

Celebration of Life

A Tribute of Honor and Love



Delores Gorham

Welborne

March 30, 1942 - May 7, 2020

~ The Day God Called You Home ~

**God looked around his garden
And He found an empty place.
He then looked down upon this earth,
And saw your tired face.**

**He put his arms around you
And lifted you to rest.
God's garden must be beautiful
He always takes the best.**

**He knew you had fought the good fight
He knew that your work on this
earth was done
He saw that the road was getting rough.
And the hills were getting hard to climb,
So He closed your weary eyes
And whispered "Well done, good and
faithful servant; thou hast been faithful
over a few things, I will make thee ruler
over many things: enter thou into the joy
of thy lord".**

Matthew 25:23

**It breaks our hearts to lose you
But you didn't go alone
For part of us went with you
That day that God called you home
Author Unknown**

~ Order of Celebration ~

Musical Prelude	Reflection & Meditation
Invocation	Dr. Jasmin “Jazz” Sculark Founder and President of Dr. Jazz Ministries Victory Grace
Musical Video Selection	Psalm 23 by Jeff Majors
The Holy Scriptures	Pastor Charles McNeill Old Testament – Psalms 91 New Testament – The Gospel of John 14:1-7
Prayer of Consolation	Pastor James J. Robinson The Tree of Life Christian Ministries 9109 Piscataway Rd, Clinton, MD 20735
Musical Selection	“Because Of Who You Are” Pastor Carla M. Matthews Tabernacle of Praise Church 3280 Leonardtown Road Waldorf, Maryland 20601
Reading of the Obituary	Debra Anderson

Video - Be A Rainbow in Someone's Cloud by Dr. Maya Angelou

Expression of Gratitude	Acknowledgments and Thank You
Letter of Condolence	Prince George's County Executive Angela Alsobrooks
Musical Selection	“I Won't Complain” – Jimmy Clark

Eulogy – Bishop Dr. LaVaughn Hughes
Faith Temple #2 Original Free Will Baptist Church
Founder: Bishop L.N. Forbes Pastor: Bishop LaVaughn Hughes
211 Maryland Park Dr, Capitol Heights, MD 20743

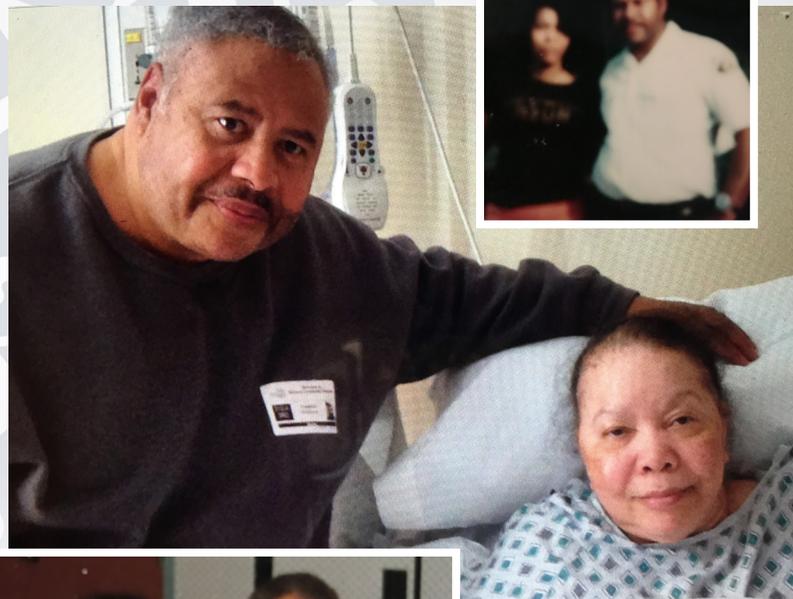
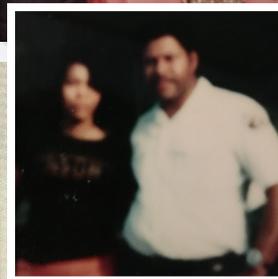
Benediction – Bishop Dr. LaVaughn Hughes

Internment ~ Cheltenham Veterans Cemetery
11301 Crain Highway, Cheltenham, Prince George's County, Maryland, 20623

~ 55 Years Ago We Said I Do! ~
~ Frederick & Delores Welborne ~



***“I, Frederick Welborne,
take thee, Delores Gorham,
to be my wedded wife,
to have and to hold,
from this day forward,
for better, for worse,
for richer, for poorer,
in sickness and in health,
to love and to cherish,
till death do us part,
according to God’s holy
ordinance; and thereto
I pledge myself to you.”***



~ Obituary of Delores Gorham Welborne ~
~ March 30, 1942 - May 7, 2020 ~



Her Life...

