



Ms. Ailla Mae Prince

July 22, 1941 - May 9, 2025

Ailla Mae Reid Prince, daughter of the late Robert Merchant and Susie Mae (Caldwell) Merchant, was born on July 22, 1941, in Manning, South Carolina. She peacefully transitioned from this life on May 9, 2025, after a lengthy illness.

From an early age, Ailla was drawn to the calling of service. She pursued a career in healthcare, earning her Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) certification and dedicating herself to the care and comfort of others.

She later married Staff Sergeant Leroy Reid Jr., and together they were blessed with four children: Leroy, Kelvin, Timothy, and Catherine. Their time together was tragically shortened when SSG Reid gave his life in service during the Vietnam War in 1971. In the face of profound loss, Ailla courageously relocated her young family to Fayetteville, North Carolina, where she committed herself fully to raising her children and nurturing her faith. Her home echoed with songs of praise and the unwavering love of a devoted mother. To ensure her relationship with Christ was a cornerstone of her life, she joined United Pentecostal Church.

A woman of many talents and an enduring spirit, Ailla continued to grow. In the late 1970s to early 1980s, she earned a degree in cosmetology—bringing beauty and confidence to those around her through her gifted hands and kind heart. She later partnered with her dear friend and sister in Christ, Dora, to create, A/R a full service wedding and catering business, where her creativity and service formed a passion project turned labor of love that brought joy to many.

In 1985, Ailla found love again and married Floyd Prince. Their bond was rooted in faith, joy, and deep companionship. Together, they became pillars of their church and community, living out their beliefs through service and steadfast love. Their marriage spanned three decades, until Floyd's passing in 2015 following a prolonged illness.

Ailla's life was a testament to faith, resilience, and compassion. She touched countless lives with her warmth, wisdom, and unwavering belief in God's love.

She leaves to cherish her memory: her treasured sisters May, Lucille, Sarah, Virginia, and Eleanor. Her beloved sons Leroy (Sheila), Kelvin (Ann), and Timothy (Sylvia) and adoring stepsons Floyd and Ronnie. Ailla's legacy lives on through her grandchildren—Edmond (La Donness), Sheena, Aja, Trinity, Byron, Joshua, Morris, Devon, Isiah, Kenya, Cheyenne, Daniel, Matthew, and Isaac—and great-grandchildren Tristan, Saniya, Damasjai, Kamari, Miracle, Khamani, and Jadarren.

Though she is no longer with us in body, Ailla's enduring spirit, generous heart, and legacy of love and service will forever inspire all who had the

blessing of knowing her.

Previous Events

Viewing

MAY 17. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Colvin Funeral Home Chapel
2010 Murchison Road
Fayetteville, NC 28301

Funeral

MAY 18. 2:00 PM (ET)

United Pentecostal Church
1620 Lillington Highway
Spring Lake, NC 28390

Burial

MAY 18 (ET)

Lee Memory Gardens
2600 Hawkins Ave.
Sanford, NC 27330

Tribute Wall



“ *Colvin Funeral Homes & Cremations created a Tribute Video in memory of Ms. Ailla Mae Prince* ”



H. M. Colvin Funeral Home - May 16, 2025 at 01:10 PM

TR

“ *2 files added to the tribute wall* ”



timothy r reid - November 12, 2025 at 07:22 AM

PM

“ *Pamela McDonald lit a candle in memory of Ailla Prince* ”



Pamela McDonald - June 11, 2025 at 03:51 PM

JL

“ Dear Prince Family,
We were so sorry to hear of Ms. Princes's passing. She was a neighbor to the Layne family for nearly 50 years. Please know we are sending heartfelt thoughts and prayers to all the family. She was such a kind and lovely lady.
Sincerely,
Jonathan and Jenn Layne and his mom, Takako

Jenn Layne - June 06, 2025 at 08:31 PM



Thanks I really appreciate your sentiment.
Timothy Reid

Tim Reid - June 12, 2025 at 11:24 AM

SR

“ My beautiful mother in law I will miss you dearly. I love you so much. You taught me unconditional love ❤️❤️❤️❤️❤️❤️❤️🙏🙏.



Shbetta Jackson Reid - May 20, 2025 at 07:39 PM

PP

“ Sending love from Nashville!
Love you-
Tony & Precious

Precious Belle Peterson - May 16, 2025 at 08:48 PM

OP

“ our hearts forever Love Tony & Precious purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Ms. Ailla Mae Prince.



our hearts forever Love Tony & Precious - May 16, 2025 at 01:34 PM

KS

“ Kim Smith & Donna Steiner purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Ms. Ailla Mae Prince.



Kim Smith & Donna Steiner - May 16, 2025 at 11:15 AM

KS

“ Kim Smith & Donna Steiner planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ms. Ailla Mae Prince.

Kim Smith & Donna Steiner - May 16, 2025 at 11:15 AM

WI

“ Our sincere condolences to the Ailla Prince Family. We lift you all to Jesus, who is the ultimate comforter



Walk By Faith Christian Center Inc - May 15, 2025 at 04:50 PM

RA

“ You were a second mother to me growing up.....I can hear you singing..... our mother's were bestie..... the memories flood my mind. To be absent from the body, is to be present with the Lord. Rest now. I'll see you in the morning .

Renee Allen - May 15, 2025 at 01:06 PM

SH

“ Sharon Honeycutt lit a candle in memory of Ailla Prince



Sharon Honeycutt - May 15, 2025 at 12:24 PM

KS

“ I send this candle in celebrating the life of this God fearing woman of God. Praying for comfort to the family.



Kaffee Stallings-Ray - May 15, 2025 at 07:02 AM

KS

“ Kaffee Stallings-Ray lit a candle in memory of Ms. Ailla Mae Prince



Kaffee Stallings-Ray - May 15, 2025 at 06:58 AM

ND

“ Naval Hospital Quality Management Dept. purchased the *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* for the family of Ms. Ailla Mae Prince.



Naval Hospital Quality Management Dept. - May 15, 2025 at 06:52 AM

SP

“ Sending my condolences to the family. My sister and I used to babysit for Ronnie, Kelvin, Timmy, and Lynn. So sorry to hear about the passing of your mom.



Beatty Family, Fayetteville, NC

Shirley Peppers - May 14, 2025 at 10:05 PM

AF

“ Antoinette Taylor and Family purchased the *Full Of Love Bouquet* for the family of Ms. Ailla Mae Prince.



Antoinette Taylor and Family - May 14, 2025 at 01:21 PM

AF

“ Antoinette Taylor and Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ms. Ailla Mae Prince.

Antoinette Taylor and Family - May 14, 2025 at 01:21 PM