



**MRS. ELIZABETH J. WHITE**  
1923-

Honored as a 2023 Historymaker  
Restaurateur, Inspiration for Generations  
Of Men, Women and Children



The following is an oral history interview with Historymaker Elizabeth White (**EW**) conducted by Josephine Pete (**JP**) for Historical League, Inc. and video-graphed by Leonardo Buono on May 3, 2023, at the Center for Positive Media, Phoenix, Arizona.

*Original tapes are in the collection of the Arizona Historical Society Museum Library at Papago Park, Tempe, Arizona. The interview has been edited for clarity.*

**JP** Good afternoon, Mrs. White. I'm going to ask you a few questions. We'll travel down memory lane.

**EW** Okay.

**JP** First of all, tell me where you were born.

**EW** I was born in Oenaville, Texas, a little town out from Temple. Now it is a beautiful little town with ranch style homes.

**JP** When was this?

**EW** It was 1923. I was born February the 20<sup>th</sup>.

**JP** Okay. How old does that make you?

**EW** 100 years old, February the 20<sup>th</sup>, I was a hundred years old.

**JP** Awesome. Beautiful. Tell me a little bit about your family. Was it a large family, small family?

**EW** There were six boys and six girls. My oldest sister, her name was Anna Mae. I'll just tell you

about each one. Anna Mae, she run a café, and she was a seamstress. She could make a man's suit. She was really a good seamstress. I had another sister named, Jesse, Jesse could cook. And she could sew also. All of them could sew but me and Gracie. Anna Mae, Jesse Lee, Arlene, and Hattie. Hattie could cook and sew. Hattie is the pastor of our Temple, Texas, church now. Gracie was a cook at the hotel in Temple, Texas. No, that wasn't a hotel. That was a hospital. She cooked there for years. She retired from that job.

Arlene worked and she took care of her mother-in-law. She kind of cared for people. My brothers James and Freddie, that's my two younger brothers. Floyd was here because he was the bishop of the church here. James was the baby of the family. James, Freddie, George, and Willie, all live in California. Willie worked in yards. He could beautify your yard just beautiful. He had the most beautiful yard and house. Freddie was a barber. He could fix anybody's hair, women and men, and cut it also. James was a barber. Both of them were also in real estate. So, that's about the end of my family. My oldest brother, Ellie, he could do little jobs around and take care of himself, but he didn't go as far as the other boys. They all did well for themselves.

**JP** What about your parents? What did they do?

**EW** My parents were good parents. My daddy was a bishop of the church. My mom was a homemaker. My mom could sew. She would make our clothes, our little slips we wore, and she could cook. I've never made food taste as good as my mama's. All I remember my mom using was sage, black pepper, red pepper, and salt. She loved Watkin's flavors. They had a thick lemon flavor and a vanilla flavor. They would come around and sell that. And she would buy that all the time. And so, yeah, we had a good family. My parents were good parents.

**JP** And you went to school, education where...

**EW** Yes, in Temple, Texas. We went to Dunbar High School. Well, when I left there, I came here. I got my high school diploma since I been here in Phoenix. Then I took those classes -- a business course and a computer course. When we first came here getting your business started was very different. Back then you went to school, and they would show you slides of food and how to handle it, when to wear gloves, when to take them off, and what to do when you take them off.

**JP** So you moved from Temple, Texas, to Phoenix, Arizona.

**EW** Yes.

**JP** And here is where you studied these kinds of courses?

**EW** Yes, here is where I studied the courses, and I got my diploma here also.

**JP** Okay.

**JP** So you arrived in Phoenix, I'm not gonna say a single mom, you were a divorced mom.

**EW** A divorced mom, yes.

**JP** Okay. How many children?

**EW** Five children. Four boys and one girl. That's Portia. She went to Abu Dhabi and taught there two years and now she's doing her work on the computer for ASU. Danny taught at Mesa Community College and now I think he teaches at another junior college. He's just here and there and everywhere. He's all over the place. Larry and I are partners at the café. His daughter runs it now. Her name is Kiana, but we call her KK. Portia's children, I didn't put them down. I probably should've written down what they are doing, her oldest son sells flowers. They are exotic flowers. He knows how to work them and make them grow. If you want any flowers, just call up Christian Buzze, he'll sell you one and he'll even send it to you. Her daughter Karenton, lives in Iowa. She is a lawyer and works in the children's department of the city. She helps children and older people. Portia's youngest son Courtney works for an insurance company.

