

March 18, 1934 - March 8, 2026

Eula Mae Blackman Gray, 91, a native of North Carolina and longtime resident of Baltimore, passed away on March 8, 2026, surrounded by the family she loved and shaped with extraordinary care.

Born on March 18, 1934, she was the oldest daughter of Patricia Rawles Blackman of Northampton County, North Carolina and Cyril Blackman of Trinidad and Tobago. Her early years wove together the threads of several cities - Atlanta, New York and Baltimore, along with quiet summers at her grandmother's farm in the Occoneechee Neck of northeastern North Carolina. From the age of 12 she was raised with love by her Aunt Alice and Uncle Tawfeek "Pop" Sedka at the family's home in the Fairfield neighborhood of Baltimore where many of her aunts, uncles, and especially cousins lived.

A woman of sharp intellect and quiet determination, Eula graduated from Frederick Douglass High School and went on to earn her undergraduate degree from Morgan State College in 1956. She then became one of the first women to enroll in Loyola College graduate degree programs, completing her master's degree in 1960 with distinction. Her academic achievements were not merely personal milestones. In 1956 she became one of two Black teachers to integrate Benjamin Franklin Junior High School, where her poise and superior credentials regularly outshone those of the administrators who might have underestimated her. It was there that one of her colleagues told

her that her mother was selling a big brick house on Fairview Avenue, in Forest Park, Ultimately, the Sedkas bought the house and raised nieces, nephews, cousins, grandchildren, and foster kids.

After her 1959 marriage to Walter "Jack" Gray, his career as a civil engineer with the Veteran's Administration carried their growing family around the country to places from Boston, MA to Linden, NJ, Baltimore, San Juan, PR, Tampa, FL, Fanwood, NJ and finally back to Baltimore

When the family moved to San Juan in 1965, Eula arrived with her three daughters - Jackie, Monica and Shari-and by her own cheerful admission, no Spanish skills. By the time they relocated to Tampa in 1970, they had added a son, Walter III, to the family, and she still didn't speak Spanish. But she had, as always, made a home.

Wherever Eula went she made friends - and she made them effortlessly. She was equally comfortable and charming with government officials, new neighbors, old friends, and strangers who had never before shared a table with someone who looked like her. Her warmth was genuine, her charm disarming, and her presence a kind of social grace that could not be taught. She carried across decades and zip codes the deep friendships she formed in junior high school with Martha "Ferg" Johnson Leeper and Loretta Smith - bonds that lasted a lifetime.

She volunteered at her children's schools and library, at the New All Saint's Church food pantry, and the oncology department of St. Agnes Hospital. Following Jack's retirement, the couple traveled extensively by train across North America - a fitting adventure for two people who had spent a lifetime on the move together.

Eula Mae Blackman Gray leaves behind a legacy written not just in the

children she raised and the students she taught, but in the communities she built and the countless lives she touched with her grace, her laughter and her tireless belief in people. She was a woman who made every place she lived a little better - and every person she knew a little more certain that they mattered.

She is survived by her children Jacquelyn, Monica, Shareyfah, and Walter III; her sister, Mary Chestnut; her brother Kirk Fancher; and niece Rachel Fancher.

Cemetery Details

Garrison Forest Veterans

11501 Garrison Forest Road
Owings Mills, MD

Previous Events

Wake

MAR 21. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

The New All Saints Catholic Church
4408 Liberty Heights Ave
Woodlawn, MD 21207

Funeral Service

MAR 21. 11:00 AM (ET)

The New All Saints Catholic Church
4408 Liberty Heights Ave
Woodlawn, MD 21207

Tribute Wall



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Eula B. Gray.*



March 20 at 08:59 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Eula B. Gray.

March 20 at 08:59 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Eula B. Gray.*



March 19 at 02:57 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Eula B. Gray.

March 19 at 02:57 PM

TF

“ *The Williams Family purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Eula B. Gray.*



The Williams Family - March 17 at 08:31 PM

TF

“ *The Williams Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Eula B. Gray.*

The Williams Family - March 17 at 08:31 PM



“ *We the March Family and Staff wish to extend our deepest and heartfelt sympathy in the passing of your loved one. Our prayers go out to you and your family in your time of loss. We know and understand that you have received many expressions of love and we will continue to lift you up in prayer. May the memories you cherish of brighter and happier days help to ease your sorrow and comfort you always.*

March Funeral Homes - March 09 at 04:34 PM