



## Blanche Marie Chavers

August 2, 1949 - June 13, 2026

Blanche Marie Chavers was born on August 2nd, 1949 in Clarksdale Mississippi. She was the firstborn daughter of parents Andrew and Mildred Chavers. To this union, two more children were born: Linda Joyce (died shortly after birth) and Edith. From the moment Blanche entered this world, she was loved, not just by her parents, but by her youngest sister, Edith, her Grandparents, and a large extended family of aunts, uncles, and cousins.

When she started attending Public School, it wasn't long before her teachers, classmates, and her community would grow to love her as well. Blanche was an A student throughout her school years and showed a great passion for reading and science at an early age. She also actively participated in school activities like choir, civic clubs, and marching band, where she was a majorette.

Blanche accepted Christ and joined Mount Zion AME Zion Church at an early age. She attended church regularly and served in different capacities until she left Clarksdale. She loved learning about the bible and became steeped in her Christian values which aligned perfectly with her family values.

By the time Blanche graduated from Higgins High School, she had decided that the best way to live out her values was to devote the rest of her life to helping people and saving lives. And that's exactly what she did.

Blanche moved to Seattle to pursue a career as a medical doctor. She spent 4 years earning a Bachelor of Science Degree in Biology. Then 4 more years completing medical school. Then 3 years after that completing her Internship and Residency Program at the University of Washington (UW) and its associated Seattle hospitals. At that point, Blanche decided she wanted to do more than simply treat sick patients. She wanted to research the root causes of illnesses so that doctors could use the knowledge to help sick people all over the world.

So she began working at the University of Minnesota, one of the most respected medical research centers in the country. She became a Pediatric Nephrologist and dedicated the rest of her career to saving lives by treating children with kidney disease.

Over the years, she would go on to become the Clinical Research Medical Director of UofM's Department of Pediatrics. She would also receive numerous awards, being named by the medical community as an "Outstanding Mentor," one of the "Top Doctors" in Minnesota, one of the "Best Doctors in America," a recipient of the ASPN Founders' Award, and many other accolades.

In 1981, she met Gubare Mpambara, the man who would become her husband and soulmate for the rest of her life. In 1983, they gave birth to a son, Kaita Mpambara, who feels "blessed to have been raised by the best mother any son could ever have."

Blanche departed this life on June 13, 2026. And anyone who knew her would agree: The impact of her life was too great to be captured in a single document. But she will be lovingly remembered by her mother, Mildred Chavers of Clarksdale, Mississippi; her husband, Gubare Mpambara of

Bloomington, Minnesota; son, Kaita Mpambara of Bloomington, Minnesota; sister, Edith Chavers (Leonard) Elion of Seattle, Washington; and a host of Cousins around the country. She will also be remembered by friends, colleagues, neighbors, and every patient whose life she saved.

And she has now gone on to join her father, Andrew Chavers, grandmothers, Blanche Stacks and Beulah Willis, and all the other ancestors who will welcome her to the hereafter.

Visitation from 11 AM to 12 noon with the funeral service at 12 noon at Washburn-McReavy Edina Chapel, 5000 West 50th Street & Highway 100, Edina, MN. Interment at Lakewood Cemetery, Minneapolis, MN.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUN 25. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Edina Chapel  
5000 West 50th & Highway 100  
Edina, MN 55436

## Funeral Service

JUN 25. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (CT)

Edina Chapel  
5000 West 50th & Highway 100  
Edina, MN 55436

## Graveside Service

JUN 25. 2:00 PM - 2:30 PM (CT)

Lakewood Cemetery (Minneapolis)  
3600 Hennepin Avenue South  
Minneapolis, MN 55408

# Tribute Wall



“ Washburn-McReavy Funeral Chapels created a Memorial Service for Blanche Marie Chavers in memory of Blanche Marie Chavers



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**Washburn-McReavy** - June 17 at 09:20 AM

EI

*The HHS Class of 1970 expresses its sincere condolences to our classmate Edith Elion on the passing of her beloved sister Blanche. May she rest in eternal peace.*

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**Ethola Irving** - June 20 at 09:52 PM

