



## Carolyn F. Bailey-Champion

September 3, 1935 - February 27, 2025

A GREAT LIFE BEGAN ON September 3, 1935 in Memphis, Tennessee for Carolyn Frances Bailey Champion. That earthly journey concluded Thursday afternoon, February 27, 2025, at Baptist Memorial Hospital-DeSoto and she made her way to her heavenly home to join her beloved, departed husband, Dr. Charles A. Champion. She is also now shopping in the stores of Heaven with her departed daughter, Chandra Dianne Champion Walker. Carolyn was born to Lucille Bland and Walter Lane Bailey. Lucille passed away during the birth of Carolyn's sister, Oralee Bailey, four years after Carolyn's birth and Carolyn was reared by Walter and his then wife, Loree Catherine Rollins Bailey. Walter and Loree were the owners of the Lorraine Hotel, now the National Civil Rights Museum, and that was Carolyn's childhood home. She loved her childhood and her childhood home. Carolyn gave her life to Christ as a youngster and united with Grady Chapel CME church. After her marriage, she joined her husband at Mt. Olive Cathedral CME where she remained a faithful member until her death. Carolyn attended the public schools of Memphis and graduated Booker T. Washington High in 1953. After graduation she attended LeMoyne College and earned a degree from Henderson Business College. She was employed by E. H. Crump Hospital and later at The International Harvester company where she was the first black secretary to work for the company. It was at E. H. Crump Hospital where she met her life-long mate, Charles. Carolyn was working in the maternity ward and he was at John Gaston Hospital as the first African American

pharmacist to work in a City of Memphis hospital. Although Dr. Champion was employed in a professional capacity, due to the segregation that existed at the time, he could not dine in the cafeteria used by other professionals.

Consequentially, he ate in the facility designated for non-Caucasians. This fortuitous circumstance led to their meeting, dating, and falling in love.

# Cemetery Details

## Calvary Cemetery

1663 Elvis Presley Blvd  
Memphis, TN 38106

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAR 9. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (cst)

Snow Funeral Home  
1650 E. Shelby Dr.  
Memphis, TN 38116

*In Lieu of Flowers, memorials can be made to The Champion Foundation 2369 Elvis Presley Blvd 38106 or the National Civil Rights Museum*

## Visitation

MAR 10. 9:30 AM - 12:00 PM (cst)

Mt. Olive Cathedral CME Church  
538 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Ave  
Memphis, TN 38126

*In Lieu of Flowers, memorials can be made to The Champion Foundation 2369 Elvis Presley Blvd 38106 or the National Civil Rights Museum*

## Service

MAR 10. 12:00 PM (cst)

Mt. Olive Cathedral CME Church  
538 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd  
Memphis, TN 38126

*In Lieu of Flowers, memorials can be made to The Champion Foundation 2369 Elvis Presley Blvd 38106 or the National Civil Rights Museum*

# Tribute Wall

TW

“ My heart goes out to the Champion family during this incredibly difficult time. I'm deeply sorry for your loss 🙏 Please know that you're not alone in your grief - I'm sending all my love, prayers, and warmest thoughts to comfort you. May cherished memories bring you peace and strength in the days ahead. You're loved, you're supported, and you're in my thoughts always 🙏

Much Love,  
Tonya Fields-West ❤️🥺

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**Tonya Fields- West** - March 10, 2025 at 02:26 PM

NB

“ My thoughts and sincere prayers are with her family. May the Lord grant them the strength and comfort they will need in the days ahead. Norma J Batts

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**Norma Batts** - March 10, 2025 at 11:35 AM

AM

“ Alex Mitthivong purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Carolyn F. Bailey-Champion.



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**Alex Mitthivong** - March 07, 2025 at 04:51 PM

CC

“ *My Prayers are with you during this time.  
We known. God is always in charge  
Love,  
Mrs. Claudean Cooper-Clariette*

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**Claudean Clariette** - March 05, 2025 at 06:55 PM

ML

“ *Mnirajd, Naqvi, Lopez purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Carolyn F. Bailey-Champion.*



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**Mnirajd, Naqvi, Lopez** - March 05, 2025 at 02:19 PM

SH

“ *How saddened I was to learn of the homegoing of Mrs. Champion! She was truly a beautiful lady- inside and out. I don't remember ever going to the Champion Pharmacy and not finding her busy at work - either helping out behind the counter, answering the phone, or just welcoming everyone who entered as warmly as she would, no doubt, do at her home. My aunt, the late Mrs. Cloveice Exum, and my father, the late Elder Curley Hamilton, introduced me to the Champions at an early age. They always greeted me with such concern and genuine care. (Dr. Chandra was my very own, personal pharmacist.) I will miss just knowing that Mrs. Champion is over there --at the pharmacy, smiling and loving at all times. I am comforted in knowing that she is now with the Lord and reunited with the love of her life, Dr. Champion. This great soul will be greatly missed by the entire Memphis area. My thoughts and sincere prayers are with her family. May the Lord grant them the strength they will need in the days ahead. ---Sandra C. Hamilton*

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**Sandra C. Hamilton** - March 04, 2025 at 02:02 PM

JF

“ JEFFREY HIGGS & FAMILY purchased the Lily and Rose Tribute Spray for the family of Carolyn F. Bailey-Champion.



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JEFFREY HIGGS & FAMILY - March 04, 2025 at 12:24 PM

JF

“ JEFFREY HIGGS & FAMILY planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Carolyn F. Bailey-Champion.

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JEFFREY HIGGS & FAMILY - March 04, 2025 at 12:24 PM