



Sunrise

November 14, 1953

Sunset

December 24, 2021

A Celebration of Life

Edythe Cooper Barton

Alfred Street Baptist Church

301 S Alfred Street, Alexandria, VA 22314
Rev. Dr. Howard-John Wesley, Senior Pastor

Rev. Marla Hawkins, *Officiant*, Assistant to the
Pastor for Children, Alfred Street Baptist Church

Tuesday, January 4, 2022

Visitation at 10:00 AM

Funeral at 11:00 AM



Edythe
L. Cooper
Barton

*I have fought a good fight, I have
finished my course, I have kept the faith:
Henceforth there is laid up for me a
crown of righteousness, which the Lord,
the righteous judge shall give me at that
day: and not to me only, but unto all them
also that love his appearing.*

– II Timothy 4:7–8

Exuberant and elegant, intelligent and resourceful, wise and prudent, resolute and decisive—these are only some of the character traits that epitomized the life of Edythe L. Cooper Barton. A native of Bristow, Oklahoma, Edythe was the fourth of six children. She was born on November 14, 1953 to George and Vernice Cooper. She was preceded in death by her parents, brother George Herbert, and sister/cousin Charlotte Chatman

Edythe's spiritual foundation was cemented at an early age through training she received at Duffy Chapel Baptist Church in Bristow, Oklahoma under the pastorage of Reverend Percy Mays. She was a faithful Sunday School attendee, Baptist Youth Training Union and choir member. Her rich, melodious alto voice stood out among the choir members and touched the hearts of every member of the congregation. Upon relocating to the Washington, D.C. area, she united with the historic Alfred Street Baptist Church in Alexandria, Virginia where she was a member of the Health Care Ministry and a parent volunteer for both the teen Dance Ministry and the Gospel Inspirers. A faithful Sunday School member, she also opened her family home to host her designated weekly Village meetings. She joined the Psalms of Praise choir and participated until her health declined. Additionally, she supported the Barton family home church, Glenarden Church of Christ, under the leadership of Pastor Johnnie Barton where she assisted with the Youth Department and Outreach Ministries. It was her spiritual foundation and unshakable belief and trust in God, and the power of prayer that guided her life and comforted her during her illness.

The attainment of high educational goals was imperative in the Cooper household. Edythe's parents instilled in their children this mantra: "Education is a key element of African American empowerment." As a result of this parental nurturing (which Edythe would later impress upon her children), Edythe was an honor roll student during high school. Subsequently,

she obtained a B.S. degree in Biology from Langston University (1976), Langston, Oklahoma. She later earned a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) from Howard University (1980). Employed at the Washington Hospital Center for more than 30 years, Edythe was a dedicated, well-respected, and outstanding Registered Nurse (R.N.). She later served her local community as a school nurse for the Prince George's County Public School system until retirement in 2018.

Edythe entered into holy matrimony with the love of her life, Oscar Barton Jr, PhD. Married for 29 years, the Bartons' love and deep sense of family values produced three beautiful and talented children: Owen, Tyler, and Jordan. All three Barton children are graduates of the University of Maryland, College Park. It was a blessing that two days before Edythe's Homegoing, she celebrated Jordan's, her youngest daughter, graduation on December 22, 2021.

It is not hyperbole to maintain that Edythe's intense love of "Family" is what sustained and motivated her, especially as she fought courageously and bravely in recent years through her challenging medical journey.

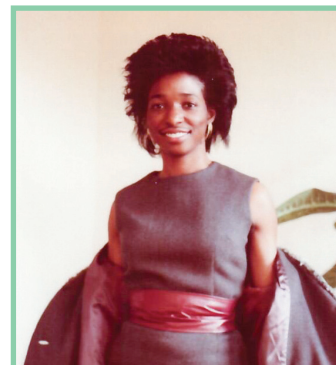
Edythe's magnanimous personality, welcoming smile, and outstanding hostess skills made the Barton family home a welcoming place for family and friends—especially the children's friends. They always looked forward to coming to the Bartons' home for spontaneous get-togethers, holiday dinners, and lots of laughs.

