



## W. D. CROWDER FUNERAL HOME

1800 John L. Patterson Street  
Springfield, Tennessee 37172  
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ARRANGEMENTS: VIEWING AND VISITATION, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2022, 12-2 PM WITH FUNERAL TO FOLLOW AT 2 PM AT FRIENDSHIP MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH 2871 FRIENDSHIP ROAD, CROSS PLAINS, TENNESSEE 37049; INTERMENT FRIENDSHIP CHURCH CEMETERY

SERVICE WILL BE LIVE STREAMED ON [wdcrowderfuneralhome](#) facebook page and [wdcrowderfuneralhome.com](#)

Willie Sue Groves Austin was born on April 18, 1939 in Cross Plains, Tennessee to James L. Groves and Canary Summers Groves. Jesus came and embraced one of the sweetest angels on this side of Heaven on August 26, 2022.

She graduated from Bransford High School and attended TSU (formerly Tennessee A&I University) where she joined the Swim Team and was a child care provider as a part-time job. Although she did not graduate from TSU, she still carried on the memories and knowledge that she learned and used them throughout her life.

Sister Groves accepted Christ at the age of nine at Friendship Missionary Baptist Church in Cross Plains, Tennessee. Sister Groves was the pianist for different churches and Associations. She started at the age of fourteen, but her true mission was to serve God through music where she played for her home church, Friendship Missionary Baptist Church, of which she was the pianist for sixty-nine years. She attended the State and National Conventions for over thirty years. Willie also played the piano for Alpha Baptist Church in Franklin, Kentucky for many years.

She married Charles W. Austin on June 28, 1968. She was a devoted housewife for fifty-four years. She was a seamstress for family and friends, and a cook for special events, such as Church and holidays. She was mostly known for her delicious cakes and pies. In her spare time, she enjoyed being around her family and friends. She always had a way of making you feel like you were welcome in her home.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by sisters, Isola Groves and Susie Groves. Sue leaves to cherish her memories: her husband, Charles W. Austin; her children, Cassandra Austin, and Vanessa Gardner; her grandchildren, Kentavia Clemons (Lawrence) Johnson, Jelani Gardner; her great-grandchild, X` Zayir Johnson; sister, Cectoria (Billy) Downing of Louisville, KY; nephews, James L. Downing, Duke (Charmella) Derry; sister-in-law, Jean Derry; and a host of great nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives and friends.