

*Thelma*  
DENISE MILLER-BLAND  
*August 19, 1940 - July 27, 2025*



# Family Farewell

*The family would like to express their gratitude, appreciation, and sincere thanks for all acts of kindness and love shown during their time of bereavement. Your visits, cards, phone calls, flowers, prayers, and other acts of kindness will brighten the days ahead.  
We love and thank God for you.*

## Funeral Services

### NORTH CAROLINA

#### VIEWING

Friday, August 8, 2025 | 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM  
Dunn Funeral Home  
810 West Wilmington Street  
Burgaw, North Carolina 28425

#### SERVICE

Saturday, August 9, 2025 | 1:00 PM  
Middle District Missionary Baptist Association  
1821 NC-53  
Burgaw, North Carolina 28425

### GEORGIA

#### VIEWING

Friday, August 15, 2025 | 4:00 PM – 7:00 PM  
Merritt Funeral Home  
305 Martin Luther King Jr. Street  
Colquitt, Georgia 39837

#### SERVICE

Saturday, August 16, 2025 | 1:00 PM  
St. Mary Missionary Baptist Church  
1669 Avenue Road  
Colquitt, Georgia 39837

### INTERMENT

Springfield Cemetery

### PALLBEARERS

Family and Friends

### FLOWER BEARERS

Family and Friends

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

*The family of Thelma Denise Miller-Bland would like to acknowledge, with deepest appreciation, the many expressions of love and sympathy and gestures of kindness shown to us following our loss. We offer our heartfelt thanks to the many families and friends who have rendered emotional and practical support at this most difficult time, to those who have traveled long distances, and to those who have sent floral tributes, cards, and messages of condolence. We are truly grateful.*

## Professional Services Entrusted to

### DUNN FUNERAL HOME

810 West Wilmington Street  
Burgaw, North Carolina 28425

### MERRITT FUNERAL HOME

305 Martin Luther King, Jr. Street  
Colquitt, Georgia 39837

CELEBRATING  
THE LIFE  
AND LEGACY





# Life Reflections

IN LOVING MEMORY OF *Thelma Denise Miller - Bland*

On Sunday July 27, 2025, **THELMA** was called home to be with the Lord, where to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord (II Corinthians 5:8)

Born on August 19, 1940, in Colquitt, Georgia, to Queen and Leroy Miller, Thelma possessed an off-beat sense of humor, a trait she inherited from her mother, Queen, whose sharp wit and spirited charm are well known in the family. After graduating high school, she ventured beyond her hometown, living in Florida and Newark, New Jersey, before settling in North Carolina, where she built a life with her husband and children.



A dedicated caregiver, Thelma worked as a live-in aide and later for RCA. Her dream was to pursue accounting, a passion she fulfilled in part by managing the finances of the family businesses—demonstrating her sharp mind and steady hand. Eventually, she returned to healthcare, a field that matched her nurturing soul and boundless compassion. Until her passing, she was the primary caregiver for her husband, Harry.

Her laughter could light up a room, and her thoughtful advice provided comfort and guidance to her children, grandchildren, and loved ones. A lifelong learner, Thelma encouraged education and spent countless hours reading—finding joy and wisdom in the pages.

She had a knack for baking, especially cakes, which she lovingly prepared for those who asked. Her love for fishing was enduring; whether on a pier or at the local fishing spots with close friends and family, she treasured every quiet moment by the water.

Thelma was preceded in death by her parents, Leroy and Queen Miller; brothers, Cornelius Miller, Andrew Miller, and Johnny Lee Miller; sisters, Lizzie Mae Lowe, Leola Miller, and Francis Walker; as well as her stepdaughter, Leslie Crooms-Ware (Vincent).

Thelma is survived by her husband, Harry Bland; children, Diana Bland, Cheryl Bland, Lattie Bland Mobley (Kenneth), John Bland, and stepdaughter, Elder Sharon Turner; sisters, Esther Ruth Powell (the late Moses), Grace Ann Miller, Elizabeth Miller, and Gloria Jean Miller-Anderson (Romeo); as well as her brothers, Sam Miller (Barbara Ann), and Leroy Miller, Jr. (Flora); seventeen grandchildren, seventeen great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild; and a host of nieces and nephews.

