

Myrlie Evers-Williams

Born Myrlie Louise Beasley, March 17, 1933, in Vicksburg, MS; daughter of James Van Dyke Beasley and Mildred (Washington) Beasley; married civil rights activist Medgar Wiley Evers, December 24, 1951 (died June 12, 1963); married longshoreman and labor/civil rights activist Walter Williams in 1976 (died February 22, 1995); children: Darrell (died February 18, 2001), Reena, James. *Education:* Attended Alcorn A&M College, Lorman, MS, c. 1950-52; Pomona College, CA, B.A. in sociology, 1968. In 1967, she co-wrote a book about her husband, *For Us, the Living*, with William Peters, and she continued to make numerous personal appearances on behalf of the NAACP.

Myrlie Evers- Williams is a mother, writer, lecturer and civil rights leader. She became the first woman to chair the NAACP, a position she held until 1998. She holds the title Chairman Emeritus for the NAACP. In 1999, she published her memoirs, *Watch Me Fly: What I Learned on the Way to Becoming the Woman I Was Meant to Be*, which charts her journey from being the wife of an activist to becoming a community leader in her own right.

