



## Hazel Armbrister

September 6, 1931 - March 16, 2021

We speak her name.....Hazel Dell Kelley Armbrister, We speak her name  
A giant lifeline has been severed and many will be affected by this disconnect.  
This prominent lifeline, securely wrapped up in a petite female package has  
been dis- connected from her place on this earth and moved to claim her  
residence in the celes- tial place called...heaven. We speak her name... Hazel  
Armbrister. Hazel, a longtime resident of Pompano, made an impressive  
impact in the history of the city and the lives of many people. On March 16,  
2021, the connection was severed. Her presence will be missed as she was  
an outspoken lifeline to the Pompano community. Hazel was the oldest  
daughter of 8 children born to the parentage of Cora Jane Kelley and Joe  
Kelley. Her name, 'Hazel', meaning "God sees", embodied the persona of a  
strong but determined person of authority and protection. It was destined that  
she would be a trailblazer and do great things to write the story of her legacy.  
For the many impressive and notable women who have transitioned from this  
fair city to the other side of glory, the name, Hazel Armbrister will be added to  
the list. Again, We speak her name ...as she was a quiet but discerning  
woman who wore many hats, titles, and recognitions that spoke to the heart  
and conscience of others. She was well known and her name holds great  
influence in many organizations and places throughout the local areas and as  
well as the state of Florida; Hazel touched the lives of many from all corners.  
Hazel lived her legacy and proved that her life served a purpose and her living  
was not in vain. Although she lived in Pompano for many years, she moved to

Broward county in the 50's, from her birth site, Perry, Florida in hopes of finding a job. Hazel was the caring and loving little big sister who took over the role of 'mother hen' to help her mother with the younger siblings.

All throughout her life, Hazel had to constantly battle many challenges. It was her inner strength and strong faith that carried her through as she took each to task. Hazel was baptized as a child in Perry and raised in the Triumph Church and Methodist A.M.E. under the watchful eyes of her parents and family. She was a devout Christian and active church member throughout her life. As a young adult, she later joined the Episcopal Church. She was determined to make a successful path on her life's journey. In doing so, she met the love of her life and soulmate, David "Sparky" Armbrister and together they built a home to support a family. She was the first African American in Broward County to receive her GED in 1953 and later trained as a Teacher's Aide in 1966. Still on her path to success, she worked and earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in Education from USF in 1974. While working in various jobs and raising a family, she later returned to the university and earned her Master's degree in 1975. Hazel was a courageous trailblazer who was not afraid of a challenge; thus it was her destiny to make big paths in untraveled territory. All throughout her adult life, Hazel's grace, faith and love were bountiful and equally shared among her family, friends and everyone who met her. She understood her purpose and knew that she was chosen to play the lead role as a critical fulfillment to her Destiny; mediocrity was not in her designed path. As life's challenges would have it, Hazel proved her worth. Her paths took her from the bean fields to the classroom and she did not allow anything to hinder her determined path. Her self-assigned journey was for the good of restoring history and dignity in the Black community. Hazel was a formidable foe against naysayers and a kind but determined "humble hellion" for a cause ....We speak her name.

Her strength, confidence and intellect were God's graces that she shared in all of her destined roles in life: First and foremost, over 27 years, she and David

“Sparky” worked as a family unit on a mission until his untimely death; she was a devoted and loving mother of two daughters and a son and several adopted children; Her love and memories for all were unparalleled; she was a dedicated and faithful lector at St. Nicholas Episcopal Church; her impressive professional life was initiated as she was the first African American teacher’s aide in Broward County and moved on to become a remarkably dedicated teacher who taught school for over 33 years. As We speak her name, Hazel, we must recognize her savvy leadership and teaching skills that extended far beyond the classroom: she was a teacher of life; Many will remember her not only as a focused trailblazer but more so a staunch community leader/activist and political aspirant; she was former chair and vice chair of the Broward Democratic Club. Hazel was well known and respected for her parliamentary procedures in the local and state political arena; Many believed she helped write the Robert’s Rules of Order. Hazel loved her community and worked hard to help upgrade and maintain its integrity. She was not only actively involved in many social, religious and civic organization but in many she held important positions: Pompano Beach Historian, President and a founding member of her beloved Rock Road Restoration Historical Group, First African American member and president of the Pompano Beach Women’s Club, former Chair of Broward County Historic Preservation and dedicated member and former chair of Elly Lodder Daughters of the King Chapter. When We speak her name, we can be assured that if there is an issue/mission, she, Hazel Armbrister, was actively involved as a champion for the cause.

