



## Ersa L. Austin

April 8, 1940 - September 30, 2016

On Friday, September 30, 2016 Ersa Louise Whitlow-Austin found her path to Glory.

Ersa was born April 8, 1940 in Warren County, Bowling Green, Kentucky. She was the daughter of the late Chester Whitlow and Maereeth Kurkendall Whitlow. Ersa was a 1958 graduate of High Street School and earned her Bachelor of Science and Master of Arts degrees from Western Kentucky University. She was a dedicated primary school teacher in the Warren County School System for 30 years at Bristow Elementary School. In 1992 Ersa was named Outstanding Educator in Warren County.

Ersa and Herschel "Skip" H. Austin, Jr were joined in marriage, December 24, 1958 in Bowling Green, KY, and to this union their son, Carey Phillip Austin was born.

Ersa was a member of State Street Baptist Church, where she served as Superintendent of the Sunday School, a member of the N.J. Temple Missionary Society, Chairman of the Alms Committee, Assistant Church Clerk, a member of the Usher Board, Vacation Bible School Superintendent and Bible Study Teacher.

Ersa was a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority for 40 years. She was initiated into Beta Rho Omega Chapter of Hopkinsville, KY in 1976. She became a charter member of Omicron Sigma Omega Chapter in Bowling Green, KY in 1985.

As a member of Omicron Sigma Omega Chapter, she served as Treasurer, Membership Chairman, Fashion Show Co-Chairman, Health Fair Co-Chairman, Kentucky State Choir Co-Chairman, Unity Day and Food for Needy Families Co-Chairman. Ersa also served as Western Kentucky University's Epsilon Zeta Chapter Graduate Advisor for more than 25 years. Ersa received Alpha Kappa Alpha Honors: Beta Rho Omega Outstanding Service Award, Omicron Sigma Omega Soror of the Year, Kentucky Girl Scouts Science Award, Central Region Outstanding Graduate Advisor, Chairman, Central Region Cluster VI and VII Area Retreat, Soror Through the Years Award, Sergeant at Arms Regional Conference Chairman.

Ersa also served on the International Heritage and Audit Committees. She also served as presenter at the Central Regional Conference Workshop.

Ersa worked faithfully serving her community. She diligently served on the Bowling Green Human Rights Commission Board and was a member of the George Washington Carver Club. Ersa was presented with the: 2004 Bowling Green Human Rights Commission Woman of Distinction, and the NAACP Community Support Award.

When Ersa received the nation's Prestigious Jefferson Award for public service, the Bowling Green Daily News declared, "When it comes to selfless acts of community service, there are few people who have compiled a record that Ersa Whitlow Austin has."

Ersa is survived by her husband of 57 years, Herschel "Skip" H. Austin, Jr. Son, Carey Phillip Austin, Devoted niece and caregiver, Twila (Austin)

Markray, Theresa Ann Walker-Fuller, Howard (Loretta) Whitlow, Temia Whitlow, Debra (Kenny) Stovall, Brent (Darlene) Whitlow, Corey Whitlow, Sushama Austin –Connor, Dr. Julian Austin, Dr. Leah Austin-Neal, Ariana Austin and a host of great nieces, great nephews, cousins, in-laws: Tina Whitlow and Dr. Bobby (Joy) Austin. Erska was preceded in death by her brothers; Reginald Whitlow and Glen Whitlow.

Sincerely,

-Your friends at Burnam and Son

# Cemetery Details

## Fairview Cemetery

1209 Fairview Ave  
Bowling Green, KY 42101

# Previous Events

## Visitation

OCT 6. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Burnam & Son Mortuary, Inc.  
201 Center Street  
Bowling Green, KY 42101  
(270) 843-2336  
burnamson@mw.twcbc.com

## Funeral Service

OCT 7. 12:00 PM - 1:15 PM (CT)

State Street Baptist Church  
340 State Street  
Bowling Green, KY 42101  
<http://statestreetbaptistchurch.org?>

## Visitation

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OCT 7. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

State Street Baptist Church

340 State Street

Bowling Green, KY 42101

<http://statestreetbaptistchurch.org?>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Burnam & Son Mortuary, Inc. created a Tribute Video in memory of Ersal Austin*



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**Burnam & Son Mortuary, Inc.** - October 06, 2016 at 09:18 AM

SR

“ *One of the most special people I've had the honor of meeting in my life.*

*Now, she can show her wings!*

*Dr. Stephen W Robertson*

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**Stephen W Robertson** - October 12, 2016 at 09:30 AM

VN

“ *Vanessa Britt Nelson lit a candle in memory of Ersal Austin*



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**Vanessa Britt Nelson** - October 11, 2016 at 01:08 AM

