



## Sylvia Naomi Williams White

July 9, 1942 - March 17, 2026

Sylvia Naomi Williams White, 83, of Tallahassee, Florida, completed a life beautifully lived on March 17, 2026, leaving a legacy of faith, service, generosity, and joy.

Born on July 9, 1942, in Charlotte, North Carolina, Sylvia guided her life with compassion and a deep commitment to serving others. She was a devoted member of her church, faithfully attending and joyfully serving wherever needed. Her faith was not merely a belief but a way of life, reflected daily through her kindness, humility, and love.

Sylvia was also a dedicated Rotarian, fully embracing Rotary's values of service above self. She served as past President of her Rotary club in 2000, was honored as Rotarian of the Year in 2001 and received the Lifetime Achievement Award in 2012. Additionally, Sylvia was recognized as a Paul Harris Fellow for her commitment to the ideals of Rotary. Notably, she was the first woman District Governor in Rotary District 6940 in 2010, breaking new ground for women in leadership. In recognition of her commitment, she became a Rotary Foundation Major Donor Level 2, exemplifying her generosity and support for Rotary's mission. Her leadership and passion for service inspired countless members and strengthened the Rotary community in Tallahassee and beyond. Throughout her years of involvement, she gave her time, energy, and heart to improve her community and help others.

She delighted in singing with the Tallahassee Community Chorus, sharing her love of music both locally and during performances abroad, forging lasting relationships within the arts community.

She cherished the thrill of discovering new places, whether visiting loved ones across the country or uncovering hidden gems in Florida. Her boundless curiosity took her around the world, where she immersed herself in diverse cultures and formed meaningful connections. These travels enriched her life and inspired those around her to appreciate the world's beauty and variety.

Sylvia started with Capital City Bank in 1980. Over the course of her distinguished career, she served as an Administrative Assistant, Executive Secretary, and, at her retirement, as the Senior Executive Assistant to the Bank's President. She retired in January 2021 after 41 years of dedicated service. Sylvia studied Business Administration at Tallahassee Community College, which laid the foundation for her successful career in the banking industry. In recognition of her commitment to volunteerism, Sylvia was awarded the Julian V. Smith award in 1995 for her outstanding volunteer work in the community. Her professionalism and dedication left a lasting impact on colleagues and clients alike.

She is survived by her daughter, Terri (Fred) Longietti of Charlotte, NC; son, Tim (Teresa) Simmons of Conway, SC; grandsons, Grayson Cariaga, Colton Cariaga, and Mark Simmons; five great-grandchildren; sister, Rebecca Engle; sister-in-law Shirley Williams and many nieces, nephews, and cousins. They will forever cherish her memory and uphold the values she lived by. Her example of service, faith, and generosity will continue to guide those she loved.

She is preceded in death by her daughter Deborah Simmons; father King Williams and mother Helen Howard; brothers Charles David Williams and

Daniel Williams; sisters Patricia (Gene) Pigott and Frances (Walt) Needham and brother-in-law Jack Engle.

A Celebration of Life Service will take place at 12:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 25, 2026, at John Wesley United Methodist Church, located at 1689 Old St. Augustine Road, Tallahassee, Florida, where family and friends will gather to give thanks for a life devoted to faith, service, and community. Lunch will follow immediately in the fellowship hall.

You can also watch the service online using the link below:

<https://www.facebook.com/JWUMCWorship/>

In lieu of flowers, the family invites you to honor Sylvia with a charitable contribution to Capital Rotary Club of Tallahassee, PO Box 1795, Tallahassee, FL 32302, and John Wesley United Methodist Church, 1689 Old St. Augustine Road, Tallahassee, FL 32301 reflecting the way she lived her life.

Though deeply missed, Sylvia's servant's heart, sparkling spirit, and commitment to others will continue to live on in countless lives she touched.

Jessie Hill of Bevis Funeral Home (850-385-2193 or [www.bevisfh.com](http://www.bevisfh.com)) is assisting the White family with their arrangements.

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

APR **25**. 12:00 PM (ET)

John Wesley United Methodist Church  
1689 Old St. Augustine Road  
Tallahassee, FL 32301

## Luncheon

APR **25**. 1:00 PM (ET)

John Wesley United Methodist Church  
1689 Old St. Augustine Road  
Tallahassee, FL 32301

# Tribute Wall

TS

“ Even though you can't see their faces one of my favorite pictures and memory of my aunt Sylvia is the one where she and her big brother were walking together holding hands. My daddy did so love his baby sister as did I. Her smile, her laughter, her love of life and people will be dearly missed. Until we meet again Aunt Sylvia please give daddy a hug for me. I love you guys.



Teresa Silver - April 25 at 06:30 AM

TF

“ Sylvia was a shining light, a mentor to many, a lady of deep faith and service to God. She is missed and will be long remembered.  
Tim and Karen Few

Tim Few - April 21 at 07:27 AM

CE

“ Chuck Edwards purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Sylvia Naomi Williams White.



Chuck Edwards - April 14 at 02:13 PM

CE

“ Chuck Edwards planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Sylvia Naomi Williams White.

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**Chuck Edwards** - April 14 at 02:13 PM

DW

“ Terri, We are thinking of you and your family and hope there has been comfort found in your faith and the from love of family and friends. What a beautiful and fulfilling life your Mom lived.  
Diane and Jeff

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**Diane Wiggins** - March 31 at 05:50 PM

MC

As a fellow church member of Sylvia, I was so impressed by her strong commitment and love for church. She was determined to be there until the end. Her spirit will be missed and I send heartfelt sympathy to her entire family.  
Martha Capelouto

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**MARTHA H CAPELOUTO** - April 01 at 09:30 AM

DR

It has been an honor to know Sylvia for so many years, to worship, learn and fellowship together as part of the John Wesley UMC family. Sylvia had a most dedicated faith, always giving of herself and her time to help others and be involved in the life of the church, as a follower of Christ. She had wit and a sense of humor, and was going to be there, rain or shine, if she could. Sylvia has been an inspiration to many. To her family, please know you are in our prayers as you grieve. We love Sylvia dearly. My deepest condolences.

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**Debbie Rivenburg** - April 01 at 02:45 PM

JM

*Wow a life well lived! That;s the Sylvia I knew and loved!. She was an inspiration for all her church family. She never met a stranger. She would say to visitors come sit in my pew. She made sure visitors were very welcome at John Wesley UMC. She was a buddy of mine and will be missed. Always up for going to dinner . Family know she was well loved and will be missed. Prayers for her family.*

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**John K Menge** - April 03 at 08:37 PM