Hazel worked and showed up for the people who loved her thus the severed line to family, friends and the community will leave a prominent gap in the hearts and lives of many. She did her life right, she fulfilled her mission and left no dashes or stones unturned. As We speak her name, Hazel Armbrister, and reflect on the many impressionable memories and unchallenged extensions of her love and concern, we can proudly speak her name, Hazel

Armbrister.

Hazel made her humble transition to her final destination: a place of serenity and comfort . She followed her journey and carved the trail that was destined solely for her legacy. Her extensive family and friends, and the community of Pompano have lost an important and significant lifeline and her quiet demeanor, unconditional love and confident personality can never be replaced but always revered.

Endearing Relatives and Friends Who speak her name: Her children: Lydia Wilson (Richard), Chicago, IL; Anita Soto, Alpharetta, GA; Marion (Karen), West Palm Beach, FL; Sister: Marguerite K. Luster, Pompano Beach, FL; Brothers: Samuel (Fiorella) Kelley, Mt. Vernon, NY; Viridin Brown, St. Croix, U.S. VI; Deceased siblings: Altherenease K. Gamble, Ernest Kelley, Early Kelley, Ruthamae Kelley; Grands: Brett, Hannah; Kevin, Carlos, Kenny, LaToya, Schnequa, Whitney; Loving Great grands, nieces and nephews; Loving and Caring Bonus family of Jacksonville, FL and Nassau, Bahamas; Devoted God daughter: Kyllan White; Special Angel and adopted son: Jimmy Lane; and her loving extensive family and friends near and afar.

In Hazel's words, "If you live right, you will get 70 years! Anything over that is gravy on the potatoes."

Hazel made some delicious gravy for she added 19 more years to the stewing.

Hazel's life will always be revered for all of her gifts of presence, unconditional love, unquestionable support and genuine concern and relentless personality. We know that when We speak her name.. Hazel, did her work here on earth and now her peaceful transition is complete. The paths in her journey were in God's Plan and up- on her entrance God will say "Well done my good and faithful servant, you have molded the paths and reached the end of your journey. Assuredly, your living was not in vain!"

We speak her name, Hazel Dell Kelley Armbrister

# Cemetery Details

## Forest Lawn North Cemetery

200 W Copans Rd  
Pompano Beach, FL 33064

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAR 26. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Hopewell Missionary Baptist Church  
890 NW 15th Street  
Pompano Beach, FL 33060

## Service

MAR 27. 1:00 PM (ET)

St. Nicholas Episcopal Church  
1111 E Sample Road  
FL 33064

# Tribute Wall



“ *Hazel Armbrister*

---

September 27, 2023 at 05:27 AM



“ *she was such a beautiful person.I have known and cherished our talks for almost 30 years.She was so sweet and loving.I will never forget all the things she did for me.*  
*Janet Metner*

---

**JANET METNER** - January 05, 2022 at 07:09 AM



“ *Patricia Rowley lit a candle in memory of Hazel Armbrister*



---

**Patricia Rowley** - May 13, 2021 at 02:55 PM

“ We're Sharing this Purple Periwinkle Candle because Purple is Royalty and Surely Mrs. Hazel Armbrister have definitely been Royalty in Our Generation, "To GOD BE ALL THE HONOR, GLORY AND PRAISES"!



*To A Virtuous Woman of Greatness, sooo Much can be said about the Character, Integrity, Humility, Poise, Beauty, Intellect, Nurturing, Hospitality, Confrontational (as Needed) but Articulately Engaging with Her Wisdom, Experiences and Strong Faith, is this Classy, Selfless, Pioneer, Humanitarian, Mother and Grandmother of Many, Ms. Hazel Armbrister.*

*On Behalf of Our Mother, Mrs. Juanita Gray, We The Family of The Late Mr. John L. Gray, A former Negro League Baseball Player, Whom You, Ms. Hazel, took Upon Yourself, along with Your Pompano Beach Governmental Dignitaries and Staff, Many Baseball Lovers and Constituents, in a Collaboration with Mr. Danny Phillips and His Team of More Than A Game Inc., to Honor, Celebrate, Salute, and Give A Platform and Stage to Speak and Share Their Negro League Baseball Experiences of the Many Former Negro League Players that were still Alive and Gave Honor to Those Players that were Deceased, like Our Father Mr. John L. Gray and Mr. Hailey Young, Sr., in which Both had just passed away in 2016/2017.*