**JP** Sounds like they all have their private careers, their own careers.

**EW** Yes. All of my children just about. They have all done well for themselves. And I appreciate that.

**JP** When they were small you were working, who mentored the children? Who babysat? Who kept the children...

**EW** Well, when we were in Temple, my mother kept mine.

**JP** Okay.

**EW** When we moved here, the Lord just blessed us. We lived on Jefferson. The school was on Jefferson and the café was on Jefferson. I could go from home, drop them off at school and come to work. When we came here, I think Larry was 14 and my baby boy wasn't even in school. We lost him. The Lord just fixed it to where I could just...

**JP** Tell me a little bit about the school on Jefferson Street.

**EW** Yeah. That was the Booker T. Washington School. My children went there from the first to the eighth grade. They graduated from there and went on to high school.

**JP** Neighborhood, Booker T. was in the neighborhood.

**EW** Yes.

**JP** The restaurant was in the neighborhood.

**EW** Yes.

**JP** What was the neighborhood like? Describe it for me.

**EW** It was a beautiful thing because it was family, church, mortuary business, furniture store, it was just a good place to live. A good place to be. Because you could go right across the street from where I lived and there was a furniture store. But it went down. It didn't last long. A man opened it for a church. We had all of that right there on Jefferson Street. The café was a duplex. We had the café on one side, and we opened the church on the other side. Our church was there, right in the café. I could cook and then go right to church. So that's what we did. Yes.

**JP** Church was the name of the original café, is that the one your brother owned?

**EW** Yeah, the same building that we were in. That's where we had the church and the café. That was 1029 East Jefferson Street. That's where my café turned into the Golden Rule Café and the Church Café disappeared. We had Church at 1029 E. Jefferson until we bought the property where we are now at 4210 South 16<sup>th</sup> Street. This place was first a house. We held church in that little house until we improved it by tearing it down and building a block building.

**JP** Tell me a little bit about your first café. You had one you named the Golden Rule?

**EW** Yes.

**JP** That was that the first one?

**EW** No. My café opened in '64. Just like I said, we got money from the Ragsdale Family. They had a loan company at the time. We borrowed \$500 from them and when we got what we needed to

open the café, I had 67 cents left. Then I got my permit for selling food and other things I needed. Little by little, I could get things as the place grew. I would buy things that we needed. We did what we did and stayed in business this long. It was with the help of the Lord and the good people. Because you know when they put that line down. What is it? The streetcar, yes.

**JP** The rail. Yes, the rail.

**EW** Rail. The light rail.

**JP** Yes.

**EW** When they put that light rail down, I tell you, we almost went out of business. It was dusty. They would dig it up and we would think they were through, and they would come back and dig at that same hole again. And I said, “Oh Lord, when are they going to get through?” But one customer said, “I don’t care if they pile dirt up against the wall, I’m coming.” My customers are just good people, they continued to come. They had to go around the block, come back down and all of that, but they kept us in business. God bless them. God bless them all. I just hope the Lord just keep his hand on all of you and the people at the café who have worked there for years. The people come back and say, “Ms. White your food is still the same.” I said, “That’s what I want to hear. That’s what I want to hear.” I don’t want to change it.

