



Ethel Jane Wilson

May 28, 1954 - March 26, 2026

Ethel Jane McCaster (Wilson), born on May 28, 1954, in Chicago, Illinois, to the late James Coaks Sr. and Sarah Coaks, who eagerly awaited the arrival of their baby girl. She attended Crispus Attucks Elementary School through the eighth grade before stepping into a greater role at home, helping her mother care for her younger siblings.

Affectionately known as “El Jane” Ethel was the eldest child of six siblings, Sam, Velma (Willie), Harold (Nancy), Synovia aka Renee, James Jr, Aletha (Terrence). From a young age, she was like a second mother, loving, nurturing, and protective. Following the passing of her parents, she was thrust into the role of matriarch, a responsibility she carried with strength, grace, and unwavering devotion.

“Ethel was called home on March 26, 2026, at the age of 71, surrounded by loved ones.” She was preceded in death by her parents, James, and Sarah Coaks; her beloved husband, Willie Wilson, whom she met in Chicago and married on November 30, 1973 at the age of 19; her grandmother Arthurine McCaster, her grandfather OD Sibley; her brother Samuel McCaster; her sister Synovia (Renee) Coaks.

Ethel’s nurturing spirit extended far beyond her siblings. She was a devoted and loving mother to her four children: Kelvin, Latressa (Chris), Joyce, Victoria

(Ishmael). Her home was always open, and her conversations were always honest, no topic was off-limits. Her loud voice, radiant smile, and distinctive high cheekbones are memories her loved ones will cherish forever. She was also a proud grandmother to 14 grandchildren, Ricky, Ashiya, Kimione, Ashanti, Quintin, Ashonte, Quayla, Quaylen, Trinity, Serenity, Ayanna, Micha, Zyquiz and Ezra, and a loving great-grandmother to 15 great-grandchildren, along with a host of aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins, and dear friends who she leaves to cherish her memory.

A woman of immense faith, Ethel accepted Christ at an early age and was baptized at Antioch Baptist Church in Chicago. Throughout her life, she remained committed to her spiritual journey, attending various churches and living her faith through her actions.

She embodied the words of Matthew 25:35–36:

“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me.”

Ethel was full of life and love. Despite her bad knees and feet, she could always be found on the dance floor. She loved traveling, visiting family and friends no matter the distance, and making lasting memories vacationing. Known for her love of wigs and sunglasses, she carried herself with style and confidence. She worked for many years in the hospitality industry, where her passion for cooking and cleaning shined brightly.

“All heroes don’t wear capes” perfectly describes Ethel. She was someone everyone could turn to, a comforter, a provider, and a friend. Her love for her children and family was unmatched, and she made sure they were always cared for.

Though there is now a tremendous void in our lives, we are comforted by the countless memories of her love, strength, and laughter. Ethel Jane Wilson will forever remain in our hearts.

Cemetery Details

Private

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 10. 12:30 PM - 1:00 PM (CT)

Calahan Funeral Home - Legacy Center
7046 S. Halsted
Chicago, IL 60621

Memorial Service

APR 10. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Calahan Funeral Home - Legacy Center
7046 S. Halsted
Chicago, IL 60621

Tribute Wall

YF

“ *Your Marriott Midway Family purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Ethel Jane Wilson.*



Your Marriott Midway Family - April 06 at 02:28 PM

AC

“ *Ashiya Clark purchased the Moon & Star Holder Pendant for the family of Ethel Jane Wilson.*



Ashiya Clark - April 01 at 11:22 AM