



Mrs. Ethel Mae Broadnax Driver

September 2, 1936 - April 11, 2025

Ethel Mae Broadnax was born on September 2, 1936, to Frank William Broadnax and Daisy Lee McCants Broadnax in Forrest City, Arkansas.

Ethel was a lifelong member of Christ Episcopal Church and an original student at Christ Church School, where she honed her cooking and home economics skills by preparing meals for students. After graduation, she continued cooking for students at the new school after the fire. As a member of Christ Episcopal Church, she ensured everyone knew the Episcopal Church Doctrine. She served in various church positions including senior and junior warden, treasurer, lay reader, Episcopal Church Women Group, Sunday School Teacher, and delegate to the Episcopal Church Convention.

On October 17, 1953, Ethel entered marriage with Joe Driver. They enjoyed 68 years of partnership until his passing on July 7, 2022.

Ethel worked at Gibsons Discount Store as a salesclerk for many years until a tornado hit eastern Arkansas in 1974. She was a dedicated member of the St. Francis County NAACP. She served as chairperson for the membership committee for many years. She supported the organization and its mission. She aimed to improve the world for all individuals. During her time with the NAACP, she and Mrs. Juanita Wilburn organized one of the first Juneteenth events in St. Francis County in the 1980s. She enjoyed reading and reciting

poems, taking photos, and working at voting polls. She exhibited a gentle and compassionate nature, being considerate and caring towards others. However, those who knew her were aware of her firm adherence to convictions and enforcement of rules and expectations.

Ethel was preceded in death by her husband, Joe Driver; her parents, Frank William Broadnax and Daisy Lee McCants Broadnax; her sisters, Mildred, Lucille, and Lou; and her brothers, EJ, Frankie, and Andrew.

Ethel leaves behind cherished memories with her goddaughters, Monetteria (Joseph) Chism and Ekeila (Duke) Herenton; nieces, Sandra and Ida Jane Broadnax, whom she raised with her husband Joe; lifelong friend, Faycerdella McLaurin; close friend, Eva Pickett; and many other nieces, nephews, relatives, and friends.

Cemetery Details

Casteel Cemetery

Highway 70 West & CR 221
Forrest City, AR 72335

Previous Events

Visitation (Final Viewing)

APR 19. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (CT)

Christ Episcopal Church
1120 Ophelia Street
Forrest City , AR 72335

Service

APR 19. 1:00 PM (CT)

Christ Episcopal Church
1120 Ophelia Street
Forrest City , AR 72335

Tribute Wall

SP

“ *Shurelle Parchman lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Ethel Mae Broadnax Driver*



Shurelle Parchman - May 22, 2025 at 11:25 AM

CC

“ *My prayers and condolences go out to the entire family.*



Calandra Chatters-Henderson - April 18, 2025 at 08:24 PM



“ *Sweet Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Mrs. Ethel Mae Broadnax Driver.*



April 16, 2025 at 12:08 PM

RG

“ Job Well done, Auntie Ethel Mae. U was the last sibling of my granddad left. I know u was scared & I told u "to Trust, Believe & Live, Your not gonna die before your time". God gave me 5 more years to love on U. I was blessed to be able to thank u for knowledge, love & respect, while u where here. I would have never known who your parents, parents was. Those talks, was everything! Let Driver & Frankie know their baby is in good hands. We Will Miss U 4Ever Auntie Ethel Mae 🙏🏾🍷💜💙🖤👉



Roslyn Garrison - April 16, 2025 at 11:43 AM

JH

“ To the family or my beloved Godmother. Though her smile is gone forever, and her hand we can no longer touch, we have so many memories of the one we loved so much. Her memory is our keepsake with which we will never part. God has you in his keeping. Rest in peace my Queen.

Jackie Grandy-Hill

Jacquelon Hill - April 15, 2025 at 01:14 PM

RW

“ To the entire Driver Family, I share in your lost, as aunt Ethel Mae (as she would remind me to call her) has been an encouraging figure in my life as long as I can remember. I offer you all my sincere sympathy, prayers and condolences.



Rene' Ward - April 15, 2025 at 10:17 AM

AB

“ To my darling Driver family 🙏 for you all. Aunt Ethel was a soldier who fought a good fight now she is at rest. Rest on Aunt Ethel and take your rest. We all loved you but God loved you best. You are now back together again with Uncle Sonny I know you've missed him.



Annette Bradley - April 14, 2025 at 07:26 PM

DM

“ A word of comfort and of hope, that in your deepest sorrow, you will find new strength and peace of mind and courage for tomorrow.” Please know that you are in our prayers.



Sending condolences to the family of Ethel Mae Broadnax Driver on behalf of The Lincoln High School - Maroon & Gold National Alumni Association, Inc. (MGNAAI), Forrest City, Arkansas. Ethel was attended school at Christ Church School (Father King).”

*Delores Farr Morelon
President, MGNAAI*

Delores Morelon - MGNAAI - April 14, 2025 at 02:56 PM