AG

“ *What a wonderful tribute to a fine lady. Ersa's Mother, Mareeth, was a long time friend of our family. Edith and Bob Graham, Wilmot Brown, and Marjorie Houchens. Mareeth would be so proud of all the accomplishments of Ersa and her family and also of Twila and Howard. So many good memories of each of you.*

*God bless each of you and comfort you in this loss.*

*Ann Houchens Grant  
a.eg830@gmail.com*

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**Ann Grant** - October 07, 2016 at 08:50 PM

MJ

“ *Beta Rho Omega Chapter expresses our condolences to the family of Soror Ersa. She was a faithful devoted member of our Sorority. She will always be remembered in our hearts.*



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**Marcia Johnson** - October 07, 2016 at 12:01 AM

MJ

“ *Beta Rho Omega Chapter expresses our condolences to the family of Soror Ersa. She was a faithful devoted member of our Sorority. She will always be remembered in our hearts.*

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**Marcia Johnson** - October 06, 2016 at 08:17 PM

MJ

“ *Beta Rho Omega Chapter expresses our condolences to the family of Soror Ersal. She was a faithful devoted member of our Sorority. She will always be remembered in our hearts.*



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**Marcia Johnson** - October 06, 2016 at 08:11 PM

MJ

“ *Beta Rho Omega Chapter expresses our condolences to the family of Soror Ersal. She was a faithful devoted member of our Sorority. She will always be remembered in our hearts.*



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**Marcia Johnson** - October 06, 2016 at 08:07 PM

FA

“ *Fall 2001 Line of Epsilon Zeta, AKAmplished purchased the Pink Tribute Spray for the family of Ersal L. Austin.*



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**Fall 2001 Line of Epsilon Zeta, AKAmplished** - October 06, 2016 at 08:03 PM

WC

“ *Ersa was my baby sitter when her son was a tiny little thing and she brought him with her every day as long as she worked for us. My son is 61 and my daughter is 59. I am 84 and my memory is not as good as it used to be and I can't recall how long she worked but was sorry to loose her as she was the best. Over the years we ran into each other and talked about her teaching and her son. My daughter's oldest daughter started her teaching career in Aug---the career she had picked at age 5. I never met Ersa's son after he grew up but she was proud of him every time we talked . She was a wonderful person and I'm sure a wonderful teacher. May you have those memories with you forever.*

*Wilda Collins*

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**Wilda Collins** - October 06, 2016 at 05:43 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Ersa L. Austin.*



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October 06, 2016 at 04:54 PM

SR

“ *Thank you Soror Austin for doing so much for Epsilon Zeta. We love you and will hold you in our hearts forever.*



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**Stephanie Ray** - October 06, 2016 at 03:45 PM

EK

“ *Emma Forte Kendrick lit a candle in memory of Ersa L. Austin*



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**Emma Forte Kendrick** - October 06, 2016 at 06:47 AM



“ *Gracious Lavender Basket was purchased for the family of Ersa L. Austin.*



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October 05, 2016 at 08:53 PM

MF

“ *Mrs. Hannah Whitney & Family lit a candle in memory of Ersa L. Austin*



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**Mrs. Hannah Whitney & Family** - October 05, 2016 at 04:35 PM

MF

“ *Mrs. Hannah Whitney & Family lit a candle in memory of Ersa L. Austin*



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**Mrs. Hannah Whitney & Family** - October 05, 2016 at 04:30 PM

LC

“ *Lisa Cook lit a candle in memory of Ersa L. Austin*



**Lisa Cook** - October 05, 2016 at 11:49 AM

SC

“ *Sharon And Curtis Cosby lit a candle in memory of Ersa L. Austin*



**Sharon and Curtis Cosby** - October 05, 2016 at 11:09 AM

LD

“ *Liz Ducl lit a candle in memory of Ersa L. Austin*



**liz Ducl** - October 04, 2016 at 03:25 PM

EH

“ *ERVIN AND JANIE HIBBITT lit a candle in memory of Ersa L. Austin*



**ERVIN AND JANIE HIBBITT** - October 04, 2016 at 03:03 PM

SF

“ To the beautiful soul who gained her rightful wings at birth to fly how and recently at her passing to fly higher, your smile, your presence, your knowledge, all mentioned is the embodiment of the graceful person you were and how you lived. Rest In Heaven.

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**Shelter S. Franklin** - October 04, 2016 at 02:45 PM

BD

“ No words can ease this pain at this time. Know that weeping only endures for the night and joy comes in the morning. We loved her but God loved her best. Our prayers and sincere sympathy goes out to Skip and family.