Edythe was a proud and dedicated member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated (AKA) for 48 years. She was initiated into AKA at Langston University, Alpha Zeta Chapter in 1973. One of her

proudest moments was watching her daughters, Tyler and Jordan, become members of her beloved sorority. Her other organizational affiliations include the Black Nurses Association, Howard University's Alumni Nurses Association, and National Nurses Association.



On December 24, 2021, Edythe transitioned peacefully to her Heavenly Home. Her survivors are: a loving husband, Oscar Barton, Jr. PhD; three children: Owen Barton, Los Angeles, California; Tyler Barton, Boston, Massachusetts; and Jordan Barton, Brooklyn, New York; three sisters and their families: Nickie Cooper Broadas, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; Barbara (James) Driggins, Alexandria, Virginia; Hazel (Michael) Wilson, Vallejo, California; and one brother: Thomas (Angel) Cooper, Indian Head, Maryland. Leon Fortson, special bonus family, Alexandria, Virginia. Sisters-in-love: Denise Johnson (Willis) Washington, DC; Sylvia Lang (Michael) Capitol Heights, Maryland; Marian Peele (Mervin) Washington, DC; brothers-in-love: Christopher Wilson, Lanham, Maryland; Gerald Wilson, Metairie, Louisiana; Johnnie Barton (Angela) Washington, DC. LaVirgust Chatman, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. She also leaves a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, life-long friends, and her furry companion, Beauregard, the dog. Edythe's enduring legacy of love and service is immortalized in the hearts of all whose lives she touched.



Order of Service

Prelude..... Instrumentalist

Invocation Rev. Marla Hawkins

Hymn of Rejoicing: “Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Old Testament: Ecclesiastes 3:1–4 Rev. Keith Perkins

Epistle: 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18 Rev. Keith Perkins

Prayer of Comfort Pastor, Johnnie Barton

Musical Selection: “Psalm 8”, Richard Smallwood..... Jacqueline Lewis, Soloist

Tributes/Reflections Katherine Perry, HU Classmate
Barton Children Tribute read by Denise Johnson
Barbara Driggins, Sister

Musical Selection: “He’s Been Faithful”, Carol Cymbala..... Jamie Driggins, Niece

Eulogy Rev. Marla Hawkins

Closing Prayer and Benediction Rev. Marla Hawkins

Recessional: “When We All Get to Heaven”



Barton Children Tribute

There are so many ways we could describe our mom, joyful, loving, present. But, no matter the words that we choose, we can all agree that she was the embodiment of unconditional and selfless love.

Her unconditional love came with invaluable lessons that are permanently ingrained in us. Her love taught us to be patient, to be generous, to be kind, to do for others, to pray, and to live our own truths. She went to the ends of the earth to make each of us feel uniquely loved and valued. Whatever we needed, and most of what we wanted, she took care of with ease. If we ever needed a friend or a shoulder to cry on, she was there. If we ever needed someone to advocate for us when no one else would, she'd do so without a question. Mommy was one of the most generous people on the planet. With her time, with her compassion, with her love.

She was the safest space for all of us.

When I was younger, I often struggled with my self-image and confidence, but my mom went to great lengths to make sure I knew I was loved and important. I had someone that made me feel safe and protected no matter what. She was patient and gave me time to grow stronger, more confident, and feel good about myself. My mom also emphasized the importance of striving to live a life of personal peace and happiness. She wanted me to do things that brought me joy, not based on living for other people and what they might think. My mom supported me and was my biggest fan in whatever I did, no matter how insignificant it may have seemed to me at the time. And even with the physical distance of living on the opposite coast, my mom was always there, just a call away, and always was able to make me feel like I was right at home.