*We All were Personal Friend of Yours including Our Brother, the Late Major Jerome E. Gray, Esquire, a Mentee and lovingly adopted Son of Yours, We Send Our Condolences to The Entire Armbrister Family and Our Love and PRAYERS to The Family.*

*Especially, We Send Our PRAYERS and Love to One of Our Nova Classmates in Class of 1980, Mrs. Lydia Armbrister Wilson, May GOD Continue to Comfort You All and Give You All Peace is Our PRAYER Always, Your Sister-IN-CHRIST, And (Forever Another Adopted Daughter of Momma Hazel as well), Your Friend and Sista*

*For Life, Mrs. Janá Gray-Williams Nova Class of 1982, GOD  
Bless!!!*

---

**Jana Gray-Williams** - March 27, 2021 at 02:50 PM

“ We're Sharing this Purple Periwinkle Candle because Purple is Royalty and Surely Mrs. Hazel Armbrister have definitely been Royalty in Our Generation, "To GOD BE ALL THE HONOR, GLORY AND PRAISES"!



*To A Virtuous Woman of Greatness, sooo Much can be said about the Character, Integrity, Humility, Poise, Beauty, Intellect, Nurturing, Hospitality, Confrontational (as Needed) but Articulately Engaging with Her Wisdom, Experiences and Strong Faith, is this Classy, Selfless, Pioneer, Humanitarian, Mother and Grandmother of Many, Ms. Hazel Armbrister.*

*On Behalf of Our Mother, Mrs. Juanita Gray, We The Family of The Late Mr. John L. Gray, A former Negro League Baseball Player, Whom You, Ms. Hazel, took Upon Yourself, along with Your Pompano Beach Governmental Dignitaries and Staff, Many Baseball Lovers and Constituents, in a Collaboration with Mr. Danny Phillips and His Team of More Than A Game Inc., to Honor, Celebrate, Salute, and Give A Platform and Stage to Speak and Share Their Negro League Baseball Experiences of the Many Former Negro League Players that were still Alive and Gave Honor to Those Players that were Deceased, like Our Father Mr. John L. Gray and Mr. Hailey Young, Sr., in which Both had just passed away in 2016/2017.*

*We All were Personal Friend of Yours including Our Brother, the Late Major Jerome E. Gray, Esquire, a Mentee and lovingly adopted Son of Yours, We Send Our Condolences to The Entire Armbrister Family and Our Love and PRAYERS to The Family.*

*Especially, We Send Our PRAYERS and Love to One of Our Nova Classmates in Class of 1980, Mrs. Lydia Armbrister Wilson, May GOD Continue to Comfort You All and Give You All Peace is Our PRAYER Always, Your Sister-IN-CHRIST, And (Forever Another Adopted Daughter of Momma Hazel as well), Your Friend and Sista*

*For Life, Mrs. Janá Gray-Williams Nova Class of 1982, GOD Bless!!!*

**Jana Gray-Williams** - March 27, 2021 at 02:48 PM

CL

“ *May the God of peace comfort and strengthen you during your time of sorrow.*

*Cynthia Boyd-Lee*



**Cynthia Lee** - March 26, 2021 at 11:24 PM

KR

“ *Karen Rhoulhac lit a candle in memory of Hazel Armbrister*



**Karen Rhoulhac** - March 26, 2021 at 08:09 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Hazel Armbrister.*



March 26, 2021 at 05:15 PM

NB

“ *My deepest condolences to the family of Hazel on her passing. Not knowing her for very long, I did enjoy the several phone chats we had this past year. She was such a Lady and I will always remember her as such.*

*Nancy Bigwood  
St. Nicholas Episcopal Church*



---

**Nancy Bigwood** - March 26, 2021 at 01:31 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Hazel Armbrister.*



---

March 26, 2021 at 01:08 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Hazel Armbrister.*



---

March 26, 2021 at 08:24 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Hazel Armbrister.*



---

March 25, 2021 at 08:51 PM

DT

“ *I'm Going To Miss You Auntie, 💔  
Love Always Your Nephew,  
Darryl D Thomas BKA Duke*



---

**Darryl D. Thomas** - March 25, 2021 at 01:33 PM

DT

“ *You Shall Live On In My ❤️ Heart Auntie.  
Love Always Your Nephew (Lil Cousin)  
Darryl D Thomas BKA Duke*