**JP** Speaking of your customers.

**EW** Yes?

**JP** How did you get your customers? Did you advertise in the papers or anything...

**EW** No.

**EW** We never did advertise. People did that for us. *New Times* put a lot of ads in the paper for us. *New Times* is a paper in the building of the old Booker T. Washington School. Where I was – we should have kept that place. But anyway, it’s a good place. It’s a good thing. Word of mouth is what kept us in business, because we hardly did any advertising. I don’t know of any that we really paid for. It was just the word of mouth, people telling other people. “Go to Ms. White’s. If you want some food, go to Ms. White’s.” “If you want good yams, if you want good cornbread, if you want good fried chicken, if you want good greens.” I never did cook one green. I cooked mixed greens. We have cabbage. We have red beans, black-eyed peas, rice, yams and green beans and potatoes. We still serve all of that. We also serve macaroni salad and potato salad.

**JP** At one point you could walk in the door and see the menu was on the wall. Is it still there?

**EW** Yes, you know the cook place, it's the place that's on TV all the time, let me see. I can't think of the name of it.

**JP** That's okay.

**EW** But anyway, it's the one that Alex is on. The woman Alex, she's a chef. And Simon. Alex and Simon came to the café and made us new menus and they are there now. They bought us new curtains. Those white curtains you see in there. They had those curtains made and put them up. They remodeled the café inside and painted it. They come through, and for them, we cooked food, they tried our food, and they liked it.

**JP** Speaking of their food, our food, some people may not know what chitlins are. What are chitlins?

**EW** That's the intestines of the hog.

**JP** Okay.

**EW** The intestines of the hog. You clean them and cook them, and they are good. That's just like mountain oysters.

**JP** Oh, I remember those. *[Laughs]*

**JP** Do you still cook those?

**EW** No ma'am. We don't cook those anymore. My hands are not good now, see? I can't make a fist out of either hand. I fell and broke this hand across here somewhere, and then I fell and hurt this one. My hands would hurt, and I wonder why my hands hurt so bad. That was before I fell and hurt them. Picking those chitlins, you have to pick them to get them cleaned up. That's what I had to do until we got somebody to do it for us. But I did it for a long time.

**JP** Speaking of somebody to do it for you, did you have help other than the children in the restaurant.

**EW** Oh yes, we always have had some help. The children were in school, and we had to have help,

but I'll tell you there was one little lady. I didn't have any help at that time. She would come in to eat and she was with a group that would come to eat all the time. I can't think of her name, and it should be written in my heart because of what she did. This lady would come there and go to work just like she was hired. She would help me get those dinners out so people could get back to work. You know, she wouldn't even eat a meal without paying. I would say, "Girl, you helped me." She would say, "No, I helped you because you needed help." She didn't take a penny and wouldn't let me give her dinner. She was such a nice person.

**JP** Tell me this, Mrs. White, what's your favorite food?

**EW** All of it. *[Laughs]*

**JP** All of it.

**EW** All of it. *[Laughs]* Oh yeah. I love chicken. I love the pork chops. I love it all. Well, I don't like cilantro and I can't take those codeine shots.

**JP** Okay.

**EW** Codeine and cilantro it doesn't agree with me. I can't eat cilantro and can't take those codeine shots. But anything else, I don't know of anything that I don't like, that I have eaten. I know when we went on a cruise, they even had escargot. You know what that is, don't you?