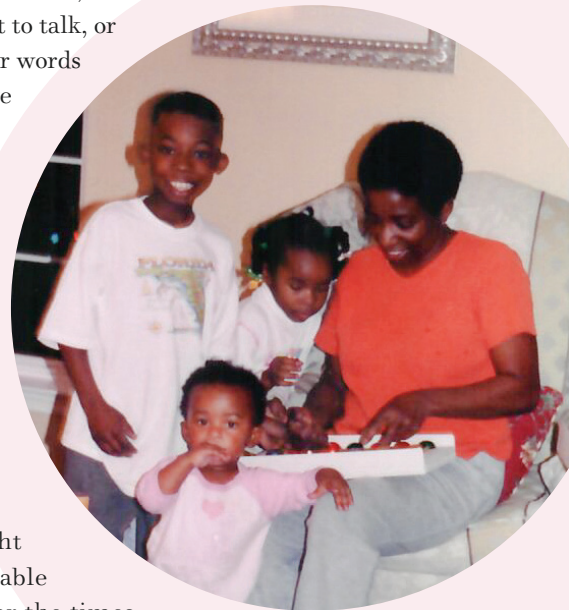
One of my favorite things to do with my mom was talk to her everyday on my drive home from school. She always made time for me and was always interested in every minute detail. What are you wearing? Did you eat today? How are you feeling? I knew that if no one else cared, my mom would. That amount of empathy, her consistent affirmations, and even her voice alone was enough to help me reset. Any feelings of inadequacy, anger, stress, loneliness, sadness could all be soothed even for just a little while when I was talking to my mom. It really felt like our time. That kind of generosity and sincerity does not come around often. That is why

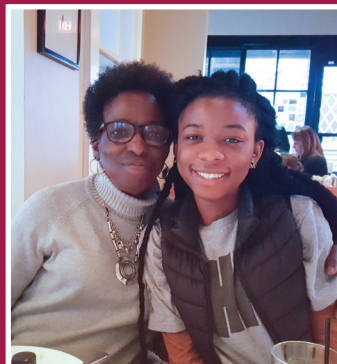
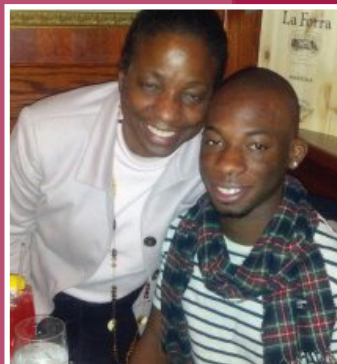
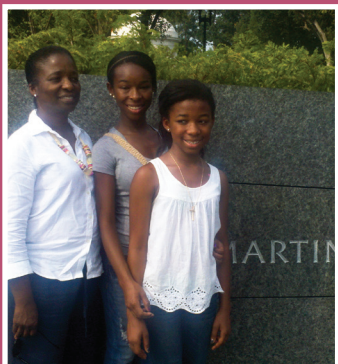
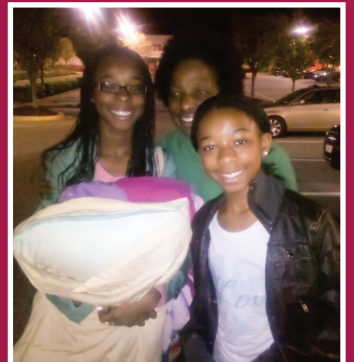
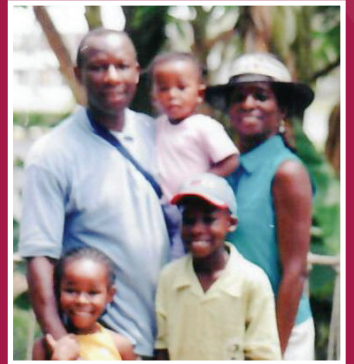
I know she is one of God's most wanted angels. I know our car conversations will look different, but I know she'll still be listening.