---

**Darryl D. Thomas** - March 25, 2021 at 01:30 PM

EB

“ *You will be truly missed by the family and  
friends of Motivated Unified Sound Impacting  
Communities, Inc. and Mrs. Ethel M.  
Robinson-Burns. Our prayers are with the  
entire family. Stay safe and God Bless.*



---

**Ethel Burns** - March 25, 2021 at 01:20 PM



“ *Heavenly Heights Bouquet was purchased for the family of Hazel Armbrister.*



March 25, 2021 at 11:41 AM



“ *Dahalia Baker purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Hazel Armbrister.*



**Dahalia Baker** - March 25, 2021 at 10:02 AM



“ *Heavenly Heights Bouquet was purchased for the family of Hazel Armbrister.*



March 25, 2021 at 08:55 AM



“ *Cathryn Martin lit a candle in memory of Hazel Armbrister*



**Cathryn Martin** - March 25, 2021 at 07:43 AM

AD

“ Auntie, I miss you. I know God makes no mistakes and that he is in control. I'm thankful that we found each other 2 years ago and our connection was nothing but love. I'm going to miss our talks. Rest easy my dear Auntie.  
Love Alice



Alice Dillard - March 24, 2021 at 06:12 PM

RA

“ Our Condolences To Mrs Hazel Ambrister 🙏  
Family Our Prayers are with you at this  
difficult time 💔🙏🙏 The King, Dillard, and  
James Families Families God Bless 🙏🙏💙



rann46@bellsouth.net - March 24, 2021 at 10:48 AM

RB

“ Rosemary Baker lit a candle in memory of  
Hazel Ambrister



Rosemary Baker - March 24, 2021 at 10:36 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for  
the family of Hazel Ambrister.



March 24, 2021 at 10:33 AM

RG

“ My condolences to the family of Ms. Hazel K. Armbrister. I am sorry for your loss.

*May Jesus comfort each one of you, is my prayer.*

*Ms. Rose-Marie Gulley  
Northwest Branch Library  
1580 N.W. 3rd Avenue  
Pompano Beach, FL 33060*

---

**Rose-Marie Gulley** - March 23, 2021 at 04:30 PM



“ Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of Hazel Armbrister.



---

March 23, 2021 at 11:34 AM

TH

“ Tawana Harris lit a candle in memory of Hazel Armbrister



---

**Tawana Harris** - March 20, 2021 at 08:06 PM

BR

“ May The God of peace comfort your hearts during this time of bereavement.

---

**Beverly Ricks** - March 20, 2021 at 04:06 PM



“ *Serene Reflections Bouquet was purchased for the family of Hazel Armbrister.*



---

March 20, 2021 at 11:30 AM



“ *Jacqueline K Dennis lit a candle in memory of Hazel Armbrister*



---

**Jacqueline K Dennis** - March 19, 2021 at 06:37 PM



“ *Linda Green lit a candle in memory of Hazel Armbrister*



---

**Linda green** - March 19, 2021 at 02:22 PM



“ *Cousin Hazel you will truly be missed by the residents of Pompano Beach. You were a trailblazer with the future of your community and family as the recipients of your leadership and efforts of bravery. You were loved and will be truly missed by all who knew and adored you. John W. Shoats and family*



---

**Francene C. Bee** - March 18, 2021 at 03:54 PM

ME

“ We'll always cherish the moments spent together Aunt Hazel. Love Merline Shelt and Mehki



Merl - March 18, 2021 at 02:29 PM

RW

“ Your efforts to the city of Pompano Beach will never be forgotten. Rest in power!  
#historian  
#rockroadrestoration

Rodney Wright - March 18, 2021 at 07:52 AM

DL

“ The City of Pompano Beach has lost a legend, a historian, a walking encyclopedia. Your presence here will surely be missed. I'm going to miss our talks together. You shared so much history with me that I will treasure for the rest of my life. Rest in Power my love. (“Who will I talk to now?”)  
🙏🙏🙏



Debra Irving LeSane - March 18, 2021 at 07:51 AM

DM

“ Darryl McIntosh sent a virtual gift in memory of Hazel Armbrister



Darryl McIntosh - March 17, 2021 at 12:02 PM

DM

“ *Darryl Mcintosh lit a candle in memory of Hazel Armbrister*



---

**Darryl Mcintosh** - March 17, 2021 at 12:00 PM

LB

“ *My beautiful, beautiful Hazel may you rest in paradise. Say hello to momma for me. Sending love and healing prayers 🙏*



---

**Lonnise Baldwin** - March 17, 2021 at 10:57 AM