

Dear Respected Mayor and Commissioners:

This past October I was called to my Mothers bedside in Boston Mass., where I remained until she took her final breath on November 18, at the age of 96 years.

I remained in Boston through her funeral on November 27, and on into the first week of December.

Upon my return I was informed that I missed the deadline for the annual street performers permit that I have received and maintained, in good standing, since the inception of the permit system some four years ago.

Under the circumstances surrounding the passing of my Mother during the application period, I am hereby requesting a waiver of this deadline and be allowed to apply at this late date.

Respectfully,



Mustafa Abdal-Khallaq

Enclosed: A copy of my Mother's Funeral Program in celebration of her life.

RECEIVED  
2010 DEC 20 AM 10: 00  
CITY OF KEY WEST  
KEY WEST, FLORIDA

P O Box 1403  
Key West, Fl 33041

496-8345



**CITY OF KEY WEST**  
**STREET PERFORMER**



A PERMIT #: Per-55

**Mustafa Abdal Khallaq**

Singing and playing guitar

EXPIRATION DATE: 12/15/2010

Celebration of the Life of

*Elva Lee Collins Abdal-Khallaq*



*August 5, 1914 - November 18, 2010*

Date of Service  
Saturday, November 27, 2010  
Viewing: 9:00 am - 10:00 am  
Funeral Services: 10:00 am

The Basilica of Our Lady of Perpetual Help (Mission Church)  
1545 Tremont St. Boston, MA 02120

Celebrant, Rev. Oscar Pratt, Parochial Vicar, Holy Name Parish, West Roxbury, MA  
ConCelebrant, Rev. Russell Best, Parochial Vicar, St. Patrick's Church, Roxbury, MA  
Assisting Visiting Minister, Bishop George Turner, St. James African Orthodox Church, MA

# Order of Service

## INTRODUCTORY RITES

Placing of the Pall

Entrance Hymn..... "Amazing Grace"

Glenn Goda, "The Mission Church"

Opening Prayer

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading (Old Testament) ..... Proverbs 31:10-31

Jumaada Smith, Daughter

Responsorial Psalm

Second Reading (New Testament)..... Romans 8:31b-35, 37-39

Hasan Davis, Grandson

Gospel Acclamation

Gospel Reading

Homily

Prayers of the Faithful..... Grandchildren and  
Great-Grandchildren

## LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Offertory Hymn..... "My Tribute"

Robert L. Smith, Son-in-law

Holy, Holy

Memorial Acclamation

Great Amen

The Lord's Prayer

Lamb of God

Communion Hymn

Hymn of Praise ..... "Ave Maria"

Betsy Mau, Granddaughter

Words of Remembrance..... Jacob Collins Abdal-Khallaq, Son

Obituary Reading..... Hamida Abdal-Khallaq, Daughter

Final Commendation and Farewell

Recessional Hymn ..... "How Great Thou Art"

Donations in Elva's memory may be sent to:

The Sisters of the Holy Family

6901 Chef Menteur Blvd.

New Orleans, LA 70126

Interment

Forest Hills Cemetery

95 Forest Hills Ave.

Boston, MA

Repast

Roxbury Center For Arts at Hibernian Hall

184 Dudley Street

Roxbury, MA 02119

Arrangements entrusted to: Davis Funeral Home  
89 Walnut Ave., Roxbury, MA



Elva Lee was born and raised in Baldwin, Louisiana. The youngest and last surviving child of Jacob Collins and Harriette McClure Collins' 13 children, Elva Lee was raised in a loving Catholic home where devotion to family and strong work ethic were instilled in the children.

Elva Lee met her high school sweetheart and future husband, Malik Abdallah Abdal-Khallaq, at Phyllis Wheatley High School in Houston, Texas.

A true believer in education as a door to opportunity, she graduated from high school and often credited her teachers at Wheatley with providing life lessons as well as academic lessons.

Ironically for the future mother of ten children, Elva Lee had dreams of becoming a nun when she was younger. However, she combined her love of Catholicism with her desire to create a family as loving and tight-knit as the one in which she grew up. Soon after high school, she and Malik wed in Houston, Texas.



Elva's love for children and desire for a large family was soon fulfilled with the births of their first five children in Houston and their next five children in Boston.

She and Malik delighted in their large family. She often recalled their greatest entertainment involved watching their young children's antics, including Sunday night shows that the children put on in the living room.

Elva Lee moved to Boston to support her husband's dream to move North, which they hoped would provide more opportunities for their growing family. Elva Lee often recounted the move with mixed emotions. Initially, she was taken aback by the drastic change in weather, culture and community. However, her ability to acclimate easily allowed her and the family to make a smooth transition.

Being the baby of her family, Elva Lee had few domestic skills when she married. With marriage and children, she became a masterful cook and



loved nurturing her family and friends with her signature Creole gumbo.

She was generous in sharing her culinary knowledge with her daughters and granddaughters, but no one could "cook like Mama."

Elva Lee became an excellent seamstress, creating beautiful clothing for her children. While raising her family, Elva Lee also managed to co-found several businesses with her husband.