Thelma's legacy lives on in her children and the lives she touched with kindness, humor, and unwavering strength.



## I'm Free

*Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free.  
I'm following the path God laid for me.  
I took His hand when I heard Him call;  
I turned my back and left it all.  
I could not stay another day  
To laugh, to love, to work, or play.  
Tasks left undone must stay that way;  
I've now found peace at the end of day.  
If my parting has left a void,  
Then fill it with remembered joys:  
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss.  
Oh, yes, these things I, too, will miss.  
Be not burdened with times of sorrow;  
Look for the sunshine of tomorrow.  
My life has been full; I savored much:  
Good friends, good times, a loved one's touch.  
Perhaps my time seems all too brief;  
Don't lengthen your pain with undue grief.  
Lift up your heart, and peace to thee.  
God wanted me now—He has set me free.*



FROM YOUR CHILDREN

Dear Mom,  
You have transitioned from this earthly realm into your heavenly home, and while our hearts are heavy with sorrow, we find comfort in knowing you now rest safely in the arms of our Lord. Heaven has received a faithful soul, and we are certain the angels rejoiced as you entered the gates of glory.

As your children, we are forever grateful to have been raised and deeply loved by you. You taught us how to walk by faith, how to love without condition, and how to live with purpose and grace.

Growing up, you instilled in us the importance of respect—especially for our elders—and shaped our values with your words and your example. We remember the joy of singing and dancing around the house with you, our laughter echoing through every room. We remember games of pity-pat, your favorite card game, and the way your hands moved with love and care as you sewed our school clothes during our elementary years.

Our Christmases with you were a beautiful spiritual gift we will always hold close. The scent of fresh oranges and apples filled the air, mixed with the sweet aroma of your pound cakes, orange cakes, pumpkin cakes, and homemade pies. You sang while you baked, and your voice made everything feel like home, safe, and full of joy.

“Her children rise up and call her blessed...”  
Proverbs 31:28

You were, indeed, a blessed woman—and such a blessing to us. We thank God for every moment we shared with you, for the lessons you taught us, and for the countless prayers you lifted on our behalf. You carried so much on your shoulders, yet you always gave more love, more wisdom, more faith. We are the fruit of your labor, and we will continue to walk in the light of your example.

Though we can no longer see you or hear your voice, we feel your presence in our hearts. We believe you are still near, smiling, guiding, and interceding for us. Your soul is now at peace, and your joy is complete in the presence of the Lord. We miss your laughter, our Sunday prayer calls (our last being Isaiah 43), and those long, loving conversations.

“To be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord.”  
II Corinthians 5:8

You are home now, Mom—whole, radiant, and reunited with those who went before you. Though our hearts miss you every single day, we hold tight to the promise that this goodbye is only for a while.

Until we meet again, we will honor your memory in how we live, how we love, and how we trust in God. Thank you, Mom—for everything. We love you beyond what words can express.

With All Our Love,  
Diana, Cheryl, Renee, & Marty

Order of Celebration

AUGUST 9, 2025

PROCESSIONAL

VIEWING

MUSICAL SELECTION  
Reverend Saundra Green

PRAYER  
Christopher Carr

SCRIPTURE READINGS  
Sandra Darden-Carr  
Old Testament  
New Testament

MUSICAL SELECTION  
Reverend Saundra Green

FAMILY & FRIENDS REFLECTIONS  
Two Minutes Maximum, Please

MUSICAL SELECTION  
Sandran Darden-Carr  
Reverend Saundra Green

OBITUARY  
Read in Silence, Please

EULOGY  
Elder Sharon Turner

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS  
Dunn Funeral Home

RECESSIONAL

AUGUST 16, 2025

PROCESSIONAL

VIEWING

HYMN  
Stanly Shepard

PRAYER  
Decon Sam Miller

SCRIPTURE READINGS  
Jessica Miller  
Old Testament  
New Testament

MUSICAL SELECTION  
Decon Sam Miller

FAMILY & FRIENDS REFLECTIONS  
Two Minutes Maximum, Please

MUSICAL SELECTION  
Decon Sam Miller

OBITUARY  
Read in Silence, Please

EULOGY  
Paster Charlie Kyles

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS  
Merritt Funeral Home

RECESSIONAL



# PRECIOUS



# MEMORIES