



Mrs. Ethel L. Westbrook

August 30, 1939 - July 2, 2025

Ethel Lee Westbrook was born to the union of Eddie Hawthorne and Ethel Lee Williams- Hawthorne on August 30, 1939, in Helena, Arkansas. She departed her life on July 2, 2025, at St. Francis Hospital in Memphis, TN. She professed her life to Christ at an early age at Centennial Baptist Church in Helena, AR. under the leadership of the late Rev. A. L. Woodson. She served on the usher board and was a Sunday school teacher. Later, she joined Sequell Missionary Baptist Church under the leadership of Rev. Booker Thomas when she moved to Rondo, AR. Ethel dedicated her life to education and public service, touching countless lives over her decades of leadership and compassion.

Ethel was a graduate of Eliza Miller High School, class of 1956. She was a graduate of the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, formerly known as AM & N University, with her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Education in 1960. Later, she went on to acquire a master's degree in business administration. After she completed her bachelor's degree, she moved to Rondo, AR.

She met her husband of 45 years, Ed Westbrook II, in their union they welcomed a son, Ed Westbrook III, born in June 1970. She began her career as a schoolteacher, teaching middle school students in the Marianna School District for over 30 years. Known for her warmth, patience, and deep belief in the potential of every child, she became a beloved figure in the community.

Her classroom was more than a place of learning; it was a space of encouragement, fairness, and love.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Eddie Lee Hawthorne and Ethel Lee Williams-Hawthorne, and her husband of 45 years, Ed Westbrook II, a daughter who died at birth, her son Ed Westbrook III, and brother-in-law Otha Westbrook, her brother Edward Lee Hawthorne Jr., and her sisters Jerlean Hawthorne-Rivers-Allen and Edith Maxine Hawthorne-Crawford.

She leaves to cherish her memory, her Sister-in-law, Donnie Westbrook, of Marianna, AR., Nieces: Debrah Crawford (Michael) McGruder of Forrest City, Evelynna Crawford of Conway, AR., Joyce Crawford, Jacqueline Crawford (Stanley) Harris, Elwanda Hawthorne, a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, former students, and cherished friends. Ethel's legacy lives on in every child she taught, every community member she uplifted, and every life she inspired. She will be deeply missed and forever remembered.

In retirement, her passion for service led her to enter local politics. Elected as Mayor of Ronda, Arkansas, Ethel served one term, during which she prioritized education, community programs, senior services, and infrastructure improvements. Her leadership was marked by integrity, inclusivity, and an unwavering commitment to the betterment of her hometown. Ethel often said, "Serving people is the highest form of teaching."

Cemetery Details

Sequell Missionary Baptist Church Cemetery

Rondo , AR

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 18. 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM (CT)

Marianna Funeral Home
28 Court Square
Marianna , AR 72360

Service

JUL 19. 11:00 AM (CT)

Sequell Missionary Baptist Church
12165 Highway 121 S
Lexa , AR 72355

The family will assemble at the funeral home [Marianna Funeral Home] located at 28 Court Street, Marianna, AR 72360, on the day of the service. All participants are kindly asked to be prepared for departure by 10:15 AM

Tribute Wall

JJ

“ *JoAnn Jones lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Ethel L. Westbrook*



JoAnn Jones - July 15, 2025 at 02:51 PM

BM

“ *Sending my condolences and prayers for the family. Mrs. Westbrook and I were former coworker at Anna Strong Middle School. She was a kind hearted person and was loved by everyone around her. Her love for education was contagious. I'm so blessed to have been inspired by her role as a classroom teacher. R.I.P. Mrs. Westbrook* 🙏❤️🕊️



Bernice Marshall - July 10, 2025 at 06:23 PM

CE

“ *My sincere prayers and condolences are with the Westbrook / Crawford family. May God comfort and strengthen you during this difficult time.*



Carolyn Westbrook El-Jihad - July 10, 2025 at 03:22 PM

SC

“ Sharon Crawford lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Ethel L. Westbrook



Sharon Crawford - July 09, 2025 at 06:08 PM

SP

“ Shurelle Parchman lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Ethel L. Westbrook



Shurelle Parchman - July 09, 2025 at 12:13 PM

ST

“ Crawford/Westbrook family, Heartfelt Condolences to you. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. Praying for strength, comfort, peace in this time of bereavements. Asking God to wrap His arms around you, to get you through this difficult today and the days ahead 🙏. Mullen, Williams, McGruder, Stone. and Thorn family



Shirley Williams Thorn - July 08, 2025 at 11:55 AM

CT

Have known Ethel since 1959 when we entered AM&N College, same major, and date of receiving our B.S. Degree. So quiet, full of genuineness, kindnesses, and empathy. Family, please know that I care much and with love and sincere condolences to . GOD'S LOVE and mine to you.

Carrol Tillman - July 10, 2025 at 07:05 PM

DE

Now all the siblings are together. Condolences from the Rivers family to the Westbrook/Crawford family.

Dee - July 12, 2025 at 01:51 PM