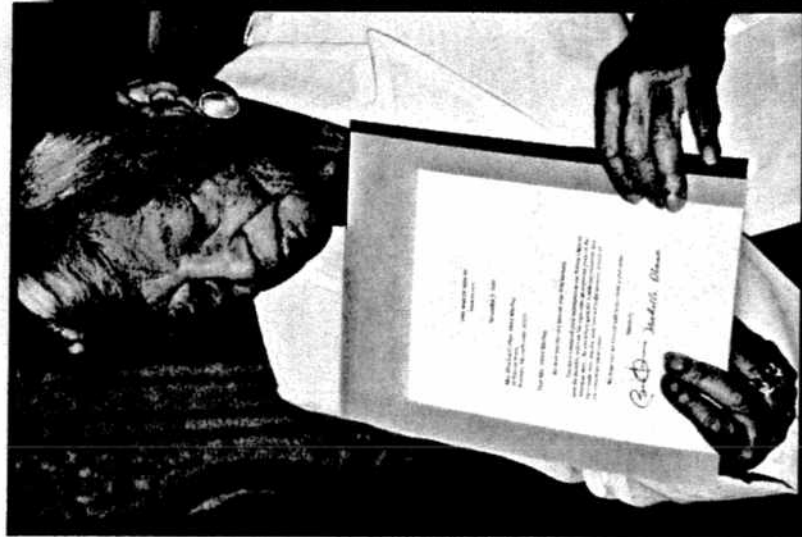
When Beau Nubian Brummel Tonsorial Emporium was started, Malik worked long hours to establish his clientele while Elva Lee raised their children. Many of Elva's business ideas were instrumental in creating and sustaining the business.

The matriarch of A Nubian Notion, Inc., Elva Lee designed and, at one point, was the largest manufacturer of dashikis in the New England area.

Elva Lee's love for children expanded beyond her own. She pursued studies in Early Childhood Development and received a degree from Lesley College. Elve Lee was a teacher to many in the community. She is remembered fondly by many for her encouragement, inspiration and commitment to her students' emotional and educational development.

As Elva Lee's children matured, she expanded her activities to the community. One of Elva's proudest moments was attending the Million Woman March with four generations of her family. She was also a member of Club Finesse and The Exclusive Ten, the mother of Tai Chi in Roxbury and remained an active member of the Goldenaires until her recent illness.

Elva Lee's commitment to her family and community did not go unnoticed. Over the years, she received many acknowledgements, awards and accolades from city officials, including the Mayor of Boston, and state officials, including Governor Deval Patrick. She was particularly delighted to receive congratulations on her 95<sup>th</sup> birthday from President Obama.



A devout Catholic, Elva Lee often reminded others that she was praying for them. From the time she arrived in Boston, she attended mass and supported Mission Church, St. Richard's, St. Joseph's, and St Francis de Sales. Until her most recent illness, she was an active member of Saint Katharine Drexel Parish of Roxbury.

Many will remember Elva Lee for her entertaining style, commitment to God and the Catholic Church, belief in the goodness of mankind, love for children, devotion to her family and unwavering belief in one's ability to succeed through perseverance. "If the elevator to success is broken, take the stairs" were words of wisdom among many others that she passed down to all of those fortunate enough to have known and been nurtured by this remarkable woman.

As Elva Lee's health declined, she remained optimistic and was more concerned about the well-being of her loved ones, than herself.



She was a woman who loved her God, country music and spiritual hymns, cooking, and being surrounded by her family and friends. Elva Lee was dearly loved and will be deeply missed.

Elva Lee was pre-deceased by her husband Malik A. Abdal-Khallaq. She is survived by 10 children, including sons: Abu (and Jamila), Sharif (and Lesley), Mustafa and Jacob (and Rose); daughters Saafa (and Richard), Jumaada (and Robert), Hamida, Regina (and Devon), Yvette and Yvonne; 27 grandchildren; 21 great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews and a host of beloved family and friends.

*Until We All Meet Again...*



**Pallbearers**

Kaamel Abdal-Khallaq , Shaheed Henry, Yakub Taylor, Musiri Kari Abdal-Khallaq, Jamal Abdal-Khallaq, Kai Spear, Kaasim Davis

**Honorary Pallbearers**

Haleem Abdal-Khallaq, Hakim Abdal-Khallaq, Orlando Adolphus, Asim Spear, Shakur Abdal-Khallaq, Hasan Davis, Amir Henry, Ahmad Henry, William Rodriguez, Amire Loftin, Jaami Abdal-Khallaq, Jamal Abdal-Khallaq, Raheem Adolphus, Kyle Jacob Rhodes, Mekai Spear, Sa'id Cardoso

**Honorary Flower Bearers**

Betsy Mau, Munnah Abdal-Khallaq, Zoleka Taylor, Hakeema Henry, Osmana Abdal-Khallaq, Alenor Williams, Settenah Wright, Ayesha Rodriguez, Amina Rhodes, Amira Abdal-Khallaq, Naima Abdal-Khallaq, Tameka Bennett, Attiyah Abdal-Khallaq, Amani Spear, Luchie Abdal-Khallaq, Sweenda Jean-Bart, Nijia Atwood, Nadia Jean-Bart, Hadiyah Jones, Nia Rivera, Navia Abdal-Khallaq, Khalia Spear, Zuri Abdal-Khallaq, Amaya Rhodes, Angel Wilson

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:**

The voices of a million angels cannot express our gratitude. We acknowledge the love, support, prayers, kind thoughts, words and deeds extended to us during this time. We appreciate all of you. To God be the glory.