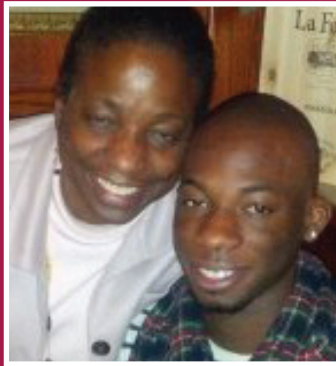
I don't know where I would have been without my mom's support throughout my life, but especially over the last few years. My transition into college life was a difficult one, and I often felt lonely and lost. I can't count the amount of times my mother was there to comfort me, encourage me, and be one of my best friends. And when it was time for me to stand on my own two feet, she would always tell me how proud she was of how far I had come. I think she knew her work in this life would be done when she saw her last child graduate from college, and despite the pain she was in, she held-on to see me through until the very end. I'll always remember the joy and pride in her face when she saw me in my cap and gown.

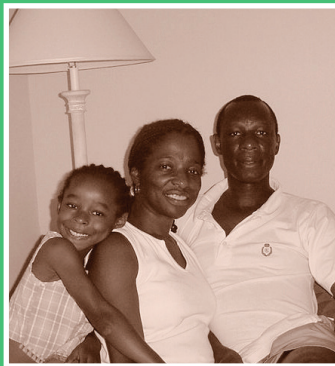
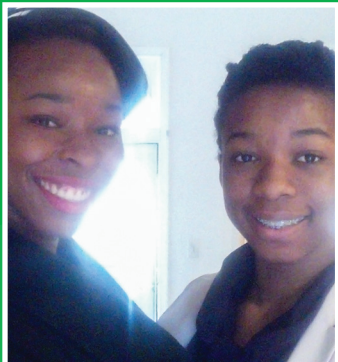
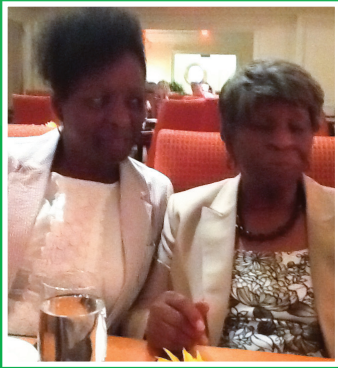
Our mother fought to be there for us in any way she could until the very end. Even when her health started to deteriorate, and she couldn't jump up and go about her day like she usually would, she would always be there just to talk, or shop online, or offer words of wisdom when we were in need. She even made sure we all had gifts for Christmas, even though she couldn't be with us physically.

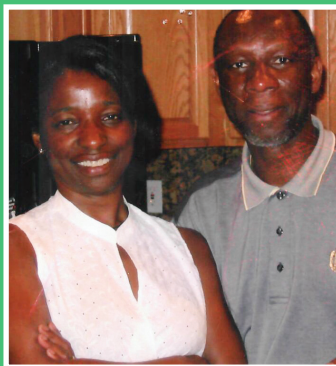
We talked a lot about how our mom's love was wrapped in selflessness. She fought against immeasurable pain to be there for the times we needed her the most. We also know that she would not leave us without a support system to make sure that we would eventually be okay. Despite her enduring selflessness, we're glad that she finally chose herself. A joyful eternal life without struggle and without pain. Now, it is our turn to live for her, we promise to keep making you proud, Mommy. We love you and can't wait to see you again.

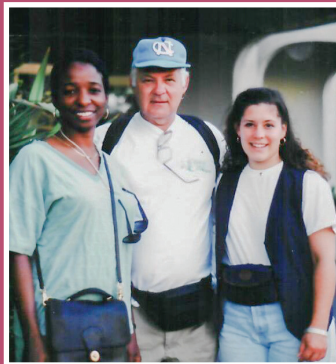
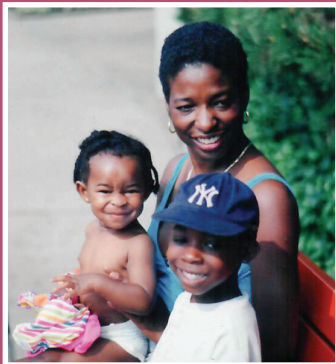
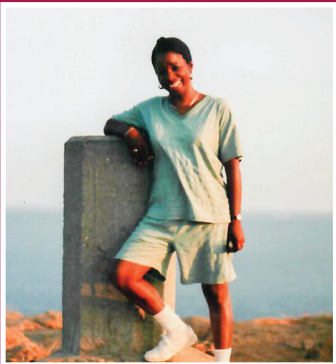
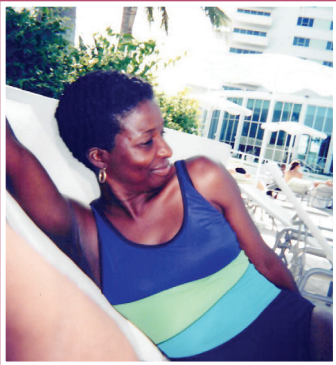


