



Ms. Erma Dell Bowles

December 22, 1922 - December 8, 2025

Ms. Erma Dell Bowles, a beloved matriarch and cherished elder, was born on December 22, 1922, in Tchula, Mississippi, and peacefully transitioned in her home on December 8, 2025, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, at the age of 102.

Erma was born in Tchula, Mississippi, and educated in the Biloxi County School System. After her time in

Mississippi, she moved with her family to Detroit, Michigan and then Youngstown, Ohio, where she'

developed the values that guided her throughout her life. The family later relocated to Milwaukee,

Wisconsin, where, as the eldest daughter, Erma helped support her family.

She had a passion for cooking,

which led her to pursue a career as a dietician. She worked until age 75. She approached her profession

with diligence, resilience, and pride.

Raised in the church, Erma held deep and abiding faith. She faithfully served at Grace Fellowship Church,

where she was a devoted member of the Mother's Board for 20 years, serving until her health declined.

Through her service, she offered wisdom, guidance, and steadfast spiritual leadership to her church family.

She was the daughter of the late William Theodore Townsend and Fannie (Newsome) Townsend. She was

preceded in death by her siblings: Deforest Townsend, Charley Townsend, Rothschild (RC) Townsend, Freeman Townsend, and Desiree (Townsend) Glover.

Erma was known for her keen discernment, quick wit, and warm sense of humor. She lived with independence and quiet confidence, embracing life with an adventurous spirit and an honest, straightforward nature that earned deep respect from all who knew her. She found joy in hosting friends and family, gardening, loved to travel, and especially cherished attending family reunions, where she delighted in sharing family history, stories, and memories that strengthened bonds across generations.

Cherishing her memory are her children: Erskine Bowles;;Vernon (Karen) Bowles, Erma B. Julien, Darnelle Bowles, and Bryant Bowles. She is also survived by her brother, Vernon Townsend.

Her legacy continues through her grandchildren: Jerome Julien, Gregory Julien, John Bowles, Eric (Rynita) Julien, Jeff Bowles, William (Shelly) Julien, Vernon Bowles II, Stephanie Bowles, and Savera Henderson, many great-grandchildren, and extended family, who will carry forward her strength, wisdom, faith, and love.

The family extends heartfelt gratitude for the prayers, kindness, and compassion shown during this time of bereavement.

Cemetery Details

Glen Oaks Cemetery

4530 N. Green Bay Ave
Milwaukee, WI

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 27. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Canaan Baptist Church
2975 N. 11th St.
Milwaukee, WI

Funeral Service

DEC 27. 11:00 AM (CT)

Canaan Baptist Church
2975 N. 11th St.
Milwaukee, WI