

Celebration of Life



Dr. Joyce Keemer Peterson

Sunrise: November 18, 1934

Sunset: May 12, 2020

Tuesday, May 26, 2020

Dr. Joyce Keemer Peterson

“A Dedicated Educator”

Joyce Keemer Peterson, the loving daughter of Dr. Edgar Keemer and Grace Keemer Hamilton, born November 18, 1934 in Tennessee, fell asleep in the arms of the Lord, May 12, 2020 after a decade long struggle with dementia.

Joyce, a proud graduate of Virginia Union University of Richmond, Virginia, met and married the love of her life, Rev. Dr. John Otis Peterson. This union was blessed with two wonderful children, John Otis Peterson, Jr. and Jewelette Peterson McDaniel. As an ardent Christian, she diligently served in the churches her husband pastored to include his 43-year pastorate of the Alfred Street Baptist Church where she was awarded the position of First Lady Emeritus by the Church.

Her love of science education led her to further study at Howard University and many other institutions of higher learning. She demonstrated this dedication to the students of Arlington County public schools of Virginia, as she sponsored award winning Science Fairs where students made up some of the nations' highest performing science students. In 1983 she was awarded the Agnes Meyers Outstanding Teacher of the Year Award becoming the first African American in Arlington County, Virginia to receive this honor. Numerous awards for her achievements in science were lauded upon her as her dedication to education never wavered. One such award was her being the recipient of an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from Virginia Union University of Richmond, Virginia. Her love of education can be evidenced in her funding of numerous college scholarships, and support of community efforts to assist the educationally marginalized.

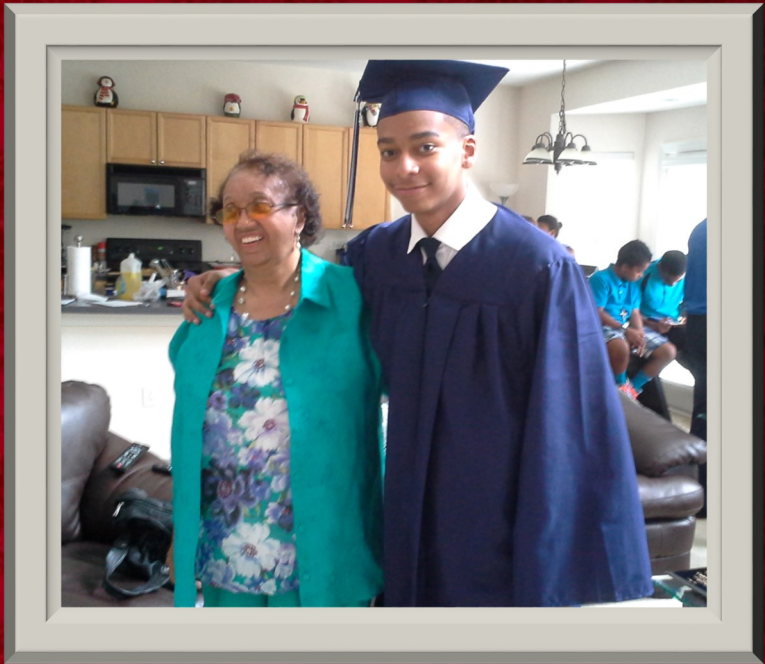
Two of her most prized accomplishments at Alfred Street Baptist Church is the founding of the Drama Ministry and the Handbell Choir. Through her support and guidance these ministries soared in popularity and are known for their excellence. These ministries are alive and well today at Alfred Street. When her health declined and she relocated to North Carolina, her love for handbell choirs, led her to sponsor a handbell choir there. Additionally, Joyce has been an avid patron of the National Museum of African American History and Culture.

Joyce is a loyal member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and took pride in working and inaugurating public service projects. Her service in education is honored by an Alfred Street Delta Sigma Theta Scholarship Fund.

She is survived by her daughter, Jewelette McDaniel (Chris), son John O. Peterson, Jr.; grandchildren, Lauren Peterson, Jonathan McDaniel, Mathew McDaniel, Brian Peterson and John O. Peterson, III; niece Danielle Keemer Edmund (Patrick); 2 great grandchildren, 3 more nieces, 1 nephew, and many other cousins.

“God’s reputation in me is on display.” Joni Eareckson Tada





Order of Service

Prelude.....Instrumentalist

Opening PrayerRev. Howard-John Wesley, Pastor

Scripture Reading

Old Testament1 Corinthians 13Johnathan McDaniel

Prayer of ComfortDeacon Johnny Brown

Video Tribute

Acknowledgements/Condolences.....Rev. Howard-John Wesley, Pastor

ReflectionsMinister Charnika Hayes

Jewelette McDaniel & John Peterson

A Celebration of Life—Read Silently

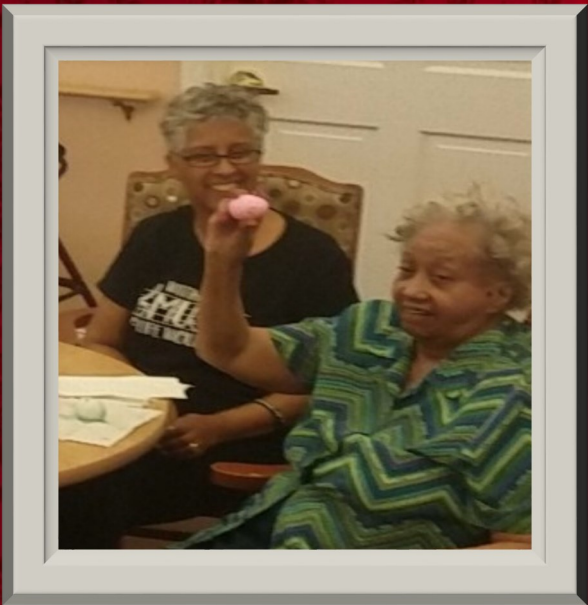
Musical Selection.....Jackie Lewis
Soloist

EulogyRev. Howard-John Wesley, Pastor

Closing Prayer & BenedictionRev. Howard-John Wesley, Pastor

RecessionalInstrumentalists







Acknowledgments

The Peterson family gratefully acknowledges the many expressions of love, sympathy and support received during our time of bereavement. We thank you for your continual prayers, support and remembrance of Joyce. May God continue to bless her and keep her in His loving care.

Pallbearers

*Johnny Brown
Emmett Dunn
Robert Easter
Edward Jackson
Samuel Nixon
Earl Stafford*

Services Entrusted to

*Pope Funeral Homes
5538 Marlboro Pike
Forestville, MD 20747*



Alfred Street Baptist Church

301 South Alfred Street ♦ Alexandria, VA 22314

Reverend Dr. Howard-John Wesley

Pastor