Delores Gorham Welborne transitioned to her eternal rest on Thursday, May 7, 2020, while comforted and surrounded by her devoted husband, loving daughter and grandson. Delores was born on March 30, 1942, to the late Theolis Hamberg Jackson in Brooklyn, New York. Though adopted at an early age, Delores was raised by her late parents George and Genevieve Gorham in Plymouth, North Carolina. She started her Christian journey at an early age and later joined the New Chapel Baptist Church in Plymouth, at the age of 12. Delores attended the public schools in Washington County, and in 1960, graduated from Roper High School in Roper, North Carolina. After graduation Delores spent her summers (1960-1965) in New York City with her Aunt, Mary Boland (deceased).

Before she left for college, during the summer of 1960, she met Frederick Welborne, for which would be a five-year courtship. In 1964, Delores earned her Bachelor of Science Degree in Elementary Education from Winston Salem State University in Winston Salem, North Carolina. Immediately after graduation, Delores moved to Newport News, Virginia, where she taught elementary school (second grade) 1964-1966. After relocating to New York City during the summer of 1965, she married her soulmate, Frederick. Delores returned to Newport News, VA in the fall of 1965 until the summer of 1966 to complete her contractual obligation with the school system. In the summer of 1966 Delores returned to New York to reside with her husband in Rego Park, Queens, New York. In 1967, her husband joined the US Air Force and Delores stayed behind to teach elementary school in Bronx, NY. In the summer of 1967, Delores moved to Ogden, Utah to join her husband who was stationed at Hill Air Force base. While in Utah (1967-1971), Delores taught second grade for four years in the Ogden school District.

In 1968, their first daughter Sonja was born. When her husband was honorably discharged from the Air Force, Delores and her family relocated to Prince George's County, Maryland in 1971. In that year, her second daughter, Tonya, was born with severe medical complications. Delores also suffered a cerebral hemorrhage the same year. The unexpected trauma left her paralyzed on her left side. Although she was not expected to survive, Delores beat the odds through faith in God and her strong determination to live with the loving care and support of her family. She relearned to walk, talk and drive a car, which is a significant achievement that many take for granted.

In 1973, Delores joined the Faith Temple #2 Free Will Baptist Church in Seat Pleasant, Maryland. She loved her church family and they loved her. She was very committed, active and a faithful member until it was difficult for her to physically worship and serve in church. Her most gratifying role was being a loving and devoted wife, mother, and grandmother. Her husband, Frederick was her rock for over 55 years and they shared a bond that was greatly admired among family and friends. He was her, "forever soulmate and supporter" through every idea and on-going deeds of service. During the last 10 years, the progression of her Dementia and Parkinson's became increasingly worse. But, Frederick embraced the role of full-time caregiver from morning, to noon and through the night. Her husband was by her side tending to her needs and making this labor of love look effortless. Delores was also cared for by her pride and joy, Sonja who loved her mother beyond measure. She graciously learned from her mother how to "walk with gratitude, humility and gratefulness." Her grandson Freddie was her heart as well as her match. They were known for their comical and loving relationship. Freddie's favorite line was "we buddies, right?" However, depending on the day, the minute of the hour ... Delores' answer would vary with a yes or no. If he got a no, Freddie would say, "that's okay because we are buddies for life." Needless to say, that was true. Her godson, Anthony Taft, was like the son she never had. They traveled many parts of the County together and enjoyed many memorable outings.



Her Legacy . . .

For 30 years Delores established an impeccable record of volunteer service in the community, through religious, professional, political, civic, and educational affiliations. She desired to bring attention to vulnerable and less fortunate people. Among her numerous attributes, Delores' legacy of love, unselfish deeds, dedication to serve and other contributions benefited many people in the church, community and neighborhood. On any given day, it was not uncommon to see Delores 'out and about' touching and uplifting people. Moreover, one special group she was very fond of and advocated for were "her seniors", as affectionately called. Delores experienced great joy when spending time with "her seniors," as they dined out or traveled to and from church services. Her compassion for them also prompted frequent wellness calls, visits to the sick and shut-in or to just spend quality time with them. She truly loved and cared for "her seniors." Delores was a faithful servant in her church, Faith Temple, # 2 Free Will Baptist Church. She coordinated services between the church and community agencies to obtain assistance for members of the community. She also worked with arts and crafts for the Vacation Bible School for many children; served on the Church scholarship committee; provided transportation for the needy; and encouraged youth to participate in various community activities. Notably, serving others was truly her calling! Delores was also the unofficial President & CEO of her own Youth Employment Agency. She found countless jobs for hundreds of youth and adults through her own partnerships and personal relationships within the community-at-large. These opportunities included private and government sector jobs. Whether it was encouraging youth to join the military, applying for colleges, matching a trade to one's gifts and talents, she was dedicated to helping young people succeed and fulfill their life's purpose through exposure and education.

