



Mother Viola Ford Fletcher

May 10, 1914 - November 24, 2025

Mother Viola Ford Fletcher, born May 10, 1914, in Comanche, Oklahoma, passed away peacefully on November 24, 2025, in Tulsa, Oklahoma, at the remarkable age of 111. Born to John Wesley Ford and Lucinda Ellis, she lived a life marked by resilience, dignity, and unwavering strength.

At the age of 7, Mother Viola survived one of the darkest moments in American history—the Tulsa Race Massacre. As the oldest living survivor, she carried not only her memories but, also the collective memory of a tragedy that shaped her life and the lives of countless others. Although she was never able to continue her formal education, her determination and spirit led her to work diligently as a maid while raising her family and forging her own legacy.

Her greatest joy in life was her family—her beloved three children: daughter Debra Crumpton, son James Edward Ford, and son Ronald Fletcher. She cherished her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren deeply, finding comfort and purpose in their love.

Mother Viola’s legacy extends far beyond her family. Among her many accomplishments, she addressed Congress in 2021, ensuring the stories of Tulsa would never be forgotten. In 2023, she authored her memoir, “Don’t Let Them Bury My Story: The Oldest Living Survivor of the Tulsa Race Massacre in Her Own Words,” inspiring readers with her courage and truth. As an

author, speaker, supercentenarian, and the oldest known living survivor of the Tulsa Race Massacre, she became a symbol of endurance, justice, and unbreakable spirit.

She is preceded in death by her parents, John Wesley Ford and Lucinda Ellis, her daughter Debra Crumpton, her son James Edward Ford, all her siblings, her baby brother, and most recently her brother, Hughes Van “Redd” Ellis—lovingly known as Uncle Redd.

She is survived by her son Ronald Fletcher; her grandchildren Ike, Tracy, Felix, Freddie, Reggie, Roselyn, and Mona; along with a host of other grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great grandchildren who will continue to carry her story forward.

Mother Viola will be dearly missed, and her legacy and strength will live on for generations to come.

A Quote by Mother Viola:

“It takes more muscles to frown than it does to smile.” — Mother Viola Ford Fletcher

May her memory be a blessing and her story forever remembered.

Arrangements are under the care of Stumpff Funeral Home.

Previous Events

Come & Go Visitation

NOV **28**. 5:30 PM - 8:30 PM (CT)

Stumpff Funeral Home & Crematory
1600 SE Washington Blvd.
Bartlesville, OK 74006
(918) 333-4300
info@stumpff.org
<https://www.stumpff.org>

Celebration of Life

NOV **29**. 12:00 PM (CT)

Bartlesville Community Center
300 E. Adams Blvd.
Bartlesville, OK 74003

Celebration of Life

NOV **29**. 6:00 PM (CT)

Greenwood Cultural Center
322 N Greenwood
Tulsa , OK 74120

ALL WHITE AFFAIR

Tribute Wall



“ *Stumpff Funeral Home & Crematory created a Tribute Video in memory of Mother Viola Ford Fletcher*



Stumpff Funeral Home & Crematory - November 28, 2025 at 05:58 PM

EB

“ *Elizabeth Booth lit a candle in memory of Mother Viola Ford Fletcher*



Elizabeth Booth - December 02, 2025 at 12:21 PM

GA

“ We truly loved Mother Fletcher. When the Order of the Eastern Star chapter opened in Bartlesville, she not only allowed us to name the chapter in her honor, but attended the opening and first initiation. In June of this year she was with us for our 117th Annual Grand Session. We were blessed to have her meet many sisters at the Luncheon and honor her at our awards banquet. Truly, we were blessed by life and her story which will never be buried. We will forever hold her in our hearts and in our memories.



*G Diane Anderson
Grand Worthy Matron
Queen Bathsheba Grand Chapter
Order of the Eastern Star*

G Diane Anderson - November 30, 2025 at 05:07 PM

CA

“ *In Honor of Mother Viola Ford Fletcher*

Mother Fletcher,

It is with profound love and deepest respect that we sign our names in your honor. Your life was a testament of courage, grace, and unshakable faith. You carried the story of Greenwood with dignity so powerful that it moved nations, awakened generations, and reminded the world that truth cannot die.

*As descendants, as custodians of memory, and as keepers of ancestral tradition, we **light a candle to guide your sacred passage** into the realm of our mighty forebears. May your spirit rise among them in peace, honor, and eternal strength.*

We are forever grateful for your fight, your light, and the love you shared so generously with the world.

With heartfelt condolences and boundless gratitude,

The African Ancestral Society

The Society of Chiefs of Abeokuta, Nigeria

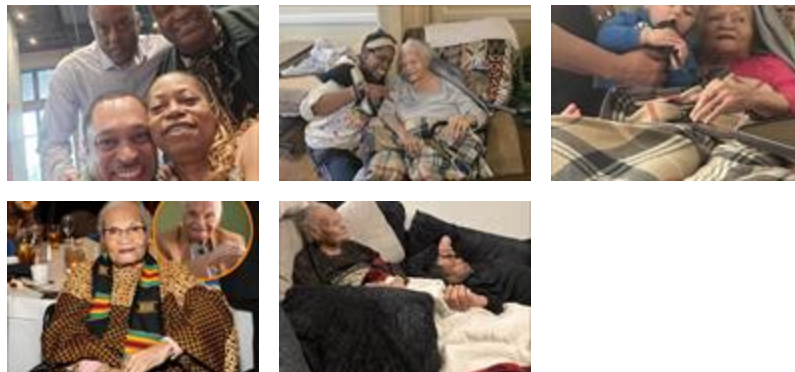
The Beard–Amusan Family Descendants

Chief Egunwale Amusan

Chief Egunwale Amusan - November 27, 2025 at 08:28 PM

DA

“ 16 files added to the tribute wall



darealfredws4s@gmail.com - November 27, 2025 at 01:59 PM

IF

“ Isaac Mangum and Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mother Viola Ford Fletcher.

Isaac Mangum and Family - November 27, 2025 at 10:33 AM

IF

“ Isaac Mangum and Family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Mother Viola Ford Fletcher.



Isaac Mangum and Family - November 27, 2025 at 10:33 AM

TW

“ *From Wess H. Young, Sr. (Janie and Mabel)
and Cathryn J. Young’s family of descendants*



—
*Our thoughts, prayers and praise to our
Almighty Father God for Mother Fletcher’s
presence here for this amount of time are with you all. You are her
greatest joys and most cherished accomplishments; you are a
wonderfully blessed family.*

Thank you all for sharing her with us and the world.

*From our family to yours-may love, joy, grace, mercy and patience
surround and comfort each of you of her lineage: her descendants.*

TL Williams - November 25, 2025 at 11:43 PM

CJ

What a Beautiful Soul!!!! Sleep in Peace

Courtney Danielle Johnson - November 26, 2025 at 05:22 PM