



## Idella Marie Melton

June 17, 1935 - November 8, 2024

Mother, Daughter, Sister, Aunt, Wife, Friend and Mentor, “Miss. Idella” touched many and in myriad, profound ways. The daughter of Amelia Jackson of Canton, Mississippi a talented church pianist and vocalist and Sullivan Thompson, a Native American tribal and clergy member, she demonstrated a remarkable love of learning with an innate sense of critical thinking from an early age.

An avid reader, she enjoyed, utilized and shared the benefits of being well informed and took pleasure in pursuing her favorite hobbies; gardening, politics and community organizing.

After graduating High School in Oakland, CA where she also won a beauty contest, she married John Melton, Jr. a talented musician who led his own group and also backed James Brown, who she met while attending McClymonds. To this union three children were born: Michael Ricardo Melton, Sultanah Muhammad (Robin Lynne Melton) and Kapri Tiffany Ellison (Melton).

After integrating a Nursing Program she worked part time and continued working at making conditions better for economically marginalized persons in Berkeley where she lived for over sixty-five years. In Berkeley she jogged, wrote urban themed poetry, worked at the election polls, volunteered at Oakland Unified School District and enjoyed listening to SF KGO News talk

radio.

With Roy S. Wilson of Berkeley, CA, her two youngest children, Gabrielle Lenore Wilson and Cassius Scott Wilson were born. Wilson integrated Louisiana State University School of Law in 1950 and together in Berkeley they trained youth for employment as well as attended many City Council meetings while advocating for economic, educational and housing equality for black homeowners as well as black renters. When she learned black women were not permitted to give birth at the only maternity ward in Berkeley, she opted for a home birth for Gabrielle.

Ever encouraging, she enjoyed learning personal and career details about the lives of her children: Sultanah Muhammad, founding member of Muhammad's Temple No. 26 B in Oakland, CA, Tiffany Ellison, Los Angeles Real Estate Broker. She kept Naomi and Naima so Gabrielle could obtain her law degree. Her wit and wisdom could sometimes cut like a knife or bring endless laughter at the same time.

When granddaughter Brandi Nicole (Gripsta) signed a music deal to Rap with her music mentor, Ice-T, she asked "Who is Ice-T? Is that Ice Cube? Well, I'm going to put an Ice Cube in my Iced Tea." If she liked you, you knew it because her loyalty spanned the ups and downs of life.

She is preceded in death by her firstborn, Michael Ricardo Melton, B. A., US Air Force, honorable discharge, Grandsons Jamal (United Black Artists) and Rahim ('Lil Heem) Muhammad and is survived by her younger brother William Jackson (Geraldine) of Detroit, MI and a host of grandchildren, great grandchildren, friends and relations.

# Cemetery Details

## Sunrise Memorial Cemetery

2201 Sacramento St.  
Vallejo, CA 94590

# Previous Events

## Service

NOV 25. 11:00 AM (PT)

St. Paul Africian Methodist Episcopal Church  
2024 Ashby Avenue  
Berkeley, CA 94703

# Tribute Wall

LH

“*Idella served as a Foster Grandparent volunteer with the City of Oakland for many years while I was the program coordinator (from 2003-2021.) I was at an event at the South Berkeley Senior Center today with my mother when I saw her memorial notice on the bulletin board. I am so very sorry for the family’s loss. I remember Idella as very outspoken and especially proud of her native heritage. She was passionate about literacy and loved teaching young elementary students how to read. May she rest in peace.*

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**Liz Hillen** - October 27, 2025 at 02:54 AM

KA

“*Idella, I have so many memories of you on Oregon St. Whenever I see someone applying some creme to their hands, I always think of you. As a child I watched as you rubbed your hands together, thank you for the last creme you applied to my hands. Oh, I forgot to tell you, I never forgot when you told me Tiffany's real name, Kapri, and I got into some heated arguments, because no one wanted to believe me, even though I told them, "you told me". Thanks for all the memories, courage, your unique style and amazing activism; but most importantly, thanks for giving birth to five amazing children and The City of Berkeley.. Your legacy will continue to live on! Love, ya, Kandi.*

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**Kandi** - November 25, 2024 at 03:38 PM

KH

“ Kimberly H. purchased a sympathy card for the family of Idella Marie Melton.



Kimberly H. - November 24, 2024 at 10:41 PM

KH

“ As a childhood friend of Tiffany and Gabrielle, I had extensive conversations with Ms. Idella. It seemed we enjoyed conversing as we would for hours about any and everything. The last conversation I recall was when we met on the street in front of QuickWay in downtown Oakland. We were each en route somewhere but had not seen each other in over a decade. We must have chatted for almost an hour. I remember a BEAUTIFUL presence in Idella. And that will remain with me. I Love you, Ms. Idella❤️



Kimberly Humphreys - November 24, 2024 at 10:19 PM

JA

HI MY NAME IS JACKIE I HAD NO IDEA IDELLA HAD PASSED, I DON'T HAVE FACEBOOK OR ANYTHING LIKE, I WOULD GOOGLE HER NAME BUT NEVER SEEN ANYTHING TIL LASTNIGHT WHEN I GOOGLE AGAIN, MAYB I FELT IT BUT WASN'T HEAR IT, I MET IDELLA ON BLAKE ST BERKELEY CA WE WOULD GO TO THE CASINO, TARGET, 99\$ STORE HER FAVORITE, I KNEW GABBY AND SCOTT AND ALSO KNEW RICARDO THE LAST TIME WE TALKED SHE DIDN'T SOUND LIKE MY IDELLA, I KNO SHE TOLD ME SHE HAD A STROKE, ANYWAY IF THE FAMILY GET THIS YALL HAVE MY DEEPEST SYMPATHY 🙏🧠

JACKIE - January 24, 2025 at 01:27 PM

DI

*Hello, this is Diane Miller Williams from Oregon Street , so sorry to hear the passing of your mom.*

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**Diane** - May 13, 2025 at 04:35 PM