



## Mrs. Elise Ford Allen

July 29, 1921 - November 3, 2021

Elise Ford Allen, age 100 years and three months, passed away in her home on Wednesday, November 3, 2021, surrounded by her loving family.

Mrs. Allen, a lifelong Peorian, was born on July 29, 1921, and raised in the River City. She was a well-known and loved Peoria icon and renowned civil rights activist. As founder of the Traveler Weekly Newspaper in 1966, she made history with its formation, making her the first African American woman to publish and edit a newspaper in Illinois. The newspaper gave her the vehicle to pursue and provoke a positive dialogue for change for the disadvantaged in the City. While one chapter of her legacy has closed, the newspaper continues to focus on the true principles of democracy and to keep it a living reality to all Americans. Because of her selfless devotion to uplifting the quality of life for the minority and less fortunate, Mrs. Allen has been honored with numerous awards and proclamations for her continuous service to the community. She was a longtime member of Heaven's View Christian Church.

Elise Ford Allen comes from an illustrious birthright with ties to Virginia's historic Mount Vernon Estate through her 2nd great grandfather West Ford. Her grandfather, Major George W. Ford, was an original member of the 10th Cavalry (Buffalo Soldiers) Troop L and the first African American Superintendent of five of the country's National Cemeteries. Her father, Dr.

Cecil Bruce Ford, was Peoria's first African American dentist, and her mother, Florence Harrison Ford, was a well-known seamstress. She married her husband, James O. Allen, an inventor and printing magnate, in 1939, and the couple raised ten children.

She is survived by her ten children, James O. Allen Jr., Joy Stone, Angela (Homer) Henry, Barbara (Anthony) Randle, Tim (Patty) Allen, all from Peoria, IL, Carol Adams of Pasadena, CA, Linda (Mark) Hollis of Temecula, CA, Gregory Allen of San Rafael, CA, Janet Allen of Long Beach, CA, and Norman Allen of Myrtle Beach, SC.; special family, Helen Margaret Jackson and Forrest Holcomb, 38 grandchildren, 46 great-grandchildren, three great-great-grandchildren, a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, friends, and the dedicated writers for the Traveler who continue to provide excellence in journalism.

She is preceded in death by her husband James, one son Matthew, a great-grandchild Carol Irene, a sister, Florence Pickett, two brothers, Bruce and Harrison Ford.

A Celebration of life and memorial service is being planned when the flowers bloom in spring, at Camp Butler National Cemetery in Springfield, IL, where she played as a child. There, her earthly remains will rest with the ages along with her husband James, who died in 2000, her brother Bruce, her uncle Noel Ford, her parents, and her grandparents George and Harriet Bythewood Ford.

Simons Mortuary has been entrusted with the arrangements. Online condolences may be made at [simonsmortuary.com](http://simonsmortuary.com).

# Tribute Wall



“ *Mrs. Elise Ford Allen*

January 29, 2023 at 06:10 AM



“ *Mrs. Elise Ford Allen*

January 29, 2023 at 03:12 AM



“ *Hello, sorry for your lost. Your MOM was so kind and had the tallest Christmas tree and the best fruit. My prayers are with the Family. God Bless 🙏*



**Frederick Hayes** - November 24, 2021 at 04:22 AM



“ *To the Ford Allen family - I'm so sorry to learn of Ms. Allen's passing. May God bless you with His loving kindness as you contend with your loss that everyone who knew her shares. What a pioneer! What an inspiration to the community!*



**Vickie King** - November 23, 2021 at 10:40 PM

MS

“ *Michelle Sledge lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Elise Ford Allen*



---

**Michelle Sledge** - November 16, 2021 at 06:36 PM

MB

“ *Mildred Baldon lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Elise Ford Allen*



---

**Mildred Baldon** - November 14, 2021 at 07:54 AM

MP

“ *Mancy Pittman lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Elise Ford Allen*



---

**Mancy Pittman** - November 12, 2021 at 05:29 AM

 John H  
Lee

“ To The Ford-Allen Family and Friends:

*We Thank Your Mother for her service to Peoria Illinois and your part in helping your Parents! But most of all We Thank God for His Grace and Mercy that He gave to her and her family!*

*Now, Father, only You can put Your Holy and Arms around them not only for now, but Forever and ever!*

*Amen! Love Y'all!*

---

**John H Lee** - November 11, 2021 at 05:51 PM

GC

“ To the family of Mrs Elise Allen so sorry for the loss of Mrs Allen. She certainly set the standard high in Peoria. Thank you for all of your contributions.

