A SONG WRITTEN FOR MATTIE MAE WILLIAMS

Guiding Light of Love

Birthday

At holidays, you filled the room with cheer
On birthdays, all your laughter drew us near
For six kids, you gave all you could give
And taught us kinder ways to live
When Dad left, you found the brighter way
You held us close and faced another day

> *Mattie Mae Williams, ninety years bright*
> *Best mother, it's your birthday tonight*
> *Our matriarch, your loving care*
> *Keep believing love is always there*

As a social worker, you saw good
In every child, where others never would
When hard times came, you'd lift us from the ground
Your caring arms kept hope and strength around
When Arthur, "Buck," was gone, you held through pain
When Steven left, you bore the quiet rain
You lost your big toe, still stood tall
Your love kept rising through it all

> *Mattie Mae Williams, ninety years bright*
> *Best mother, it's your birthday tonight*
> *Our matriarch, your loving care*
> *Keep believing love is always there*

Zell, you were there when we needed you most
Protecting us all, never counting the cost
Your nurturing heart gave us room to stand
You held us together with open hands
You never gave up when the load was great
You kept seeing good and carried the weight
At ninety, your family calls you our own
Zell, loved by us all, in the love you've shown

May every birthday bring you gentle light
May all your days be held in love tonight
We'll keep the goodness that you taught us true
And carry all your faith in what we do

> *Mattie Mae Williams, ninety years bright*
> *Best mother, it's your birthday tonight*
> *Our matriarch, your loving care*
> *Keep believing love is always there*

Your open hands still lead us through the night
Your love stays warm, a steady guiding light