

Celebration of Life for Mother Elouise Westbrook



Sunrise:
April 20, 1915

Sunset:
September 13, 2011

Service Held
Wednesday, September 21, 2011
10:00 a.m.

Cornerstone Missionary Baptist Church
6190 Third Street
San Francisco, California

Pastor Kenneth R. Reece, Officiating



My Story

*"This is my story, this is my song,
I've served and praised my Savior, all my life long;
This is my story, this is my song, Praising my Savior, all the day long.*

I was born Elouise Morris on April 20, 1915 in Gatesville, Texas, a twin – and a "preemie" at that, weighing less than 3 pounds at birth. My parents (both of whom preceded me in death) were Dora (Davenport) Morris and William Morris. My twin brother – Harold, and my 2 sisters – Christine (Hannah) and Teresa (Smith) also preceded me in death.

"I decided to make Jesus my choice" and accepted Christ, was baptized at an early age, and attended church with my parents morning, noon and night – almost 7 days a week. In 1949, I united in Christian fellowship with St. John Missionary Baptist Church under the leadership of the late Rev. J. A. Morgan, and later became one of the organizing members of the Cornerstone Missionary Baptist Church in San Francisco.

I received my formal education in Gatesville and Waco, Texas; I attended Extended Academic Studies college classes at San Francisco State College and San Francisco City College, picking up various other academic studies at other institutions whenever and wherever resources and opportunities became available. Although I did not have a college degree, I strived to make "heaven my home." The journey got hard, the roads truly got rough, children.

You know I enjoyed music and singing, and many times I had to "steal away to Jesus," praying and asking Him to "Use Me Lord in Your Service." You know some of those old spirituals, hymns of the church like – "Amazing Grace," "Precious Lord," "Steal Away to Jesus," and "I Couldn't Hear Nobody Pray."

I met and married Otis Criner (deceased) and we moved to Waco, Texas. We had 2 beautiful daughters: Evelyn (Snelgro) and Oddie Lee (Criner), both of whom preceded me in death.

I moved to San Francisco in 1949, established residency in the South of Market community and later moved to the Hunters Point community. Shortly, after moving to San Francisco, I met and married Mr. Issace Westbrook (deceased). We had a beautiful life together and I spent most of my time serving as a homemaker. This left me with plenty of time to offer my services as a volunteer. Having lived in both the South of Market and Hunters Point communities, I decided to work for the cause and mission of improving the quality of life at Bayview Hunters Point Joint Housing Committee, fighting for welfare rights. My other employment was with Economic Opportunity Council (EOC) and as Director of Patient Advocate Multi-Cultural Program at San Francisco General Hospital.

I knew a "change had to come" for those in need of food and shelter – people needed a roof over their heads ... they needed health care – accessible health care. I also knew they needed a "Voice"

to help them speak up for their rights, so I went around – with others – organizing people first in South of Market, in Hunters Point, to San Francisco/Bay Area, state-wide, and then joining others nationally, when called upon.

I was forever busy fighting – in 1954 I helped fight for integration, fighting for laws enabling blacks, whites and others to live as neighbors in public housing. I was called upon to assist in getting the height standards amended for both the San Francisco Police and Fire Departments to accommodate the Asian population during the 60s.

The 50s, the 60s, the 70s and the 80s were the most rewarding and satisfying years of my life. I enjoyed being active in advocacy and working with our communities. But I knew I had to keep my hand in God's Hand. I knew I had to be where I could be of service to people – my people. I can't tell it all, but I enjoyed the Fight. We marched and we traveled all over the country, joining others in the fight for equal opportunities for all people – for jobs and employment changes – for housing and health care... we did sit-ins, picketed, protested for educational rights. We fought for admission to schools – specifically San Francisco State College. I did not do all of this by myself. I had followers who trusted me and God – others who were faithful to the cause... No, I did not do it by myself.

I told my children to call all my children – I knew this day was coming – I was in transition and crossing over:

*"How I got over – How did I make it over
You know my soul look back and wonder – How did I make it over*

*But, soon as I can see JESUS, The Man that died for me
Man that bled and suffered, and He hung on Calvary*

*And I want to thank Him for how He brought me –
And I want to thank GOD for how He taught me
Oh thank my GOD how He kept me – I'm gonna thank Him 'cause He never left me
You know my soul look back and wonder
How did I make it over."*

I leave to cherish my memory: 14 grandchildren – Brenda Parish, Andrew Gooden, Jr., Ronald Gooden, Loretta Gooden, Marian Britton, Debra Gooden, Sharon Gooden, Kathy Gooden, William Gooden, Marian Snelgro, Wayne Snelgro and Bernard Snelgro; 39 great-grandchildren; 19 great-great grandchildren; devoted and loving cousins – Zella Davis and Betty Hannah-Anderson; a host of nieces and nephews; extended family members – Senator Dianne Feinstein and Richard Blum, Willie L. Brown, Jr., Ollie Burgess, Linda Cross, Katie Dawson, Leslie Hopkins, Espanola Jackson, Wanda Johnson, Shirley Jones, Al Norman, Jr., Charles Range, Asa Satariano, Marilyn Spiller, Patsy T aylor, Charlie Walker, Essie Webb, Gwen Westbrook, Rev. Cecil Williams and Oscaryne Winnfield-Williams; Caregivers: Demiyah, Chevonne Lecks, Lori Lloyd, Leela Molex, Jahea Reed, Shanya Watkins, Pinky Williams and Colleen Muhammad; Pastor Kenneth R. Reece and the Cornerstone Missionary Baptist Church Family. (Also preceding me in death are my grandchildren Iris Gooden, Ronnie Gooden and Eddie Marvin Snelgro.)

