



## Marjorie Williams Grantham

June 25, 1941 - May 24, 2026

### Legacy of Life

Marjorie Williams Grantham was born June 25, 1941, to the late Herman Dillard Williams and Maggie Lena Hewlett Williams. She departed this life peacefully on May 24, 2026. She was educated in Richmond City Public Schools and graduated from Armstrong High School in 1959, where she was proud to be a “Wildcat” and played in the band. She also attended Virginia Union University for a short time.

Her professional career led her to Thalhimer’s Department Store, where she became one of the first African American clerks and later held a position in management. She retired from Hecht’s/Macy’s after more than 35 years of dedicated service. Along with her professional employment, she was also a Wedding Coordinator and a piano teacher with students of all ages. Following her retirement, she was an Office Assistant for Dr. Ronald Cade, Orthodontist, for several years. Marjorie was an active member of the Gospel Music Workshop of America for many years.

Margie, as she was so fondly known to us all, married William Grantham, Sr.,

and from this

union 2 sons were born, William “Billy” Grantham, Jr., and Steven “Tony” Grantham, Sr.

Later in life she became the guardian for her grandsons, Steven, Jr. and Michael. Through her sons, grandsons, great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and friends, she has a large extended family.

Marjorie was baptized at an early age at 31st Street Baptist Church. She was a faithful and dedicated member for over 70 years. Margie’s musical career at 31st Street Baptist Church resulted in 67 years of service. She began her career playing piano at the age of fourteen for the Church School. She later became the pianist, organist, and director of the Young People’s Choir. They performed concerts at various churches throughout the city where they sang anthems, spirituals, and gospel music. Margie’s responsibilities grew, and she became the pianist and organist for the I.H. Hines Gospel Choir. She was instrumental in introducing various musical instruments to the Music Department. The first being her sons, Billy as our bass player, and Tony as our drummer. She felt blessed to have them at her side. Margie later became the director of the Darrel Rollins Memorial Mass Choir. Under her direction, this choir grew to become “the choir of choice”. She was also the musician and director of the Male Chorus. The directors and musicians changed within the music department,

and Margie always strived to attract the best. She weaved her magic, and no choir was ever left unattended.

Margie was predeceased by her son, William Grantham; grandson, Terrance "TJ" Grantham; parents, Herman and Maggie Williams; and sister, Rozelle W. Hicks.

Memories will be cherished by her son, Steven "Tony" Grantham, and 3 grandsons, Steven Grantham, Michael Grantham, and Marcus Grantham; 2 granddaughters, Alexis Grantham Saunders (Kahlil) and Tonya Grantham; 13 great-grandchildren, Ja'Niyah, Sa'Liyah, Kitai, Kiyla, Mya, Khyair, Seven, Aiden, Jalen, Kyree, Kyrell, Jaxon, and Carter, and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends, among them Diane Ward, devoted cousin; Latasha Heath Brown, Goddaughter, and long-term friends, Reverend Dr. Patricia Heath, Ms. Rosalind Thompson Crandall, Lay Leader, Brenda Kelly Knight, Minister of Music, Milton Gross, and Debbie Johnson. Deacon Emmitt Thomas and Deacon Beverly Wynn would accompany her to various doctor appointments.

Margie's legacy of love, faith, and service will live on in the hearts of all who knew her.

# Cemetery Details

## Oakwood Cemetery

3101 Nine Mile Road  
Richmond, VA 23223

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUN 12. 9:30 AM - 6:00 PM (ET)

March Funeral Home-Laburnum Ave.  
2110 E. Laburnum Ave.  
Richmond, VA 23222

## Funeral Ceremony

JUN 13. 10:00 AM (ET)

31st Street Baptist Church  
823 North 31st Street  
Richmond, VA 23223

# Tribute Wall



“ *View and Download the Funeral Program*

March Funeral Homes - June 13 at 02:01 PM

TS

“ *I was deeply saddened to hear of Marjorie's passing. I met her for the first time 40 years ago, 6 months after I had her second granddaughter with her son Tony. She was so excited to meet us. She was so nice and welcomed us into her home and family. While Tony and I embrace our separate ways 2 years later, I did my best to stay in touch and send pictures often. Once she became guardian of Tony's 2 boys, my family and I made it a priority to get together, meeting in the cities she would go to for musical seminars and spend a few days together. I remember when the boys were young, my mom and dad loaded up their motorhome and we went to Virginia to visit my brother, his wife, and their 6 kids. We stopped in Richmond and picked the boys up and took them with us to my brother's for a week. They had a blast and experienced things they otherwise may not have had the chance to. We spent that time getting to know each other better, and the siblings bonded. I have remained close with Marjorie and the boys to this day. I spoke with Marjorie last on Mother's Day. She sounded good. She was upbeat and was watching her game shows and eating noodles. I know how deeply hurt she was by the loss of her son Billy. I believe she has been reunited with him in heaven, and she is smiling down on us all. Rest in peace Miss Marjorie. You deserve it. You did an excellent job raising Steven and Michael. They are caring, loving, and responsible young men. I enjoyed watching them play and interact with their children at your house. They both are such good daddies*