**JP** Yes, snails.

**EW** Yes. I had some of that.

**JP** OK.

**EW** I wouldn't eat it again. No. It's not my favorite. Oh yes, I don't like enchiladas and tamales.

**JP** They're good.

**EW** Yes, But...

**JP** Quite a different taste there.

**EW** Yes, anything else that I've eaten and know what it is, I would eat again.

- JP** But as far as the menu for the restaurant, you want to please your customers, so you serve what they like, right?
- EW** Yes, they like what we serve. Oh yes, I forgot fish. We serve catfish, fried chicken, smothered chicken, pork chops, liver, and chicken fried steak. We have specials sometimes. Our specials are oxtails and sometimes hog maws.
- JP** Yes.
- EW** It's very seldom we have hog maws, but those oxtails go almost as fast as the pork chops.
- JP** I know a lady who drives all the way from Buckeye, Arizona to get your oxtails.
- EW** Yes. And sometimes they make a meatloaf. That's an extra though. They serve meatloaf and oxtails more often now. At one time, they only served them on Fridays. But now, I think they serve all through the week. They serve them as long as they last.
- JP** Tell me something about your customers. I know you've had a lot of famous people in and out of the café.
- EW** Yes, Al Sharpton, Jesse Jackson, James ... James, the music man.
- JB** James Brown.
- EW:** James Brown. Couldn't think of Brown. I could see everything else but Brown. He never came in, but he would stop his car out there and all of his people would come in and eat. When we were at 1029 East Jefferson Street, Aretha Franklin came to the café. She was just a kid. She ate a hamburger.
- JP** No kidding.
- EW** Yes, she wasn't famous at that time. She was just beginning. Oh, Lou Rawls come to the café.
- JP** The ballplayers - many of them came to the café.
- EW** Yeah, all the ballplayers. The Mercury Girls basketball team too.



**EW** Jesse Owens. Who else?

**JP** Calvin and Georgia Goode would come to the café on Sundays from the church across the street.

**EW** Oh yeah, Mr. and Mrs. Goode were our favorite. Every Sunday and sometimes through the week they would come and get food. Yes, you could count on them. He was one of our main advocates. He was there one time, I think at some kind of meeting, I think he was a councilman. He was a good man. They were a good couple because they would work together.

**JP** Thinking of Mr. Goode, think about the social climate in the area, in the Eastlake community.

**EW** Yes.

**JP** Think about that for a minute. Compare Phoenix to Temple. How would you compare the two cities?

**EW** Well, you can't compare Phoenix to Temple because at the time we were there, Temple was very different. That's why we came back to Phoenix. When we went back to Temple after staying here 17 months, we went back to stay. But my kids, Danny and Bruce, don't want to stay. They went to the park one day and there was a storm, and it tore up the park. The little swing was out of order. Everything was just messed up. They came home crying and said, "We want to go back to Phoenix where our friends are. I said, "Oh my Lord, if we go back to Phoenix, you all better not get in any trouble, because if you go to jail, don't call me." I said that because Temple had just a small park. The park in Phoenix was much larger. I said that knowing, if anything happened to them, I would be the first one there. I wanted them to know they had to do the right thing and not get into any trouble. We moved back to Phoenix and rented a house from Mr. Wyatt. It was down the street from the café and the park. The park was bigger and had more fixtures on it. There was more to do and there were lots more kids. Temple was just a small place. But now Temple has grown and it's just beautiful. There are beautiful homes where there were little towns. Temple almost meets Belton now.

**JP** Oh really?

**EW** Yes.

**JP** How far from Temple is Killeen and the Fort Hood Army Base?

**EW** Killeen, they say is 33 miles, but it seems like it's 40 now. *[Laughs]* Because to get there, you get on the ... *[Laughs]* you are going around and down and over, but that's where Ft. Hood is

located. Ft. Hood is between Temple and Gatesville. Gatesville is where we went to church. Since this pandemic, none of us have met in the building. We've been meeting on the phone and not going to the buildings. We go to the building only on Sundays here and in Temple.

**JP** Do you still have connections to the base?

**EW** To the base? Oh no, we don't have any connections to the base. My brother-in-law and my sister had a cleaner on the base. They cleaned and altered the clothes. I worked for them for a while. They are both gone now.

**JP** Really?

**EW** Yes.

**JP** Mrs. White, you have been a businesswoman all your life.

**EW** *[Laughs]* Well, I tell you one thing, my daddy-in-law and my husband went into business, but that was terrible. We put all our money in that business and came out with a salt and pepper shaker. *[Laughs]* That didn't work at all. That's when Portia was a baby.

**JP** Let's look back at the '60s through the '80s, that period of time. You were living in Phoenix, and you have seen many changes.

**EW** Yes.

**JP** What's the difference? What's happened between the '60s and now?

**EW** The '60s and now, we are better off financially. You can make more money. You can do more things, but there are things that can be done that will upgrade everybody in Phoenix. If we are just mindful of how we treat each other. We should treat each other like we are all human beings. The goal of everybody should be, "I'm gonna be a better person today, than I was yesterday." I don't make resolutions. I just let the Lord tell me something and I try to live as well, and as righteously as I can with all people.