Mrs. Westbrook is particularly remembered for her outspoken advocacy in 1973 when she led a delegation to Washington, D.C. to get federal funds to build homes in the Bayview Hunters Point. City officials had failed to get the funds. Under the authorization of the late Mayor Joseph Alioto, her efforts got \$30 million to build homes in the area.

While in Washington, D.C. she received a call from Mayor Alioto to "come on home, we got

Later, the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the City and County of San Francisco joined, too.

They were vital, for the job was immense:

To turn a once-despairing 134-acre slum into a totally new environment... of sparkling garden housing, shiny schools, new churches and child care facilities... fresh parks and playgrounds... and essential shopping and community centers.



Mrs. Westbrook is particularly remembered for her outspoken advocacy in 1973 when she led a delegation to Washington, D.C. to get federal funds to build homes in the Bayview Hunters Point. City officials had failed to get the funds. Under the authorization of the late Mayor Joseph Alioto, her efforts got \$30 million to build homes in the area.

While in Washington, D.C. she received a call from Mayor Alioto to "come on home, we got

Later, the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the City and County of San Francisco joined, too.

They were vital, for the job was immense:

To turn a once-despairing 134-acre slum into a totally new environment... of sparkling garden housing, shiny schools, new churches and child care facilities... fresh parks and playgrounds... and essential shopping and community centers.



San Francisco General Hospital & Medical Center
President of Governing Board of SFMCOIP, Inc. - 1973

Mrs. Westbrook was active in the development of ambulatory health care services where she worked as the Director of Patient Advocate Multi-Cultural Programs.



Mrs. Westbrook, and the Governing Board of SFMCOIP, Inc., was responsible for the ground-breaking of
Potrero Hill Health Center
A federally funded 330 Community Health Center – mid-1970s



Mrs. Westbrook, and the Governing Board of SFMCOIP, Inc., was responsible for the ground-breaking of
Southeast Health Center
A federally funded 330 Community Health Center – late-1970s

As of June 2011, Mrs. Westbrook was on hand when the Westbrook Plaza Health Center & Housing Complex was named in her honor in the South of Market Area of San Francisco



Mrs. Westbrook, and other community leaders, was instrumental in negotiating the Southeast Community Facility (Southeast Community College) to be used for academic studies and community events.



*San Francisco General Hospital & Medical Center
President of Governing Board of SFMCOIP, Inc. -
1973*

Mrs. Westbrook was active in the development of ambulatory health care services where she worked as the Director of Patient Advocate Multi-Cultural Programs.

*Mrs. Westbrook,
and the Governing Board of SFMCOIP, Inc.,
was responsible for the ground-breaking of
Potrero Hill Health Center
A federally funded 330 Community Health
Center – mid-1970s*



*Mrs. Westbrook, and the Governing Board of
SFMCOIP, Inc., was responsible for the ground-
breaking of **Southeast Health Center**
A federally funded 330 Community Health Center –
late-1970s*



*As of June 2011, Mrs. Westbrook was on hand
when the Westbrook Plaza Health Center &
Housing Complex was named in her honor in the
South of Market Area of San Francisco*



*Mrs. Westbrook,
and other community leaders,
was instrumental in
negotiating the Southeast
Community Facility
(Southeast Community
College)
to be used for academic studies
and community events.*

Order of Service

Processional *Clergy & Family*

Prayer *Appointee*

Scripture Reading

Old Testament – Psalm 23 *Appointee*

New Testament – John 14:1-6 *Rev. Walter Johnson*

Musical Selection *More Than Just Sisters in Christ*
“I’ll Fly Away”

Acknowledgements & Resolutions *Sis. Linda Robinson*

Special Acknowledgements & Proclamations *Sis. Ollie Burgess*

Musical Selection *Mass Choir*

Reflections of Life *Read Silently*
Soft Music: “Blessed Assurance”

Expressions *Two Minutes or Less*

Dea. Brian Cody

Rev. Amos Brown

Mayor Ed Lee

Rev. Cecil Williams

Willie Brown, Jr.