TN

*I met Blanche at Tougaloo College in 1970 when I was an exchange student from Brown University. She was brave and brilliant and had the self confidence to risk befriending a “white hippie girl”. I was invited to Thanksgiving at her family’s home in Clarksdale and they could not have been more kind or welcoming. Blanche carried these same traits thru Med School and for her entire career. A lifelong friendship endured and I will miss my friend dearly.*

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**Trish Nugent** - June 22 at 08:54 PM

DE

“ Dear Family,  
We are sending you love, heartfelt  
condolences, and a warm embrace during  
difficult this time. While no words can truly  
ease the pain of losing someone so dear, I  
hope you find comfort in the beautiful memories you shared and in  
knowing how much she was loved by so many. May God surround  
you with His peace, strength, and comfort in the days ahead.  
With deepest sympathy & prayers,  
Love, your Elion Family in Florida



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**Darryl and Wendy Elion** - Yesterday at 10:27 AM

SP

“ MP & Kaita,  
  
We are so sorry for the loss of your beloved Blanche. May you find  
comfort and peace in the cherished memories you shared, and  
strength in knowing that one day you will be reunited.  
  
With love and care,  
Your neighbors: Sheena & Curt

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**Sheena Perry** - June 25 at 07:51 PM

CJ

“ Carolyn Eley James lit a candle in memory of  
Blanche Marie Chavers



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**Carolyn Eley James** - June 25 at 02:33 PM

FG

“ Faye Garrett sent a virtual gift in memory of  
Blanche Marie Chavers



Faye Garrett - June 25 at 08:27 AM

CL

*My sincere condolences to the family.  
Blanche and I were classmates at Higgins High School in Clarksdale,  
Mississippi. She was truly loved and will be missed but forever  
remembered. 🙏🙏🙏*

Cornelia A. Liggans - June 25 at 12:33 PM

VW

*My heartfelt condolences, prayers, and love to Edith, my classmate  
and her family and all who knew and loved Blanche.*

Velma Wade - June 25 at 04:02 PM

BB

*To Mrs Chavers, Edith and family, you have my deepest sympathy.  
God's strength and blessings to you always. ❤️🙏*

*Bertha Roberson Barnes*

Bertha Roberson Barnes - Yesterday at 12:07 AM

FJ

“ Faye Garrett Jackson lit a candle in memory  
of Blanche Marie Chavers



Faye Garrett Jackson - June 25 at 08:25 AM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Blanche Marie Chavers.*



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June 24 at 10:59 PM



“ *Vivian Myles lit a candle in memory of Blanche Marie Chavers*



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**Vivian Myles** - June 24 at 09:43 PM



“ *I send my condolences to the family of Blanche Chavers.*



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**Vivian Myles** - June 24 at 09:41 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Blanche Marie Chavers.*



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June 24 at 11:04 AM

SL

“ Steve, Jan, Jeff and Shawn Lundquist purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Blanche Marie Chavers.



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**Steve, Jan, Jeff and Shawn Lundquist** - June 23 at 09:21 PM

TV

“ We were so blessed to have Dr. Chavers she did more than save my child's life, she learned, she used, she mentored her love and devotion to kidney disease and transplant care. We were so lucky to have her. Her dedicated care went far beyond the clinic room or hospital doors. Our hearts are heavy learning this. Dawson went through so much with Dr. Chavers and we're blessed to be under her care. I can still hear her giggle with whatever news Dawson wanted to shares much love and gratitude to you all for sharing with us thru beautiful women.



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**Tesa Vikesland** - June 22 at 07:00 PM

DA

*May your soul rest in peace*

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**Dorcus k Arigye** - June 25 at 01:09 PM

EI

“ *Ethola Irving lit a candle in memory of Blanche Marie Chavers*



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**Ethola Irving** - June 22 at 11:27 AM

YK

“ *Youngki & Youngsun Kim purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Blanche Marie Chavers.*



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**Youngki & Youngsun Kim** - June 22 at 11:25 AM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Blanche Marie Chavers.*



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June 18 at 05:04 PM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Blanche Marie Chavers.*

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June 18 at 05:04 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Blanche Marie Chavers.*



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June 18 at 04:57 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Blanche Marie Chavers.

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June 18 at 04:57 PM