**JP** Great attitude, business all the way.

**EW** Yes.

**JP** Tell me a little bit about the community. Who were some of the leaders back then? Can you name anybody?

**EW** Yes. Mr. Stewart was a deacon in the Church of God in Christ. He was one of my main customers. Mr. Marlo was the man who would spray your house for bugs. Mr. Sublet was an electrician. You know all these people. All these people would come to the café. All of these people were my customers. There was a man named, he was a schoolteacher, his name was Nedd.

**JP** Mr. Earnest Nedd.

**EW** Mr. Nedd, yes.

**EW** Mr. Calvin Goode and his family.

**JP** Yes.

**EW** The Ragsdale family lived there.

**JP** You knew all those people. Were you ever politically active?

**EW** Just by talking to them and giving them a donation. My children marched for the holiday. But other than that, no. *[Laughs]*

**JP** Just prayed for them.

**EW** Yeah. Just prayed for them when they came to the café. We would feed Mr. Jesse Jackson and his group when he came to town. But getting out there, no.

**JP** Wonderful. Tell me about some of your other activities. I know you worked in the restaurant...

**EW** Yes

**JP** What are some of your other activities?

**EW** Oh, well I would talk on the phone to my people, pray for them. I have a friend in Chicago, I would talk to her. I have friends in Temple. I pray for them. I go to the care home on Olympic Street and take magazines to the older people and talk with them. If someone wants to come to

see me and talk or ask me something, I talk to them. One young lady, one girl wanted to interview me for a class she was taking at Arizona State University. I told her about the business and how to start it. She came back to tell me she got an A on what I told her. I said, "Oh that is beautiful." Another girl started her own business baking cupcakes and cakes. She worked for me at one time. She told me, "Ms. White, I tell you. Everything you taught me at your café, I used in my business. I thank you." That was Crystal Pool. She has her own business now. She does a good job.

**JP** Okay. You travel a little bit, too, don't you?

**EW** Yes, well, I've been to Washington DC to the museum. I traveled overseas to Maui, Hawaii. And I have traveled to Houston and Austin, Texas. I went up to Redding, California. I went to visit my niece and my sister Anna Mae. She owned a store and a café there. And she had two girls. Gracie Mae could really knit. Pearly Bea was a good talker. *[Laughs]* All of those people are gone now. Her husband was Bob Harris. When he passed, we went from Redding, California, to Oregon. Oregon has the tallest trees I have ever seen. The scenery is just beautiful.

**JP** Lots of beautiful memories.

**EW** Yes, Lord, yes.

**JP** Let's go back and talk a little bit about your childhood. When the family gathered around the dinner table...

**EW** Yes.

**JP** There was the hymnal and I know you prayed.

**EW** Yes.

**JP** But you sang songs as well.

**EW** Yes.

**JP** Do you sing now?

**EW** I can sing a little bit. *[Laughs]* Yes, you know, my dad had a hymn book, it was about that thick. It had all those good hymns in it. My Dad used to sing them, "There's a city that looks over

there, lives over there. Where the righteous forever been saved. Where the righteous forever will shine like the stars in that beautiful city of God.” You know that?

**JP** Yes, yes.

**EW** Oh that’s good. And then he would sing, “Father, I stretch my hand to thee.” And he would sing “O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing.” All of those songs. So many of them have gotten away from me. Sometimes I just sit down and think. I think and then I want to cry.

**JP** Well, we’ll dwell on the happy times.

**EW** Yeah, we had happy times, but we had some sad times too.

**JP** Yes. Now, I know you received your calling.

**EW** Yes.

**JP** How long after your calling did you actually start pastoring?

**EW** Well, I started pastoring way back in my early years. I was delegate from our church to the assemblies. My church would send me to assembly. I would come back with notebooks full of notes. The older ladies of the church would tell the young girls what to report. If you heard anything that wasn’t pleasant, you only report the pleasant things. *[Laughs]* I enjoyed that. I was a Sunday school teacher for the grownups when I was a teenager. One of the sisters said to me, “Sister Lizzie, you need to know more than you are teaching. You need to learn how to teach.” I didn’t get upset. I was sad. So, I prayed for the Lord to help me learn how to teach.

