



## Mrs. Essie Lee Marshall

May 23, 1941 - April 1, 2025

Essie Lee Marshall (Hunnicuttt)

Essie was the oldest grandchild and the oldest great-great grandchild of the Hunnicutt and Douglas Family of Marlin, (Falls County) Texas. She was raised in the home of her grandparents, Arthur and Dora Douglas Hunnicutt along with two of her siblings. Her mother was Effie Mae Bookman.

Essie's intelligence was recognized by the members of the Shady Grove Baptist Church when she was very young. She was known as a really good speaker at the tender age of two when she was a participant in Sunday School and Easter and Christmas programs. She started school at four years old and graduated from Booker T. Washington High School in Marlin, Texas, as an honor student in 1958. She was known as a fierce debater and won awards in the state-wide Prairie View A&M University Interscholastic League (Texas UIL). Essie was also a leading cheerleader and sang in the school choir. She excelled in typing where her performance was 75 to 80 words per minute. She attended Paul Quinn College in Dallas, Texas and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

From sixth grade through high school, Essie served her community as a member of the 4-H Club. She became the president of the Shady Grove Community 4-H Club, where she developed her leadership skills. These skills helped her to become the President of the 4-H Council for Falls County, Texas. The group consisted of the officers and leaders from communities around the county. Her parliamentary skills were recognized by the agents of

Falls County as well as other counties in Texas. Because of her leadership skills, Essie was one of two leaders selected to represent the state of Texas in Washington D.C. She won monetary awards for her sewing, cooking, and gardening skills. Later, she started a 4-H chapter in Milwaukee known as the Palmer Street BeeGees. They were known for exceptional skills with arts and crafts, cooking and canning, sewing and crocheting, and the building of a one-man Everglades Air Boat, all of which received Grand Champion status! All of these skills served as foundational when she and her sister, Betty helped to rebuild the home of their grandfather after a fire destroyed it.

Essie married her classmate and high school sweetheart, Barnette Marshall in 1961. They moved to Milwaukee to start their family and careers. To this union three children were born; Dora, Rodney, and Chandra. Barnette had a distinguished career in building construction and together they established their rental company, B.E.R.C Rentals which created affordable housing for Milwaukee residents for over 40 years. During this time, Essie established her own career as a social worker for Milwaukee County where she served clients in halfway houses throughout Milwaukee until her retirement.

She traveled throughout Europe, Mexico and Canada with family and friends. She loved fishing and camping at lakes and rivers throughout the country. She always said, "When you are tired of being in a spot fishing and camping you can always move for a change of scenery". Some of her favorite places were Big Bend, Mackinac Island, the bullhead hole in New London, and the back waters of the Mississippi River. Oh, and she was a devoted Green Bay Packer fan! Go, Pack, Go!

Education was always important to her. She encouraged all of children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren to pursue educational excellence. She was preceded in death by her husband, Barnette, two daughters, Dora Lenette Marshall, and Chandra Renee Marshall-Fonge, two sisters and two brothers, as well as her mother and grandparents.

Left to cherish her memory are her devoted son, Rodney Marshall (Sharron), Snowden Sims (Melinda) who is related as a son; grandchildren, Ayanna

Marshall, Kazia Washington (Stewart), Zonea Grant, Imani Marshall, Zarea Barber (Mark), Nya Marshall, and Miles Marshall; great-grandchildren Krystal Washington, Xavier Grant, Jeriya Washington and Pharra Washington; sisters, Betty Glover, Edna Adams(Willie); brother, Arthur Bookman (Loretta); nieces, Stephanie Smith, Nirvana Willis, Samantha Feldman(Nate); nephews, Troy Pettaway (Angela) and Anthony Bookman (Elizabeth); cousins, Wanda Matthews (Ronnie), Jimi Lynn(Angetta) and Marie related as a sister, and a host of others.

#### Grandmother Tribute

Your presence still fills spaces between our days – softly, powerfully, always. We carry your laughter, your lessons, and your love with us, and today we pause to celebrate the gift of your life. You are deeply honored and remembered with so much joy. We love you! “A bushel and a peck”.

# Cemetery Details

## Northwest Cremation Services

6630 W. Hampton Ave.  
Milwaukee, WI 53218

# Previous Events

## Family Gathering

MAY 30. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Northwest Funeral Chapel  
6630 W. Hampton Ave  
Milwaukee, WI

## Memorial Service

MAY 30. 11:00 AM (CT)

Northwest Funeral Chapel  
6630 W. Hampton Ave  
Milwaukee, WI

# Tribute Wall

OM

“ To the Family of the Essie Lee Marshall please accept my sincere condolence as she has transitioned into the care of her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

*Essie's life touched mine many years ago, I will always remember her warm smile, kind heart, and generous hospitality. May the beautiful love and memories you have shared be of comfort to you this day and in the future. May God bless you and keep you until you meet her again in her heavenly body . Ora MALONE.*

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**Ora Malone** - May 30, 2025 at 01:01 AM

KF

“ Kenny and Laurie Pearson and family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mrs. Essie Lee Marshall.

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**Kenny and Laurie Pearson and family** - May 29, 2025 at 09:15 AM

KF

“ Kenny and Laurie Pearson and family purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Mrs. Essie Lee Marshall.



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**Kenny and Laurie Pearson and family** - May 29, 2025 at 09:15 AM

DS

“ Dorinda, Janice & Sherry planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mrs. Essie Lee Marshall.

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**Dorinda, Janice & Sherry** - May 24, 2025 at 12:22 AM

DS

“ I met Essie while working for Milwaukee County. We became friends, life long friends and after 30 years family. I already miss the laughter and the good times we shared. Even though there was a 25yr age difference, Essie would tell me we were equals and she always treated me as such. We could talk about anything and everything and we did! We once talked on the phone for 4 hours, and we laughed about not recalling what we talked about. I'm so thankful to have been able to have one last hug and I love you with Essie. I loved me some Essie and Mr. Barnette Marshall they were a perfect pair to me. Rest in peace Mr. and Mrs. Marshall, together again.. My condolences to Mr. Rodney and Family.

Dorinda S.

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**Dorinda S** - May 23, 2025 at 11:06 PM

JL

“ Sincere condolences to Rodney and the grandchildren. Essie was a favorite cousin that always enjoyed family visiting from Texas. She could talk endlessly about her family and what each were doing. We will certainly miss both Essie and Barnett. Rest easy my family 🙏

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**Jimi Lynn** - May 20, 2025 at 11:42 AM

DP

“ *Mama Marshall was always a calm voice in the wilderness for me. I would always listen to her wise counsel and heed her advice. When she spoke, she said a lot! Thank you Mama Marshall, for saving me a seat at the table, and a place in your heart. I love you.*  
*Dennis Piggee*

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**Dennis Piggee** - April 21, 2025 at 11:58 AM

LA

“ *Rest in heaven Mrs. Marshall. It was such a blessing to know you and Mr. Marshall. You will always hold a special place in our hearts.*  
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**Lattice** - April 19, 2025 at 12:04 AM

GC

“ *My family, she will always have a special place in my heart and she always made me feel like I was part of the family Mrs Marshall until we meet again let Mr Marshall know I said only if I had a other chance*

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**Gregory CoBB** - April 18, 2025 at 11:40 PM

WS

*Rest in Peace Essie Lee. Essie Lee and Barnette both were my classmates at Booker T Washington school in Marlin, TX.*

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**wayne & O'Dean Scott** - May 27, 2025 at 08:53 AM