

# In Loving Memory: Esther 'Alene' Grice

Esther "Alene" Grice was born Aug. 30, 1923, to Henry and Patsy Bills in DeKalb, Texas. She departed this earth for her heavenly home on March 30, 2010, capping a rich and beautiful journey.

The youngest of three sisters, Alene was always referred to by family as "Baby Sister." Because her mother died giving birth to her only brother, Henry, she and her sisters were raised by their aunt and uncle, Lecci and Elbert Graves.

During the Great Depression, the family moved north to Chicago where she completed her elementary and high school education and where she met her husband, Leroy "Chappie" Grice of Portland, who at that time was in the U.S. Army. They were married and she gave birth to her first child, Lynda, in Chicago. After Chappie was honorably discharged from the military, the family moved to Portland and established a home on North Benton Street

where Memorial Coliseum now sits. Here, she joined her sisters, Margaret and Helen and their families, who had also moved to Portland.

Alene was Portland's first African American elevator operator



thanks to the good work of the famed Urban League Director Bill Berry in 1948. Portland was very prejudiced at that time, but she weathered all that because she and her husband wanted "a better life" for their children.

Her second child, Michael, was born in that same year. Her third and last child, Asaad Ali, born as Mark Steven, came into the family in 1958. By that time, she was solidly employed for Joseph's Plastics as a shipping clerk and later served as an employment specialist for the Urban League, and then, the city of Portland during the Model Cities era in the 1960s and 1970s. She is credited for helping place many of Portland's African-American young people in their first "career" jobs.

She was an active person and belonged to St. Monica's Guild of St. Philip the Deacon Episcopal Church. Although she could not finish college, she highly valued education, was an avid reader of novels, and enjoyed her volunteer years at Beach Elementary.

The balance of her retirement was divided between her social and service club, the Social Odd Balls, and

her grandchildren that she loved so dearly. She loved her husband and cherished the moments with her family. She was always known for her sumptuous cooking and holiday meals; and always found her home a gathering place for friends and family. She and Chappie enjoyed Jazz and traveled each year to the Monterey Jazz festival, until he passed away in 1980.

Alene Grice will long be remembered for her loving ways, effervescent personality, and especially superb fried chicken. She is survived by her children, Lynda, Michael and Asaad; her daughters-in-law, Gwendolyn and Amina; her grandchildren, Traci Lynn (Mike), Toi Alletash (Kevin), Joi Alene (Harvey), Taj Amir, Rafi Khan, and Muhammad; her great-grandchildren, Cole, Cameron, Maija and Alek; and a host of nieces, nephews, friends, colleagues, and distinguished citizens.



**Happy Birthday**  
**Big Momma**  
*We love you, and we miss you.*  
 Love, your family

# Life Celebrated: Alice Paul

Funeral services for Alice Paul, a colorful and outspoken homemaker who died of natural causes on March 21, 2010 at the age of 98, were held March 30 at Bethel AME Church.

She was born Oct. 31, 1911 in Franklin, La., the seventh of eight children to Henry and Millie (Dapamore) Barabin.

She was educated in the Louisiana public school system where she completed high school and later took some businesses courses. In 1940 she married her first and only love, Royal Joseph Paul, who worked for Union Pacific Railroad and through his job had come to know Portland, where they would relocate in 1945. He died in 1985.

At a very young age, Alice gave her life to Christ. She was an active, loyal and faithful member of Bethel for 65 years, a congregation where she built lifelong friendships and found a place of refuge; a place to display her love for fashion (ear bobs, gloves and hats); and a place where she could nourish her love of traditional hymns.

As a "homemaker" she managed the daily tasks of providing a loving home for her husband and children, Royal Vincent Paul and Audrey Jean Paul Talton. As a business savvy woman, she operated her father's grocery store with her sister, Helen, while growing up in Louisiana. She also tirelessly supported her husband's efforts to establish and launch Paul Janitorial Service in the mid-1960s, and where she handled the bookkeeping. The company was one of the first black-owned businesses in the state of Oregon.

Her grandkids always put a smile on her face; she dearly loved her family and prayed for them always.



At her birth, William Taft was president; at her death, Barack Obama was the first black president, history that she was proud to have lived to see.

Living more than 25 years after her husband, she maintained an independent life style with a love of music and traveling, but mostly relaxing and watching her favorite television shows.

She leaves to celebrate her life, her two children, Royal and Audrey; a grandson, Imil Centrell Wheeler and a paternal great granddaughter, N'dea Wheeler of New Jersey; by union; four grandchildren Darrien, Idris, Ayanna (Talton) Defrees, and Kimani Talton; 12 great grandchildren; and a host of nieces, nephews, and other relatives and friends in Louisiana, Texas and Arizona.

She was predeceased by her husband; a son and daughter, both of whom departed this life as infants; six brothers, Henry, Albert, Walter, Samuel, Sutherland, and Buster, and her sister, Helen.

Spirited and tenacious until the end, she leaves a legacy that represents two of the most influential entities in this country, a strong Christian, and a strong black woman!

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