Then I had a dream. I dreamed that we were walking, and we were all dressed. There were just a few of us. We were all dressed in blue, and we had gold buttons on our dresses and suits. We came to a green hill. I waved my hand and they all sat down. Then a book was handed down to me. I opened the book and started reading to them. I said, “Now what was that?” I didn’t understand the meaning of my dream. The Lord was telling me all the time to go to El Paso, go to El Paso. I said, “I have five kids, Lord, how can I go to El Paso?” It just stayed on my mind after my husband, and I divorced. I asked my friend, “Why do I want to go to El Paso? Is the spirit telling me to go to El Paso?”

The children and I were living at my mom’s and dad’s house at the time. One night, I had a dream and the Lord told me, “You are going to Arizona, and you are going to preach hard.” “You are going to preach hard.” “You are going to preach hard.” He said it three times. I woke

up, I was so scared. I said, "Oh, Lord!"

Then my brother asked the kids and me to come out here and help him in the café. When I saw Arizona, I saw the palm trees, I saw the café. He showed me everything. Showed me the café - it was not doing well. Not even having enough equipment to fix the food. He showed me everything. I said, "Lord, I guess I'm going to Arizona." My nephews brought me out here, my two nephews, both are dead now. We left Temple on the last day of December. We drove all night. New Year's, '40 – in '63. We got here the 2<sup>nd</sup> of January, and I went to the café. He had a big food show. He was showing bits of food. The next day I went to work.

**JP** When did you start preaching?

**EW** That started when we came to Arizona. Well, it really started in Temple when I saw the dream. My people were telling me, "God has blessed you." "You are going to preach." But see, I knew what God had showed me; then he told me I was going to come here and preach hard. Lot of people don't believe in women preachers. But I believe what He told me. I don't argue with anyone, because I know what He told me. I have never had a great big crowd. But that little crowd would be so beautiful. Oh, I would just enjoy them so much. I got my first papers to preach in '76 in the July meeting.

**JP** You were ordained?

**EW** Yes, they ordained me.

**JP** Beautiful.

**EW** Yes.

**JP** Still preaching?

**EW** Yes.

**JP** How often do you speak?

**EW** Oh, every Sunday, Tuesday, and every Thursday. *[Laughs]*

**JP** Really?

**EW** Yes, on Sundays we have church worship. Tuesdays and Thursdays we have Bible study. Now we going to be heard on Facebook or whatever they put us on. The people in the community will hear my sister, Pastor Allen in Temple, Pastor Miller in Houston, and they will hear Pastor White here in Phoenix.

**JP** Awesome, awesome. Wonderful, wonderful. Ms. White, I know you have some words of wisdom. Tell me. what advice do you always give your children and grandchildren besides the golden rule?

**EW** Well, I tell them they should be good to everybody. They should know what they want to do and do it well. They should come to church, *[Laughs]* and listen to the word of God, and be what that word says to be. Now, sometimes people don't hear you. They just don't hear you. But you keep at it and maybe one day, they will all come and be what the Lord has told them to be. Most of my family belong to church.

**JP** What's the promise? Train up a...

**EW** Child in the way he should go and when he is old, He will not depart from it. Yes, yes.

**JP** Beautiful, let me ask you another question? You've been honored recently. The Mayor of Phoenix recognized your 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday...

**EW** Yes.

**JP** Jack and Jill, The Links Incorporated, The Arizona History League honored you. How do you feel about all this recognition and especially this honor by being a Historymaker?

**EW** I am just humble by it all and I thank everybody from the bottom of my heart. I just thank everybody because had it not been for Jesus, I wouldn't be here. You wouldn't be sitting here with me. He wouldn't be there taking these pictures. It's all about Jesus. It's all about Jesus. Not about me. It's about Him.