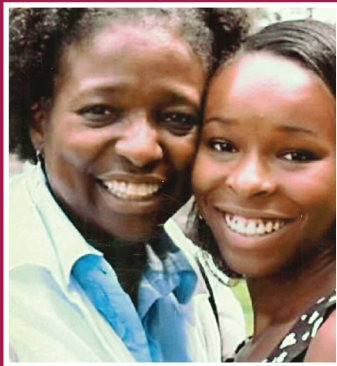
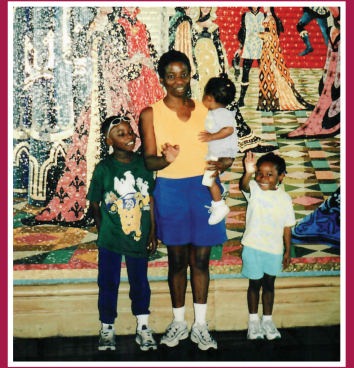












Acknowledgements

Words cannot express our sincere appreciation for the acts of kindness and love shown during Edythe's extended illness and this time of bereavement. It is with the deepest gratitude that we thank you for the tremendous outpouring of sympathy and warm consolation that we have received. Indeed you have lifted our spirits and we thank you immensely. May God bless you.

— *The Barton Family*

SERVICES ENTRUSTED TO

Pope Funeral Home
5538 Marlboro Pike
District Heights, MD
20747

INTERMENT SERVICES ENTRUSTED TO

Fort Lincoln Cemetery
3401 Bladensburg Road
Brentwood, MD 20722

Memorial Scholarship

In loving memory of dedicated nurse and loving mother, Edythe L. Cooper Barton, the Barton family is creating a scholarship fund for Black students with an interest in pursuing nursing at Morgan State University.

Edythe served as a registered nurse for more than 30 years, where she cared for her patients with kindness, compassion, and commitment. She was a strong proponent of education and service to others.

The fund will help alleviate financial barriers to matriculation for Black nursing students. In lieu of flowers and other gifts, the Barton Family asks you to consider making a donation to the scholarship fund. All proceeds from this account will go directly to the scholarship fund through The Edythe L. Barton Nursing Foundation. Additionally, all donations to the Edythe L. Cooper Barton Nursing Foundation are tax deductible.

Pallbearers

Jhade Adeniyi-Jones
Stephen Driggins
Johnnie Barton
Elias Hilaire

Brock Cooper
Albert Robinson
Marshall Peele

Flower Bearers

Theta Nu, Psi Epsilon Omega, Zeta Chi Omega Chapters
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated

Special Acknowledgment

Ashley Allen
Jordan Berry
Greg Brown
Eric Carroll
Cynthia Casey
Angel Cooper
Kyrie Davis
Nancy L. Davis
Camryn Edwards
Elias Hilaire
Guin Jones
Cornelius Johnson
Denice Johnson
Sylvia Lang
Karen Mack
Asha Moses
Pam Moses
Johnnie Barton

Marian Peele
Katherine Perry
The George and Mary
Powell Progeny
Lynda Prioleau
Alesia Robinson
Bria Sladden
Renee Spivey
Teniola Taiwo
Beverly K. Taylor
Jonathan Thomas
Amadou Wade
Theresa Ella Wright
Fannie Allen
The Edward and Adeline
Cooper Progeny
Alfred Street Baptist Church