Charles Range

Senator Dianne Feinstein (DVD)

Musical Selection *Mass Choir*

Expressions *Two Minutes or Less*

Bernard Snelgro

Debra Short

Jamo Muhammad

Melvin Hannah

Andrew Gooden II

Antoine Snelgro

Kathy Gooden

Minister Christopher Muhammad

Musical Selection/Solo..... *Marian Denise Britton*

Expressions *Two Minutes or Less*

Claude Eberhardt

Archbishop Franzo King

Hazel Davis

Marvin Robinson

Charlie Walker

Al Norman, Jr.

Willie B. Kennedy

Dr. Ceasar Churchwell

Musical Selection *Mass Choir*

Expressions *Two Minutes or Less*

Oscaryne Winnfield-Williams

Oscar James

Danny Glover

Kathy Davis

Doris Ward

Angelo King

Olivia Nelson

Espanola Jackson

Solo *Sis. Loretta Gooden*

Words of Comfort..... *Pastor Kenneth R. Reece*

Glimpse Before Glory *Lewis & Ribbs Mortuary*

Recessional

Interment

Golden Gate National Cemetery

1300 Sneath Lane

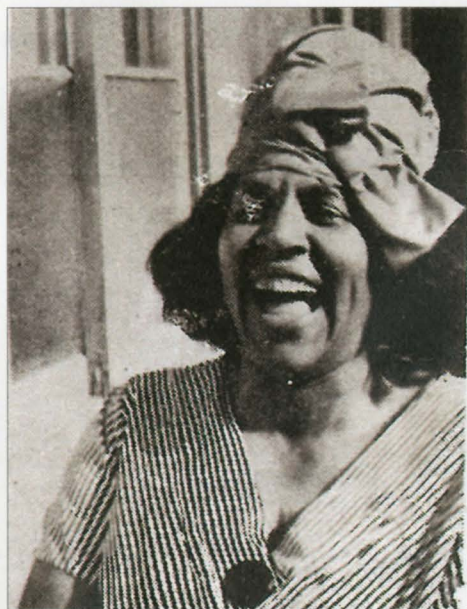
San Bruno, California 94066

Reception – 3:00 p.m.

Southeast Facility

1800 Oakdale Ave. at Newcomb St.

San Francisco, California 94124





Remember Me

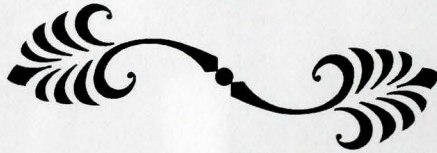
*To the living, I am gone.
To the sorrowful, I will never return.
To the angry, I was cheated,
But to the happy, I am at peace,
And to the faithful, I have never left.
I cannot be seen, but I can be heard.*



*So as you stand upon a shore, gazing at a beautiful sea – remember me.
As you look in awe at a mighty forest and its grand majesty – remember me.
As you look upon a flower and admire its simplicity – remember me.*

*Remember me in your heart, your thoughts, and your memories of the time we
love, the times we cried, the times we fought, the times we laughed.*

For if you always think of me, I would have never gone.



God Saw You Getting Tired

*God saw you getting tired
and a cure was not to be
so He put His arms around you
and whispered,
"Come to Me"*

*With tearful eyes we watched you
and saw you pass away
and although we love you dearly
we could not make you stay.*

*A Golden heart stopped beating
hard working hands at rest.
God broke our hearts to prove to us
He only takes the best*



Acknowledgement to Family & Friends

The Family would like to say thank you for your help and support during this time of bereavement. We appreciate your sincere expressions of kindness, love, and concern. We thank you for everything you've done – no matter how great or small.

Thank you for your phone calls, prayers, flowers, time, money, food, encouragement, and your presence here today.

We appreciate all of you.

The Family of Mother Elouise Westbrook



Special Thanks

*Having Pride Unit
Oscar James Catering
George Davis Senior Center
Cornerstone MBC
San Francisco Police Department
Southeast Community Facility
Mother Brown's Kitchen*

Active Pallbearers

*Wayne E. Brooks
Andrew Gooden II
Ronald Gooden*

*William Gooden
Charles Phillips
Marvin Snelgro, Jr.*

Phillip Snelgro

Honorary Pallbearers

Cornerstone MBC Deacons

*Art Agnos
Richard Blum
Rev. Amos Brown
Willie Brown, Jr.
Ed Donaldson
Claude Eberhardt
Danny Glover
Melvin Hannah*

*Cedric Jackson
Oscar James
Rev. Walter Johnson
Dwayne Jones
Toye Moses
Jamo Muhammad
Al Norman, Jr.
Charles Range*

*Michael Roberts
Steven Roberts
Mario Rodgers
Antoine Snelgro
Charlie Walker
Olin Webb
Al Williams
Rev. Cecil Williams
George Yerby*

The family requests that in lieu of flowers donations be made to the:

Elouise Westbrook Scholarship Fund

c/o SFMCOIP/South of Market Health Center

229 – 7th Street

San Francisco, CA 94103

Arrangements Entrusted to:

Lewis & Ribbs Mortuary

6424 Third Street • San Francisco, CA 94124

(415) 468-2360