



Synthia McClain-Ellison

February 22, 1948 - October 6, 2025

On February 22, 1948, Synthia McClain was born to Fletcher and Lucretia McClain in sweet

home Birmingham, Alabama.

Synthia was the first of nine siblings. She was affectionately known to family and friends as

"Ann" or "Knugg Knugg."

Upon relocating to Chicago, IL, Synthia began her education in the Chicago Public School

System, completing her studies at DuSable High School. After graduation, she continued her

education at Dawson Technical Institute, where she received her cosmetology license.

Synthia worked for many years in accounts receivable at the Walgreens corporate office until her

retirement. After retiring, she returned to her passion as a hairstylist and seamstress, and also

enjoyed crocheting afghans, scarves, and more.

She loved to dance and travel, but above all, she cherished spending time with her family.

Synthia accepted Jesus Christ as her Lord and Savior and served Him at Kenwood United

Church of Christ under the leadership of Reverend Leroy Sanders.

In the mid-1950s, Synthia met the love of her life, Johnny Ellison—unaware that 30 years later, they would unite in holy matrimony.

Synthia entered her eternal rest on Monday, October 6, 2025, surrounded by family and friends.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Fletcher and Lucretia McClain; sisters, Lillie Jones,

Janet McClain, and Trudie McClain; brothers, Bernard McClain and Clinton Nix; and

granddaughter, Latonya Mayfield (her twin).

Synthia's memory will be cherished by her loving husband, Johnny Ellison; sons, Phillip

McClain, Fletcher McClain, and Davien Safford; daughter, LaTara McClain; grandchildren,

Phillip McClain, Jr., Synthia McClain (SiSi), and Shakiema Johnson; sister, Karen Gray;

brothers, Lee Nix and Michael Nix; special daughters-in-law, Ladonna and Monique; and a host

of great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and friends.

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm

you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

—Jeremiah 29:11

Previous Events

Public Viewing

OCT 15. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

Calahan Funeral Home Landmark Chapel
7030 S. Halsted
Chicago, IL 60621

Visitation

OCT 16. 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

Kenwood United Church of Christ
4600-08 S Greenwood Ave
Chicago, IL 60653

Funeral Service

OCT 16. 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Kenwood United Church of Christ
4600-08 S Greenwood Ave
Chicago, IL 60653

Burial/Interment

OCT 17. 9:30 AM - 10:00 AM (CT)

Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery
20953 W Hoff Rd
Elwood, IL 60421