*B.B Davis / David Turner*

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**B.B Davis** - October 04, 2016 at 02:21 PM



SF

“ Shelter & MayBell Franklin lit a candle in memory of Ersa L. Austin



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**Shelter & MayBell Franklin** - October 04, 2016 at 01:49 PM



“ Beautiful Whisper was purchased for the family of Ersa L. Austin.



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October 04, 2016 at 12:37 PM

BY

“ *Buel Young lit a candle in memory of Ersa L. Austin*



**Buel Young** - October 04, 2016 at 08:54 AM

MB

“ *Mary Britt lit a candle in memory of Ersa L. Austin*



**Mary Britt** - October 04, 2016 at 07:40 AM

DJ

“ *Debra Jewell sent a virtual gift in memory of Ersa L. Austin*



**Debra jewell** - October 03, 2016 at 10:32 PM

TF

“ *Another rose was needed in the heavenly garden! God added Ersa to that garden!*



**The Higgs Family** - October 03, 2016 at 09:48 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Ersa L. Austin.*



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October 03, 2016 at 09:30 PM



“ *Raymond & Robbie Potter lit a candle in memory of Ersa L. Austin*



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**Raymond & Robbie Potter** - October 03, 2016 at 07:41 PM



“ *Linda Valentine lit a candle in memory of Ersa L. Austin*



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**Linda Valentine** - October 03, 2016 at 01:02 PM



*I am so sorry for your loss. I remember Ersa as a kind and gentle person with a beautiful smile. Keeping you in prayer during this difficult time.*

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**Linda Valentine** - October 03, 2016 at 01:05 PM

KF

“ *Kenneth & Shirley Fant lit a candle in memory of Ersa L. Austin*



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**Kenneth & Shirley Fant** - October 03, 2016 at 12:54 PM

KF

*Our Prayers are sent ...God Bless You*

*Kenneth & Shirley Fant*

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**Kenneth & Shirley Fant** - October 03, 2016 at 12:56 PM

MC

“ *Mt. Union Missionary Baptist Church sent a virtual gift in memory of Ersa L. Austin*



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**Mt. Union Missionary Baptist Church** - October 03, 2016 at 12:16 PM

MC

*" I'm Free Praise The Lord I'm Free"*

*The Members, & Pastor*

*Extend Our condolences to the Austin Family in the passing of Sis. Ersa a sweet lady that those of us that knew her, and those that was under her teaching at Bristow Elem. will forever cherish the memories keeping them close to our hearts. Our continued prayers for your Peace, & Strength, that only God can give and the Comfort in knowing that your " Loved One" is now resting in the arms, of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ., May God continue to Bless You during this time and the days ahead of you...*

*Humbly Submitted*

*Mt. Union Missionary Baptist Church*

*Rev. Charles L. Fishback, Pastor*

*Sis. Janie Hibbitt, Secretary*

*Sis. Tina Fant, Bereavement, Comm.*

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**Mt. Union Missionary Baptist Church** - October 03, 2016 at 12:51 PM

LF

“ *Louise Franklin lit a candle in memory of Ersa L. Austin*



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**Louise Franklin** - October 03, 2016 at 09:36 AM

DF

“ *Extending my deepest sympathy for the family.*



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**Dora Johnson & Family** - October 03, 2016 at 08:49 AM

EB

“ Edward And Deborah Bufford lit a candle in memory of Ersa L. Austin



Edward and Deborah Bufford - October 03, 2016 at 07:42 AM

KC

“ Kenny &. Crisandra Coleman lit a candle in memory of Ersa L. Austin



Kenny &. Crisandra Coleman - October 03, 2016 at 03:22 AM

MO

“ Prayers and condolences from the Offutt family.



Marian Offutt - October 02, 2016 at 08:45 PM

DH

“ Delores Holland lit a candle in memory of Ersa L. Austin



Delores Holland - October 02, 2016 at 07:22 PM

SS

“ Skip and Carey sorry to hear of your loss. It was also a loss for me. Ersa and I have been friends since childhood. I considered her as my big sister. It is hard to lose a friend who I have laughed with, leaned on and loved most. The Lord had created for her a better place. She has made her way to the Lord to wholeness and perfect peace, while we mourn the loss of her departure from us. Thank you Lord that one day, we will experience a joyful reunion forever in your presence. She was a wonderful person and I cherished our friendship. She will be truly missed. Rest in peace Ersa.

*Shirley Anthony Sanders and Family*

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**Shirley A. Sanders** - October 02, 2016 at 07:04 PM

BF

“ The children and I send all our love to the family. She was a beautiful person and a wonderful teacher. Love Brenda Spiller.