**JP** And He has suffered it to be so.

**EW** Yes.

**JP** Beautiful, beautiful.

**EW** Yes

**JP** The restaurant, Ms. White's restaurant, the Golden Rule restaurant.

**EW** Yes.

**JP** We will never forget what an important part of our history it is.

**EW** Yes.

**JP** You've done so much for so many. But what else do you want your legacy to be? What else do you want us to remember about you?

**EW** Oh, I want them to remember that I was here. I worked hard and I trusted in the Lord. And whatever I leave, I want it to be well taken care of and enjoyed by all of my kids and the people they want to help.

**JP** Well, I want you to know that I am inspired. I am honored and it has certainly been a privilege to spend this time with you. Thank you so much.

**EW** Yes, it's been a privilege and an honor to be here. I tell you, I said, *[Laughs]* "Oh Lord, help me to get through with this. *[Laughs]* I started singing that song. "Keep my mind so I can run this race, I don't want to run this race in vain." *[Laughs]*

**JP** Oh beautiful, beautiful.

**EW** Oh, so I thank the Lord for all of you. God bless you and God keep you. Keep his hand on you all and keep your hearts real light so it can just flow with goodness.

**JP** Thank you. Thank you so much.

[END OF RECORDING]

**FOOTNOTE: Additional comments Mrs. White wanted to be included with her interview with Dr. Pete.**



Of my five children, three boys and the only girl came with me. That's Portia. She went to Abu Dhabi and taught there for two years and now she's doing her work online and on campus for ASU.

Danny is an educator as well. He has taught at Mesa Community College, and he is presently working on his Doctorate; he's very busy. He's just here and there and everywhere. He's all over the place. He has been married to Mona Miller White for over thirty years. They have two very bright and beautiful daughters. Amadi, the oldest who graduated from Spelman and North Carolina A&T. She is now an Architectural Engineer. Sakilae is their baby girl. She also graduated from NCAT like her big sister. She is now in grad school and anxiously looking forward to attending Tufts University in Baltimore for Medical School.

Larry Sr. and I are partners at the café and he is the biggest hero of all. He helped me out so much with the younger children. Before he became my partner, he was the first African American welding apprentice in the Southwest. He learned to weld at the Industrial Arts classes at Phoenix Union High School. He won many Arizona State Fair awards during his time in the program. Upon completion of the program, he took a welding test and earned the highest scores for his technique and ability to explain why he chose the form he used to weld beam joints. Many were surprised to see him there, and boy, were they shocked when he won the highest scores in the group.

We've been partners since before Larry, Jr. (LOLO) was born, over fifty plus years now. His daughter runs it now. Her name is Kianna, but we call her KK. She is a wonderful chef, and she's very creative. We love when she shares her family dinners with us. She has three bright, beautiful, and blossoming children. Her oldest son Jamal is a college freshman and an entrepreneur like some of our other family members.

Uncle Larry, Jr. also known as LOLO, is married to Rasheedah Jones White, his partner in business and life, with whom he shares two beautiful and talented daughters, Chyna and Malaysia (who are softball royalty and students at a local high school) along with rambunctious and blossoming five-year-old grandson Max. Larry Jr. also has an older son Larry III whom we call Trey, father of Max and brilliant beautiful Ayanna, and daughter Toyesha White Jackson. Toyesha works alongside Larry, Jr. and Rasheedah in the family businesses. She is married to Lawrence Jackson, who happens to be in insurance, and they have a daughter, one-year-old Layla.

Kianna's daughter Aubrianna is a budding actor. She has been in two of the Black Theater Troupe's productions. She is also a very bright student and avid reader. Austin brings up the rear, He is wise far beyond his years, funny, and they all love the Lord. Larry Sr.'s older daughter was the creative business force behind the scene at Mrs. White's.

Kimberly, a South Mountain Community College graduate and Arizona State University student, had the ideas and the guts to go for the gold. She was not only a business-minded servant leader, but she was also a powerful youth leader in the church, The Jesus the Church of the Living God the Pillar and Ground of the Truth, Inc. The programs and activities Kim created for the church's youth were next level. They learned and enjoyed the process. We lost Kim in 2011 from a heart condition – so befitting.