Terry L Seitz - June 16 at 08:52 AM

TJ

“ *The Family of Michael & Corlis Johnson purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Marjorie Williams Grantham.*



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**The Family of Michael & Corlis Johnson** - June 12 at 09:16 AM

PC

“ *I would like to extend my deepest condolences to the families of Marjorie Williams Grantham. She was loved, respected, and definitely was a Minister of Music. I started singing in the young people 's choir and was very shy. Margie brought that shyness out of me. And for that I am truly grateful. She also gave me the nickname Ladydi! Margie had an infectious smile that would brighten up any room. Margie keep playing and teaching that heavenly music. You will truly missed. RIP*❤️



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**P.Diane Clark** - June 12 at 08:25 AM

VM

“ *To the Family of Ms. Marjorie, Please accept my deepest condolences on the passing of your beloved Ms. Marjorie. She was a remarkable woman whose kindness, wisdom, and gentle spirit touched my life in ways I will never forget.*



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**Virginia Minor** - June 12 at 06:54 AM

GB

“ It's with sincere condolences from the Blakey family upon hearing of the passing of Ms. Grantham. We enjoyed singing with various choirs under her guidance when we were members of 31st Street Baptist Church. God bless the family.

Gerald Blakey - June 11 at 05:39 PM

MG

“ Melissa Gregory lit a candle in memory of Marjorie Williams Grantham



Melissa Gregory - June 11 at 03:42 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Marjorie Williams Grantham.



June 10 at 09:39 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Marjorie Williams Grantham.

June 10 at 09:39 AM

SB

“ Our deepest condolences to Michael, Stephen, and to all of the family, extended family and friends of Marjorie (Margie) Grantham. The iconic Music Master of the 31st Street Baptist Church choirs for many years. I will always remember how wonderful the music was at 31st Street Baptist. Margie was a master of her craft. I remember when one of my triplet brothers, Thomas Willis, Jr. used to sing lead in one of the choirs under her direction. The choir had the church filled especially on certain Sundays. All of the choirs were amazing, and it was because of Margie; she demanded perfection and she got it with all of those beautiful voices blending just right. Those were the good 'ole days. I know she is in heaven running things now, continuing her work with music, her passion. May she rest in peace.

*(Sharing a couple of memorable photos with Margie in her capacity as a wedding Coordinator).*

Sharon



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Sharon Baker - June 05 at 08:02 PM

RE

“ Renee A Eddleton lit a candle in memory of Marjorie Williams Grantham



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Renee A Eddleton - June 02 at 12:06 PM

JJ

“ Our thoughts and prayers extend to all of you who are faced with the displeasure of losing a loved one to our worst enemy called Death, in these critical situations it's normal to feel helpless not knowing where to turn. However, our heavenly creator has assured us in HEB: 6/11 that it is impossible for him to ever forget us, He also stated in John:5/28/29 that all those who have fallen asleep will here is voice , So GOD is given us all his promise of hope of us being together once again. Meanwhile we can give our thanks to the funeral directors: for their perfectional assistance and their heartfelt concern toward the unfortunate friends and families; THANKS.

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**Joseph Jones** - June 01 at 01:23 PM

LL

“ To have Margie as a friend was truly a blessing. Im going to miss our Longhorn lunch dates, and our phone conversations. You will truly be missed. Rest in peace dear friend.  
*Linda R.LeSane*

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**Linda R LeSane** - May 29 at 01:27 PM

MM

*Grantham and Williams Family:*  
*My thoughts and prayers are with you and your during this difficult time.*  
*Please accept our heartfelt condolences.*  
*Margaret Porter Moore*

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**Margaret Porter Moore** - June 02 at 08:33 PM

YJ

“ A Queen has earned her wings. Because of Margie our family joined Thirty-first Street Baptist Church many,many years ago. She stopped my kids walking pass the church and asked them if they wanted to sing in the choir. That began so many years of deep friendship. She loved music and if it wasn't right you were not going to sing it. She wanted the music to be perfect and you had to look professional when you sang. Those of you that knew her know what I am talking about. I will deeply miss our long standing family/friendship. I know she is already up there Directing that Heavenly Choir with that beautiful smile! I will miss you Marge! Till we meet again!

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**Yvonne T. Jones** - May 29 at 09:05 AM



“ In case you didn't notice, the light in Richmond dimmed on May 24 2026 with the passing of our beloved Marjorie Grantham. When Marjorie entered a room, her million dollar smile illuminated the entire space. Her dedication to the music ministry at Thirty First Street Baptist was par excellence and she expected that same dedication from all in the choir. If one wrong note, that beautiful smile will momentarily dissipate when she looked at you. Marjorie was not shy about recruiting talent. We were all blessed to know her and will miss her very much.

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**Sheila Waller** - May 28 at 05:37 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.

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**March Funeral Homes** - May 27 at 04:05 PM