



## Eleanor Brassfield

June 13, 1930 - January 7, 2022

Eleanor Beatrice Braynon Brassfield was born in Miami, Florida on Friday, June 13, 1930. She was the oldest daughter of May Dell and Eddie Braynon. Eleanor was born into a loving and close knit family in the Railroad Shop section of Miami. She was a proud graduate of Booker T. Washington Senior High School(Class of '48) and Howard University(Class of '54). When she was unable to obtain a position as a Registered Pharmacist in Miami, her father secured a location at the corner of 8th Street and 3rd Avenue and she became the first Black female pharmacy owner in Miami Dade County. Eddie's Drugs was a staple in the Black Community, both in Overtown and eventually in Liberty City as part of the Tri Arts Medical Building. She had the opportunity to mentor many young men and women going into the field of Pharmacy. She eventually retired from the University of Miami Hospitals in 1992. She married Wilfred Gibson in 1955 and to this union was born Lisa and Gail(deceased). Later in life she found her love, Thomas "Tom" Brassfield(deceased), and they lived

life to the fullest.

He was the one that got her hooked on sports. She was a faithful fan of ALL teams from Florida,

especially the Heat and eventually became a fan of the Chicago Bulls.

In 1992, she took on the role of “Grammie Ellie” and began traveling to and from Chicago. She

was very proud of her 3 grandchildren, Alexander, Rachele and Krysten. She took her role as a

Grandmother very seriously.

Through the years, she was an active member of St. Paul A.M.E. Church from childhood and

was participating in the Senior Ministry Program at the time she left Miami to live in Chicago.

She was a member of Gamma Alpha Chapter of Iota Phi Lambda Sorority, Inc. and often

reminisced about good times with her Sorority Sisters after chapter meetings and at

conventions. Over the years, she traveled extensively, though there was a special place in her

heart for any city with a casino! When she could no longer travel, she would enjoy her

“recreational therapy” time at the local casinos.

Eleanor moved to Chicago in 2011 and continued to live fairly independently into her 91st year

of life until recently when she moved in with family. She attended River Oaks Chapel weekly and

enjoyed interacting with the members. She always “rolled in” wearing her Sunday’s Finest. She

was the oldest member of the congregation! She continued to make new friends and interacted

with extended family whenever she could. In 2020, family and friends

surprised her with 90 messages and cards for her 90th birthday. Last summer, she virtually participated in the Boswell-Jackson Family Reunion and shared cherished memories with those in attendance. Her big brother, Edward and nephew, Keith, were in Chicago just last month to visit her. She loved family and friends!

The effects of a stroke that occurred on November 29, 2021 were devastating and proved to be more than she could handle. She passed away peacefully at home on January 7, 2022. She remained "sassy" and "classy" until the end.

She was preceded in death by her parents-Eddie and May Dell Braynon, siblings-Gloria Braynon Watson and Harold Braynon, Sr, husband-Thomas Brassfield, daughter-Gail Gibson.

She leaves to CELEBRATE her life, daughter-Lisa(Michael) Jackson, brother-Dr. Edward Braynon,Jr. grandchildren-Alex Jackson, Rachele Jackson, Krysten Jackson, godchildrenStanley Williams and Juanna Wasserman, life long friend-Franceil Tooks, a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, family and friends.

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

JAN **22**. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (cst)

Travis Funeral Home, LLC  
14338 S Indiana Ave  
Riverdale, IL 60827  
(708) 849-2900  
info@travisfh.com  
<http://travfh.com>

## Live Stream

JAN **22**. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM.

[www.travisfh.com](http://www.travisfh.com)

# Tribute Wall



“ *Travis Funeral Home, LLC created a Webcast in memory of Eleanor Brassfield*



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**Travis Funeral Home, LLC** - January 22, 2022 at 10:26 AM

HB

“ *Lisa,  
Our thoughts are with you and your family at this time. I fondly remember your Mom at St Paul always admired her style and sophistication. I can still see you as a child with your wonderful Aunt Bertha and laugh at your love of Michael Jackson as you sang every Michael Jackson song on our trip to South Carolina.  
Your Miami and St Paul family is here for you. Let us know if there is anything we can do. God Bless and take care. Your Mom is at peace.*



*All our love,  
Hester Bland, Val, Tommy and Jacqui*

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**Hester Bland** - January 22, 2022 at 03:53 PM

SG

“ Will always remember the Braynon Family. Ellie's late baby sister Gigi was my play mom. Ellie's nephew Keith is a long-time friend. Ellie's big brother Dr Edward Braynon Jr. figures into my research. Ellie's late brother Harold, a lawyer, once counseled me. And her late mother Maydell Braynon always had a smile for me. This is a legendary Miami family and Ellie Braynon is part of their amazing legacy. Rest in power. Sharony Green

Sharony Green - January 22, 2022 at 02:31 PM

MA

“ Sending lots of love and well wishes to the Jacksons. We are praying for the family as you celebrate the rich life of your mother. Jaye and Maikol Akintonde

Maikol & Jaye Akintonde - January 22, 2022 at 02:07 PM



“ Our deepest sympathy. Another piece of the Braynon family has departed. We will miss Aunt Eleanor, she was a light of positivity, a gracious woman and what I always admired most about my Aunt was her strong will. We love you Lisa and family. If there is anything you need, we are here.  
Your Miami family with love Verna Edington, Gregory, LaTaryn, Jeremy and Braynon Gay

LaTaryn Edington-Gay - January 22, 2022 at 01:35 PM

KE

“ *With Heartfelt Sympathy to Lisa & Family, Dr Edward Braynon, Jr and Keith Braynon.  
We have lost a Mentor, Legend, and Great Miami, FL Pioneer. She will truly be missed.  
Sincerely,  
The Edwards Family*

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**Karen Edwards** - January 22, 2022 at 10:30 AM

JT

“ *We were always so proud to know cousin Eleanor. Aunt MayDell was always bragging on her children (and grandchildren) and Eleanor was always mentioned! Uncle Eddie was less vocal about it but just as proud. A pharmacist; wow. In this way we knew that everything was possible for us. Eleanor was always professional, cool, calm, collected, a wonderful role model and a great lady. June*

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**June Thomas** - January 12, 2022 at 03:11 PM