Her heart was so big, full of love for the Lord, family, good friends, and life. She is dearly missed by all of us and most of the people who ever met her. Kim was known for keeping it real. Everybody can't handle real.

Portia's children, Christian, another family entrepreneur, formerly in food service with food trucks and a couple of cafes will educate you on foods and exotic plants, sell you as many plants as you'd like, and he'll even ship them to you. When Christian has an interest in something, he becomes passionate and expert on it. Ask him any questions you may have on exotic and bonsai plants. He is a walking and talking encyclopedia. Christian is married to Dr. Shantere Delaney-Buze, they share five beautiful, talented, and bright children between them. Christian Alexander, the oldest, known as CJ, also has the entrepreneur spirit. He personalized caps and hats and also manages a hat shop. Then there's reliable Christopher, deep thinker Caylah (high school freshman), athletic super spelling bee winner, hurdler, and dancer Chloe' (eighth grade), and sweet feisty Kamari (6th grade).

Portia's youngest daughter Carrington, lives in Iowa. She holds her BS and MSW from Arizona State University and JD from University of Iowa College of Law, where she was awarded the Phillip G. Hubbard Human Rights Graduate/Professional Award. Carrington was honored to work with Iowa Supreme Court Chief Justice Mark S. Cady from the time of her graduation from University of Iowa Law School in May 2019 to his untimely death in November 2019. She continues working on Child Welfare initiatives in Iowa. She participates on Child Welfare panels throughout the US.

Portia's youngest son Courtney is an Insurance Account Executive. He cares deeply about helping people meet and retain their insurance needs. It is a passion of his. Her oldest child, Charisse Buze Richards, MBA (W.P. Carey), ITIL is in technology. She has an impressive history in the field. She is very well regarded and respected for her skills and knowledge. As a result, she was voted among the 'Top Fifty Women Leaders in Arizona 2022, Top Five Women in Data Center 2018 technology. She has written articles and contributed to podcasts. She and husband Jeffrey Richards are parents of two children Cydney, a college freshman and Harrison, who is in fifth grade. They are bright, wise beyond their years, family oriented, voracious readers and/or gamers.

We lost my youngest son, Don Bruce White in 1986. He was an East High School graduate. While there he and Danny (Phoenix Union High School) played football against each other, which I did not like AT ALL. Bruce later attended Arizona State University where he started an Investment club. He was entrepreneurially minded as well. He didn't have a chance to fully realize his dreams of entrepreneurship beyond the family cafe. He is missed by all of us. My eldest son Chester III, who joined us in Arizona much, much later, is quite a reader himself. He has traveled all over the country. He is my wanderer.

I am so sorry that I forgot so many of the people who supported us from the beginning. The Campbell family lead by brothers Senator Cloves, Sr. and Charles (local businessman and co-editor of *The Arizona Informant* newspaper), Congressman/Senator John McCain, the Berry family lead by brothers Luther and Virgil (realtors), the Tease family, Mr. and Mrs. Ike Hill, Ms. Lucille Perry (cafe' owner), Mr. Horace Owens (local community leader)The Bishops - Barnwell, Black, Dr. Brooks, Alexis Thomas, and Benjamin Thomas, Mr. and Mrs. Pete and family, Mrs. Carolyn Lowery (local activist), Mr. Gene

Blue (Phoenix OIC), Mr. and Mrs. Tease and family, Judge Jean Williams, Ms. Opal Ellis, Dr. Morrison F Warren (principal BTW), Mr. George Dean (Phoenix Urban League), Mr. and Mrs. French, and the Gambles.

I also want to give a heartfelt Thank YOU to Dr Josephine Pete who, along with her late husband and family, has supported me and our family for years and years for thinking of me for this honor. I am so grateful for her kind consideration and the concern and warmth shown to me by Ms. Diana Smith. My family and I truly appreciate you both. May God forever bless and keep you.