



Vermelle Diamond Ely

January 10, 1933 - October 10, 2025

Vermelle Diamond Ely peacefully departed this life on Friday, October 10, 2025, at Carolinas Medical Center in Charlotte, NC. Vermelle was the daughter of the late Kenneth Hampton Diamond, Sr., and Cora Bryan Diamond. Vermelle Diamond Ely grew up in Brooklyn on Stonewall Street, a section of the Brooklyn neighborhood. She attended Myers Street Elementary School and was a graduate of Second Ward High School class of 1949. However, in 1948, Vermelle reigned as “Queen” in the Queen City Classic football game. Upon graduation from High school, Vermelle continued her education at Shaw University, where she received her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Education. During her time and attendance at Shaw University, she became a member of the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority. Upon graduation from Shaw University, Vermelle began her career as an educator, where she taught at Marie G Davis Elementary 1 st grade, and Pineville Elementary 1st grade, where she retired after 30 years of teaching. Throughout her retirement, she continued relentlessly to advocate for the legacy of Second Ward High School and the establishment of the Alumni House, which maintains the history of Second Ward High School. She is also one of the authors of the book “Black America Series Charlotte, North Carolina.” In addition to her parents, she is also preceded in death by her brother Kenneth Diamond, Jr. Vermelle is survived by her nephew (whom she thought of as a son), Jeffrey (Gloria) Diamond, and extended family members: Micah (Micah, Jr, and Marlo) Tucker. Those who are cherishing fond and precious memories of Vermelle are Carol

Baldwin, Obie Blackwell, Claude Blair, Alyce Bell, Kathryn Frye, Mary Frances Gilchrist, Grace Hoey, Arthur Jones, Mary “aka” “Mae” Jones, Rasharn (Dana) Jones, Dr. Tekla Johnson, Gwendolyn Lucus, Betty McNair, Marcella Williams, and the Second Ward High School Alumni Family.

Instead of flowers or love gifts, the Family would prefer all donations to be sent to the Campaign Fund in honor of: Vermelle Diamond Ely:

Second Ward High School Alumni Foundation

PO BOX 16514, Charlotte, NC 28297

Cemetery Details

York Memorial Park Cemetery

5150 S. Tyron Street
Charlotte, NC

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **16**. 11:30 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

A.E. Grier & Sons Funeral and Cremation, LLC.
2310 Statesville Avenue
Charlotte, NC 28206
(704) 377-4243
info@aegriersonsfcc.com
<https://www.aegriersonsfcc.com>

Celebration of Life Service

OCT **16**. 12:00 PM (ET)

A.E. Grier & Sons Funeral and Cremation, LLC.
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Tribute Wall



“ A.E. Grier & Sons Funeral and Cremation, LLC. created a Tribute Video in memory of Vermelle Diamond Ely



A.E. Grier & Sons Funeral and Cremation, LLC. - October 16, 2025 at 08:04 AM

RJ

Sending love and prayers for hour loss. She was a wonderful person and friend to Tommy and Edna Williams. From the Williams/Junious family.

Robin T Junious - October 18, 2025 at 06:56 PM



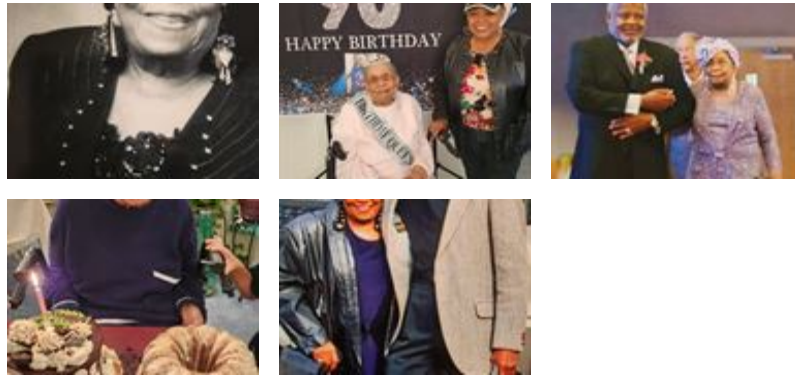
“ Sincere Condolences



Edward Mathis - November 04, 2025 at 10:29 AM



“ 57 files added to the album Life Tributes



A.E. Grier & Sons Funeral and Cremation, LLC. - October 16, 2025 at 07:52 AM

TJ

“ Ms. Ely welcomed me into her home some years ago to share photos and stories from Second Ward High School and the neighborhoods that made up the African American community of Charlotte NC during the twentieth century. Mrs. Ely's family history was very much a part of the narrative, as her father had been a teacher at that very same high school, the first public high school in Charlotte for African Americans. Ms. Ely also became a teacher. Later on, she worked tirelessly with other alumni to make certain that in spite of the destructive force of urban renewal, the warmth and academic excellence of Second Ward High School would be recorded in history. She pointed to the spirit of collective work and responsibility of the people from the neighborhoods: Brooklyn, Cherry, First Ward, Third Ward, and Greenville who had supported the faculty, staff, and students at Second Ward High School, a center post of African American Charlotte that, like Mrs. Ely, will be remembered and treasured.

Tekla Ali Johnson - October 16, 2025 at 03:10 AM

TS

“ Our sincere condolences to Jeffery and family. Vermelle was a beautiful woman and wonderful neighbor. Her devotion to teaching children and her legacy of service through Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. are to be applauded. She will be missed. May God give you comfort and strength during this difficult time. Peace and blessings,



Teresa McNair Shipman & Ethel McNair

Teresa Shipman - October 16, 2025 at 12:19 AM

NS

“ New Hope MBC, McCormick, SC purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Vermelle Diamond Ely.



New Hope MBC, McCormick, SC - October 15, 2025 at 03:53 PM

FF

“ From the Bell Family! purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Vermelle Diamond Ely.



From the Bell Family! - October 15, 2025 at 11:05 AM



“Vermelle was a beautiful woman inside and out. She always was willing to answer my many questions about her experiences growing up in Charlotte. She was sweet, encouraging, and I tell everyone-- she was the first person to read my book, *Half-Truths*. I will miss her voice and smile.

Carol Baldwin - October 14, 2025 at 04:01 PM