Celebration of Life

Mrs. Willa Rawls Dumas

Metropolitan A.M.E. Church
March 19, 2018

Sunrise: February 14, 1939

Sunset: March 7, 2018

Pastor William H. Lamar IV
Senior Pastor

Reflections

Willa Catherine Rawls Dumas was born to the late Albert Rawls and Ruby Rawls on February 14, 1939 in Chattanooga, Tennessee. On March 7, 2018, God came, wrapped her safely in his arms and carried her home with him to her final resting place.

Her Christian commitment and journey began as a young child in Chattanooga. Her philosophy was always to put God first and treat everyone the way she wanted to be treated. She lived and died by this ethical Christian code. Upon her death, she was a faithful member of Metropolitan A.M.E. Church in Washington, DC where she served in many capacities, including Sarah Allen Missionary Society, The Second Board of Stewards and The Circles of Twelve.

Willa spent her childhood in Chattanooga, Tennessee. She graduated from Howard High School where she was a brilliant and active student. Willa attended Central State University in Wilberforce, Ohio, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education. She earned a Master of Public Administration with a concentration in Governmental Administration from George Washington University in Washington, DC.

Willa had several illustrious careers during her lifetime. She began teaching in Cleveland, OH. After moving to Washington, DC she became employed by the federal government. She worked many years as Executive Assistant to Congressman Silvio Conte of Massachusetts. Before the Congressman retired from office, he made it possible for her to receive a Presidential Appointment at the Corporation for National and Community Services under President Ronald Regan. She briefly worked as a VISTA (Volunteer in Services to America) employee prior to beginning her presidential appointment. Additionally, she was Director of Youth Programs for the ACTION Federal Agency. After retirement from the federal government, Willa enjoyed life at home with her husband, George. After a short period of time, however, she began another career with the Fairfax County Department of Neighborhood and Community Services and remained with that organization until her retirement.

Active in civic organizations, Willa became a member of Zeta Chi Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority on June 25, 1987 and later transferred to Lambda Kappa Omega Chapter. In 1988 she was installed as a member of The Northern Virginia Chapter of the Coalition of 100 Black Women.

In late summer of 1989, Willa and DyAnne Horner Little embarked on an exciting journey of organizing a group of thirty-two talented women. On September 18, 1993, they became Old Dominion (VA) Chapter, the 250th chartered chapter of The Links,

Incorporated. This September the chapter will celebrate its 25th Anniversary with a special tribute to Willa Rawls Dumas.

Willa was preceded in death by her husband, Dr. George Curtis Dumas, father, Albert Rawls, mother, Ruby Rawls, brother, Albert Rawls, Jr. She leaves to cherish her memory a loving and devoted sister, Geneva Arrington, cousins Adrenis Hurd, Sharon Jones, Mary F. Spruce and Vincent Spruce, stepchildren, Angela Wade (Vernon), Sabrina Dumas, Paul Dumas (Tara), grandchildren, Dwayne Dumas (Penny), Sherita Gardner (Kevin), Christina Jones, Bria, Yhanni, Vernon Wade, Jr. Javai, Paul Dumas, Jr., great grandchildren: Nathaniel, Christopher, Jeremiah, Khalil, Jasmine, Kameron, Jalen, Jamar, brother-in-law, George Lincoln Dumas (Judy), nieces Tracey Dumas Jenkins (Brian), Monica Dumas Hinton (Michael), a dedicated godchild Jenne' Griffith, and extended family Drs. Rudolph and Janette Harris and their children Rylan and Junie, JoAnn Jolly Blanks, Jatis Juan Edmond, Johnnie Booker, DyAnne and C's Little, Sheila and David Garnett, Brenda and TJ Nicholson, Michelle and Arnett Spady and caregiver Freedom Afedoh.

Order of Service

Reverend William H. Lamar IV, Presiding

9:00 a.m. - Ivy Beyond the Wall Memorial Ceremony

9:30 a.m. - The Links Memorial Ceremony

10:00 a.m. - Viewing ..... Spiritual Music

11:00 a.m. - Processional ..... *"When We All Get To Heaven"*

Hymn of Praise ..... *"Blessed Assurance"*

Prayer of Comfort

The Scripture Readings

Old Testament: (Psalms 23) ..... Mrs. Brenda M. Nicholson
New Testament: (John 14:1-6) ..... Mrs. Angie Wade

Selection ..... "It Is Well With My Soul"
Ms. Jo Anne Clark

Tributes ..... Janette H. Harris, PhD
Mrs. Jatis Edmond
Ms. Elmira R.S. Jones
Mr. Robert O'Quinn, PhD, RPCV
Ms. Jackie Coleman
Gladys Gary Vaughn, PhD

Acknowledgements ..... Mrs. Sheila E. Garnett

The Obituary - (Read Silently) Ms. Jo Anne Clark "How Great Thou Art"

Sermonic Selection ..... *"God Is"*

Eulogy..... Reverend William H. Lamar IV

Recessional ..... *"Going Up Yonder"*

Join the family for the repast immediately following the service

Welcome
THE LINKS, INCORPORATED
EASTERN AREA

Together Again

We cried when you passed away and we still cry today. Although we loved you dearly, we couldn't make you stay.

A golden heart stopped beating, hard working hands at rest. God broke our hearts to prove to us he only takes the best.

Keep the roses going for anyone in heaven that you loved and lost. Take time to create those special memories with your loved ones no matter what the cost.

We will forever be grateful for the relationships we forged, but now it's time for her to heal her heart as she goes to join the love of her life, George!

Acknowledgments

Pallbearers

Paul Dumas
Jerome Davis
Marcus Griffith
Rylan Rudolph Harris
Eddie L. Martin
Freedom Afedoh

Appreciation

The family of the late Willa Rawls Dumas gratefully acknowledges your expressions of sympathy and love during their period of bereavement. Your thoughtfulness, which is greatly appreciated, will always be remembered.

Arrangements

Greene Funeral Home
814 Franklin Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Internment

Arlington National Cemetery
Arlington, VA

Safely Home

I am home in Heaven, dear ones;
Oh, so happy and so bright!
There is perfect joy and beauty
In this everlasting light.
All the pain and grief is over,
Every restless tossing passed;
I am now at peace forever,
Safely home in Heaven at last.
Did you wonder I so calmly
Trod the valley of the shade?
Oh! But Jesus' arm to lean on,
Could I have one doubt or dread?
Then you must not grieve so sorely,
For I love you dearly still;
Try to look beyond earth's shadows,
Pray to trust our Father's Will.
There is work still waiting for you
Do it now, while life remaineth
You shall rest in Jesus' land.