---

**Gloria Carter** - November 11, 2021 at 11:14 AM

RS

“ To the Allen family sending our prayers and condolences to all of the family. Ms. Allen will forever be remembered in so many of our hearts. I can personally remember and never forget as a young girl she printed one of my poems in *The Traveler*. I was so blessed and happy that she asked to print it. Her Dear Legacy will forever live on!

*Rebecca Stone-Casey*

---

**rebecca Stone-Casey** - November 09, 2021 at 12:47 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mrs. Elise Ford Allen.*



---

November 08, 2021 at 11:41 AM



“ *From: Raymond Boyd Pickett*

*I want to express my sincere condolences to the Elise Ford Allen family. Remembering my times as a young child you were always in the forefront who loved everyone and being loved by all. God has received a very special person to his kingdom. Aunt Elise rest in peace.*

---

**Raymond Boyd Pickett** - November 06, 2021 at 05:12 PM



“ *Our sincere condolences and prayers to the Allen family for the loss of their Mother.*

*Aunt Elise was a special Aunt whom I loved dearly. She was always loving and giving and inspired many. She will hold a special place in my heart forever. ❤️*

*George & Patsy Pickett-Lewis*

---

**Patricia Pickett-Lewis** - November 06, 2021 at 03:14 PM



*I new Mrs Elise great lady I remember her getting her hair done at my aunt Atonbes beauty shop also had the pleasure to play with Angie in her home*

---

**Tricka Richmond** - November 06, 2021 at 08:08 PM

GR

“ Gregg Randle lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Elise Ford Allen



Gregg Randle - November 06, 2021 at 12:42 AM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Mrs. Elise Ford Allen.



November 05, 2021 at 11:22 PM

YC

“ Your loving children purchased the [Memorial Trees](https://www.simonsmortuary.com/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) for the family of Mrs. Elise Ford Allen.

Your loving children - November 05, 2021 at 09:14 PM

BJ

“ My sincere condolences to the Allen family. I cannot think of one person in this city that was not in some way enlightened by knowing Mrs. Allen. She was a beacon in this city that through her family and others will never dim. God bless and keep. 🙏

Burton Johnson - November 05, 2021 at 07:22 PM

RP

“ To the Allen Family sorry for your loss and  
May God's Angel's Wings spread around you  
all and bring you all comfort during this time of  
sorrow!!! R.I.P. Ms. Allen!!!



Renee Linwood Peoria,IL. - November 05, 2021 at 06:51 PM

BC

“ Brenda D Cayson lit a candle in memory of  
Mrs. Elise Ford Allen



Brenda D Cayson - November 05, 2021 at 04:11 PM

MH

“ Lady Joy Stone/Travelers Newspaper...

*Affectionately known as "Mrs. Hamilton's Angel," who gave me a  
place to live years ago.*

*We are sending expressions of love prayers of comfort to you and  
your family, in the passing of your beloved Mother, Mrs. Elise Ford  
Allen.*

*Love,*

*The Lou E. Hamilton Family  
Memphis, Tn*

Mrs. Lou. E. Hamilton - November 05, 2021 at 12:37 PM

GA

To my cousins,  
My thoughts and prayers are with you 🌹🙏❤️

Glenda Allen-Evans - November 06, 2021 at 07:52 PM

FH

“ To the Allen family, I sincerely offer my condolences. Mrs. Allen and Mr. Allen were a very big part of my childhood and teenage years. They treated me like I was part of the family, which included letting me know when I was doing something that I shouldn't. Like using the garbage can lids to sled down the hill. She was a very inspirational part of my life and doing the right thing. I always remember when I thought I had it hard she would tell " boy you don't know what hard is". Which was usually followed by an example of what hard times really use to be.  
Thank you to the family and my friend for life Timmy, who let me be a part of the family.

Frank Holcomb - November 05, 2021 at 09:56 AM

FJ

Very well said my brother.

Forrest Holcomb Jr - November 05, 2021 at 08:55 PM

BP

“ Dear Allen-Ford Family,  
My sincere condolences for the lost of your Mother and my beloved Aunt Elise. She was such an icon in Peoria and yet when we visited or stayed over, she always spent quality time with us. I have so many fond memories I will carry in my heart. Rest in heavenly peace Aunt Elise.

Beverly Pickett-Barfield - November 05, 2021 at 07:22 AM

BB

*Correction: Loss*

**Beverly Barfield** - November 05, 2021 at 06:58 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Mrs. Elise Ford Allen.



November 04, 2021 at 10:50 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet* was purchased for the family of Mrs. Elise Ford Allen.



November 04, 2021 at 10:00 PM