



Mrs. Lelia Evelyn McDowel

April 22, 1945 - March 6, 2025

Lelia Evelyn McDowel was born on April 22, 1945, in Kansas City, Missouri, to Terrence Berry Waller Jr. and Fannie Mae Waller. She was preceded in death by both of her parents, her brothers, Terrence Berry Waller III and Cecil Waller, son, Charles McDowel Jr., daughter, Lia McDowel Barnett, grandson, Brandon McDowel-Fauntleroy and great-grandson, Tevin McCray.

Lelia, affectionately known as Evelyn, was married to Charles McDowel, whom she adored, on May 2, 1975. One of their favorite pastimes was playing dominoes together. They were also avid bowlers during the prime years of their lives, often traveling out of state to bowl and winning many trophies over the years, with her winning more, as Charles would often admit.

Lelia worked as an insurance analyst at Old American Insurance Company and retired in

September 1997. After retirement, she found pleasure in working in home health care for a while. Lelia was a woman of class, value, kindness, grace, and self-respect. She was a beloved wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and great-great-grandmother who loved spending time with her family. She was a member of Palestine Missionary Baptist Church of Jesus Christ and enjoyed taking her grandchildren to vacation Bible school and cherished family visits on family day.

Lelia was actively involved in mission work at her church. She loved the Lord and God's people and attended services as long as her health permitted. When she could no longer attend in person, she enjoyed watching the service live stream.

Lelia leaves to cherish her memory her husband Charles; her children, Laurice (Winfred) Sanders, Twyla (David) McDowel-Fauntleroy, Michael (Lavette) Waller, and Darrell (Loretta) Waller; her grandchildren, LaTosha (Tyler) McCray Sr., Gregory Ashby, Dominique Waller, Charles McDowell III, Chasnye Morris, and Adiah Fauntleroy; seven great-grandchildren and five great-great-grandchildren. Her siblings, Albert (Theresa) Williamson Sr., Leota Williamson, and Anthony Williamson, along with a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives, friends, and cousins who lovingly referred to her as their "first black beautiful

Barbie," also
survive her.

Lelia departed this life on Thursday, March 6, 2025 at Saint Luke's Hospice House. She was a dear friend to many and left behind a legacy of love, grace, and strength. We appreciate all who came to celebrate her life and home-going. She was deeply loved and will be greatly missed.

Funeral services will be held on Friday, March 21, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. at Palestine Missionary Baptist Church. Interment: XII Gates Memorial Gardens. Visitation Friday 10-11:00 a.m. at the Church. Arrangements entrusted to Lawrence A. Jones & Sons. Condolences may be shared on our website

Cemetery Details

XII Gates Memorial Gardens

9500 East Bannister Road
Kansas City, MO 64138

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 21. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Palestine Missionary Baptist Church
3619 East 35th Street
Kansas City, MO 64128

Funeral Service

MAR 21. 11:00 AM (CT)

Palestine Missionary Baptist Church
3619 East 35th Street
Kansas City, MO 64128

Interment

MAR 21 (CT)

XII Gates Memorial Gardens
9500 East Bannister Road
Kansas City, MO 64138

Tribute Wall



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Mrs. Lelia Evelyn McDowel.

March 21, 2025 at 01:17 PM



“ From stace& chas II &III. Remembering a trip chas & I took with Evelyn& Big Chas to Nebraska. My memory of Lelia is a gracious kind& fun-loving person. Chas & I especially enjoyed as I was pregnant with Chas III. Lelia advised me on birthing,caring for a newborn & managing a husband! I recall much laughter& fellowship. Chas& I really,really enjoyed visiting Lelia& Big Chas in their home.

Chas II preceded Lelia in death. I know he'd be here today by his father' side!!! He loved Lelia & Big Chas very,very much!!!

SI - March 21, 2025 at 12:49 PM



“ Lelia was a dear friend, always cheerful and a joy to be around. She was a good listener, and did not judge others. Lelia openly and often expressed her love and appreciation for her husband and family. She was genuine. Her conversations and beautiful smile will be missed.



Venita Fain-Siffre - March 20, 2025 at 03:55 PM