

## **Vera A. Nelson**

Vera Alveda (Lawson) Nelson, 76, of Welaka, entered the sunset of life Wednesday, Dec. 7, 2011 at Kindred Hospital-North Florida, Green Cove Springs, following an extended illness.

A native of Palatka, she was born on Monday, July 29, 1935 to Linnie Torrence and Benjamin James Lawson. Vera was subsequently adopted and raised by her paternal grandmother, Candy Brooks, and was also very devoted to her surrogate mother, Rosa Lee Russ. She was a graduate of Central Academy High School, Class of 1951. At the age of 22, she fell in love with and married Alfred Williams of Sylvania, Ga., and they resided in Fort Lauderdale and were the parents of four children. Nearly 15 years later, she united in marriage to Ernest Bernard Nelson Sr., and in 1977, they relocated back to Putnam County. She was a faithful member of Calvary Missionary Baptist Church until her health declined considerably and was a dedicated school bus driver in the Putnam County School District for over 15 years. For decades, Vera touched the lives of many within her community, especially her family and dear friends.

In addition to her parents and husbands, she was preceded in eternal rest by her paternal grandmother, Candy Brooks and surrogate mother, Rosa Lee Russ; stepson, Ernest Nelson Jr.

Those who cherish her memories: six children, Sharon Williams Allwood, Palatka, Audrey Williams Heard (Kenny) Welaka, Larry Williams, Jacksonville, Nora "Candee" Williams Byas (Aaron), Panama City, Altamese Gibbs McDuffy, Palatka and Jeffery Spates, Panama City; stepchildren Willie Earl Nelson (Vickie), Palatka, Carolyn Nelson Bennett (Andrew), Winter Park, Alonzo Nelson (Ann), Ozark, Ala.; eight grandchildren, Granville Allwood, Earl "Tracy" Nelson, Kevin Williams, Shanora Smith, Demetrius Thomas, Aaron Byas Jr., Jordon Byas and Willie McDuffy; and a host of great-grandchildren; other relatives and friends.

Visitation of family and friends will be from 5-8 p.m., Friday, Dec. 9, 2011 at the "Chapel of Serenity." Homegoing celebration will be noon Saturday, Dec. 10 at Calvary Missionary Baptist Church, 322 N. 10th St., Palatka. Rev. Frederick T. Demps, pastor, is the eulogist. Interment will be in Pattersonville Memorial Cemetery, East Palatka.

Friends may sign the Nelson family's guestbook at [www.flaggserenitychapel.com](http://www.flaggserenitychapel.com).

Arrangements entrusted to the care of Karl N. Flagg Serenity Memorial Chapel, 2400 Madison St., Palatka.