



## Katala A Williams

September 27, 1929 - January 10, 2024

Dr. Katala A. Williams died Tuesday morning, January 10, 2024. She was born in 1929 to her late parents Roy B. Green and Argie A. Lee Green in Johnson County, Arkansas. She began piano lessons at an early age and was the regular pianist for Granades Chapel United Methodist Church in Franklin County, Arkansas by age 8. She attended Hartman High School and began her college career at age 15 at the University (at that time, College) of the Ozarks in Clarksville, Arkansas, where she earned a bachelor's degree in piano performance.

She married Clarence R. Williams in 1948. After living for two years in Norman, Oklahoma where Clarence received his master's degree, the couple moved back to Arkansas where Katala briefly taught elementary school; established a notable career in private piano instruction; worked as an accomplished church organist; was a frequent accompanist for voice students and her husband's choirs' performances; and presented numerous solo and ensemble piano concerts.

Dr. Williams was a faculty member of the University of the Ozarks, teaching music and English courses. She then moved with her family to Harrison, Arkansas, where she and Clarence developed and implemented federal programs for Harrison Public Schools. These federal programs put highly functioning programs, with trained teachers and resources, into school systems in multiple counties in North Arkansas: art and music; learning disabilities; and gifted and talented, in subsequent phases. She completed her master and doctoral degrees in music education at the University of Arkansas. Dr. Williams focused her efforts upon teacher training via workshops, supervision, and consultation of the teachers in all the school districts involved in the programming. The programs received acclaim, and the Williams oversaw the statewide dissemination of their programs throughout the state of Arkansas.

Dr. Williams taught at Arkansas Tech University and the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville. She taught workshops at the University of Hawaii.

She was a faithful member Granades Chapel United Methodist Church; a multi-year regent of the Daughters of the American Revolution; a two-year president of Zonta Club of Fort Smith; former member of Apollo Club of Harrison, Arkansas; National Guild of Piano Teachers; booked the subscription concerts for the Northwest Arkansas Concert

Association of Harrison, AR; and was heavily involved in convincing legislators and power brokers to establish the North Arkansas College as the first community college in the area. She was a wonderful cook and enjoyed entertaining family and friends, especially, along with Clarence, epic family Christmas Eve events for extended family and outdoor garden parties during Arkansas dogwood bloom. She loved genealogy, sports, bird watching, and travel. Above all, she was a beloved family member, friend, and teacher to many. She always knew just what to say to comfort or advise, and she was unparalleled in her positivity, unselfishness, patience, and wisdom.

She is preceded in death by her husband Dr. Clarence R. Williams and her sister Roiselle Green Grim. Survivors include her daughter Anitra Williams Fay and husband Edgar Fay; her son Russell G. Williams and wife Margaret Williams; her grandchildren Matthew W. Fay and wife Jessica Fay of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, Marissa Williams Stillie and husband Bryan Stillie of Chula Vista, California, and Jessica Williams Adams and husband Stuart Adams of College Park, Maryland; four great-grandchildren Jonah, Julia, Emma, and Lincoln; and many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Visitation service will be 1:00 P.M. to 2:00 P.M., Wednesday, January 17, 2024 at Shaffer Funeral Home, 2315 West Commercial Street in Ozark.

Celebration of Life service will be 2:00 P.M., Wednesday, January 17, 2024 at Shaffer Funeral Home in Ozark, with Reverend Regina Mason and Reverend Sam Wilcox officiating, with burial at Highland Cemetery, Highway 64 West in Ozark, under the direction of Shaffer Funeral Home.

Serving as pallbearers will be the Shaffer Staff. Serving as honorary pallbearers will be her grandchildren and her great grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Granades Chapel UMC c/o Lucy Sowell, 12627 Hwy 23 North, Ozark, AR 72949 or the Fort Smith Symphony <https://fortsmithsymphony.org/how>

# Cemetery Details

## Highland Cemetery

Highway 64 West  
Ozark, AR 72949

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN 17. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Shaffer Funeral Home  
2315 West Commercial Street  
PO Box 680  
Ozark, AR 72949  
(479) 667-4147  
shafferfuneralhome@gmail.com

## Funeral Celebration of Life service

JAN 17. 2:00 PM (CT)

Shaffer Funeral Home  
2315 West Commercial Street  
PO Box 680  
Ozark, AR 72949  
(479) 667-4147  
shafferfuneralhome@gmail.com

## Burial

JAN 17 (CT)

Highland Cemetery  
Highway 64 West  
Ozark, AR 72949

# Tribute Wall



“ 1 file added to the album *Funeral Service*



Shaffer Home - January 18, 2024 at 01:24 PM



“ 1 file added to the album *Slideshow*



Shaffer Home - January 18, 2024 at 12:33 PM



*Dr. Williams was my mentor at Arkansas Tech University. She was the kindest person and always remembered me whenever we met anywhere! I loved her and I am so sorry I did not know of this until days after the event. My heart goes out to the family. You were very blessed to have her in your lives.*

Jolene Trotter - January 25, 2024 at 03:31 PM

PW

“ *Katala was a very special lady whom I'm sure will be missed by many. She was my piano teacher for my formative years and I was so lucky to have had her. She brought piano music to life and the composers to life. It was more than just learning how to play piano, it was learning to play music, I credit my musical career to my early development with her. My sympathies and much love to her family. Prissy Jones Wattam*

Pat Wattam - January 14, 2024 at 09:50 PM

DM

“ *Don,Ruth,Don R,Jana,Skylar Wood, Mattons planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Katala A Williams.*

Don,Ruth,Don R,Jana,Skylar Wood, Mattons - January 14, 2024 at 02:49 PM

DM

“ *Don,Ruth,Don R,Jana,Skylar Wood, Mattons purchased the Se rene Retreat for the family of Katala A Williams.*



**Don,Ruth,Don R,Jana,Skylar Wood, Mattons** - January 14, 2024 at 02:49 PM

CC

“ *My deepest sympathy, Anitra.  
Cynthia Mills Crowder*

**Cindy Mills Crowder** - January 13, 2024 at 11:35 AM



“ *Prayers and comfort for the family.*



**Buzy Bee Flowers And Gifts** - January 12, 2024 at 03:24 PM

JR

*My dearest friend. Much love and many prayers for all of you*

**Jeanette Redford** - January 17, 2024 at 11:44 AM

JV

*Katala was a great lady whom I unfortunately didn't get to know until later in our lives. Always heard about her from my mom as they were cousins. Much love and prayers to the family.*

**Janice Vaughn** - January 18, 2024 at 06:32 PM