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**Brenda Spiller and family** - October 02, 2016 at 05:47 PM

BS

“ I and children's give all our love to the family you \_ere a very kind person ad beautiful teac g er love spiller family



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**brenda spiller** - October 02, 2016 at 05:41 PM

BS

“ I give you all my love and support the best teacher I known spiller family



brenda spiller - October 02, 2016 at 05:37 PM

JJ

“ Joe & Stella JEWELL share love with the family



Joe & Stella Jewell - October 02, 2016 at 02:46 PM

WE

“ Wendy Eaves lit a candle in memory of Ersa L. Austin



Wendy Eaves - October 02, 2016 at 01:41 PM

GR

“ G M Rice lit a candle in memory of Ersa L. Austin



G M Rice - October 02, 2016 at 11:56 AM

CB

“ Charles Bailey lit a candle in memory of Ersa L. Austin



Charles Bailey - October 02, 2016 at 08:28 AM

TF

“ Tina Fant lit a candle in memory of Ersa L. Austin



Tina Fant - October 02, 2016 at 04:11 AM

TF

Carey,  
Extending my deepest Sympathy to you and your family in the passing of your Mother, Ms. Ersa was such a sweet person ..I will continue to keep you and your family in my daily prayers. God Bless each of you.

Tina Fant

Tina Fant - October 02, 2016 at 04:16 AM

NM

“ Nancy Soules Miller lit a candle in memory of Ersa L. Austin



Nancy Soules Miller - October 02, 2016 at 01:00 AM

DW

“ *Denise Wade lit a candle in memory of Ersa L. Austin*



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**Denise Wade** - October 01, 2016 at 09:56 PM

RM

“ *Rollin And Berona Massey lit a candle in memory of Ersa L. Austin*



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**Rollin and Berona Massey** - October 01, 2016 at 09:47 PM

RM

“ *Rachel Murrell lit a candle in memory of Ersa L. Austin*



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**Rachel Murrell** - October 01, 2016 at 07:13 PM

PD

“ *Patricia Duvall lit a candle in memory of Ersa L. Austin*



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**patricia duvall** - October 01, 2016 at 04:02 PM

SH

“ *Shawna A. Harrison lit a candle in memory of Ersa L. Austin*



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**Shawna A. Harrison** - October 01, 2016 at 02:34 PM

SH

“ *Shawna A. Harrison lit a candle in memory of Ersa L. Austin*



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**Shawna A. Harrison** - October 01, 2016 at 02:33 PM

MC

“ *Mary Cole lit a candle in memory of Ersa L. Austin*



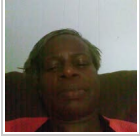
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**Mary Cole** - October 01, 2016 at 01:07 PM



“ *Marian Benton lit a candle in memory of Ersa L. Austin*



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**Marian Benton** - October 01, 2016 at 09:20 AM

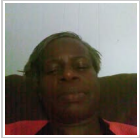


“ *Shelia Beck lit a candle in memory of Ersa L. Austin*



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**Shelia Beck** - October 01, 2016 at 09:10 AM



“ *Shelia Beck lit a candle in memory of Ersa L. Austin*



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**Shelia Beck** - October 01, 2016 at 09:07 AM



“ *Jakki Snowden lit a candle in memory of Ersa L. Austin*



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**Jakki Snowden** - October 01, 2016 at 04:44 AM



“ *Beverly Dillard lit a candle in memory of Ersa L. Austin*



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**Beverly Dillard** - September 30, 2016 at 10:11 PM

WA

“ *Wanda Anthony lit a candle in memory of  
Ersa L. Austin*



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**Wanda Anthony** - September 30, 2016 at 08:33 PM

WA

*Awesome Woman of God*

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**Wanda Anthony** - September 30, 2016 at 08:34 PM



“ *Teresa Butts lit a candle in memory of Ersa L.  
Austin*



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**Teresa Butts** - September 30, 2016 at 08:32 PM



“ *Deborah Claypool lit a candle in memory of  
Ersa L. Austin*



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**Deborah Claypool** - September 30, 2016 at 07:40 PM

DE

“ *Deborah lit a candle in memory of Ersa L. Austin*



deborah - September 30, 2016 at 07:38 PM

BF

“ *Bobby Franklin lit a candle in memory of Ersa L. Austin*



Bobby Franklin - September 30, 2016 at 06:50 PM



“ *Dear Austin Family,*

*There are few things more difficult than dealing with the loss of a loved one. We, along with our staff, are honored and humbled that you have chosen our family to care for your family during this time. It is our hope that we have been able, in some small way, to lighten your burden and give proper reverence to a life lived. Please let us know if we can be of further service.*



*Respectfully,*

*Carmen, Cedric, Claudia and Kelly  
2nd Generation Owners*

Cedric Burnam - September 30, 2016 at 06:13 PM