Delores was also a surrogate social worker to families in need. She would extend herself to any length to help others. Many times, she would use her own resources to fill in gaps by purchasing food, clothing, paying rent, and buying toys for children. Generally, she would garner whatever resources needed to ease the burdens of others. Volunteer work was not "work" for Delores, but it was her passion and of paramount importance. Her outreach was wide-spread and varied. A few organizations she collaborated with included the Mission of Love, American Red Cross, Hands Across America. She volunteered with the Hands Across America Campaign, Coordinator for Christmas In April Program (1992-1996), March of Dimes, Feeding the Hungry Project, the United Negro College Fund, and Muscular Dystrophy Telethon. Delores also served as an Election Judge and notary. While working with her sorority Zeta Phi Beta, Inc., Delores flourished the Archonettes program for young girls ages 12-18 that served the community with numerous outreach initiatives. She also developed activities for the Archonettes and other youth through various workshops on teen pregnancy, anti-drug campaign, career preparedness and mentoring programs. In addition, Delores' community involvement included serving as Treasurer of the Anti-Hunger Coalition Committee; Site Coordinator for food distribution for low-income households for American Rescue Workers; Treasurer of the Commission for Persons with Disabilities; and Recruiter for the American Red Cross's Candy Strippers.

Delores was an avid follower of politics and used her political astuteness to work alongside many political leaders. In 1985, Delores started her own non-profit, Conner in Action, which advocated for the voiceless, disenfranchised and most vulnerable populations. Because of her dedication to this work, she received countless well-earned accolades, letters of commendations, certificates, and awards for her dedicated service in the community. In addition, she received countless proclamations, state and county recognitions. They include the Prince Georgian of the Year (1991) and Women's Hall of Fame Prince George's County (1992). Other honors given include the National Volunteer Award 1992 and the President Bush (41) 1,000 Points of Light program. Finally, Maryland Governor Donald Schaefer commended her for work with the Golden Age Society (senior citizens at Faith Temple # 2 Church). Despite her physical challenges, Delores' life's work serves as a constant reminder of what can happen, if there is a will, there is a way. Her desire to improve the community and the lives of less fortunate people serves as a marvelous model of selfless service to people in all walks of life. Without a doubt, Delores made a profound impact on a countless number of people from college friends, sorority sisters, church family, neighbors, seniors, the political community and fellow educators. Delores personified beauty and a life well lived...as the lyrics of the hymn so eloquently exclaim...

"If I can help somebody as I pass along, If I can cheer somebody with a word or song, If I can show somebody he is trav'ling wrong, THEN MY LIVING SHALL NOT BE IN VAIN If I can do my duty as a Christian ought, If I can bring back beauty to a world up-wrought, If I can spread love's message that the Master taught, THEN MY LIVING SHALL NOT BE IN VAIN."

~ Remaining Family ~

Her passing leaves a great void in the lives of her loved ones, both family and friends. She leaves to cherish loving memories of her kind gentle spirit a supportive, devoted, loving husband of 55 years.

Husband

Frederick L. Welborne

Daughters

Sonja Welborne-Rice (James) of
Upper Marlboro, MD
Tonya Welborne (deceased)

Grandson

Frederick Lewis Welborne Kennedy

Sisters

Ingrid Jackson of Pendleton, SC
Jackolyn V. King (Alvin) of Carson, CA

Brother

William Henry Jackson of Antioch, CA

Brother-in-Law

Anthony M. Welborne (Endia)
of Greensboro, NC

Sister-in-law

Mamie Welborne

A number of Godchildren, a special devoted
Godchild, Anthony Taft of Oxford, NC,

Her Caring Godmother

Mother Rosa Lee Ward

Godfather

Bishop L. M. Forbes (deceased)

And a host of loving nieces, nephews,
cousins and friends.

Honorary Pallbearers

Freddie Kennedy
Grandson

Anthony Taft - Godson

James Rice - Son-In-Law

Nephews

Robert Welborne III

Anthony Welborne, Jr.

Great Nephews

Xavier Terry

Stephen Cobb

Kenney Welborne

Christian Welborne

Ezekiel Swann

Ronald Terry
Nephew-in-Law

Brandon Waters

Bernard (Baynod)Taft

Derrick Taft

Branden Williams

Donald Taft

Dr. Roderick I. Wellington

Douglas Edwards

David Haggins

Bryant McIntosh

Honorary Flower Bearers

Robbie Terry - Niece

Great Nieces

Robyn Welborne
Chaise Terry

Chrystal Welborne
Niece in-Law

Britney Waters

Brigette Waters

First Cousins

Malinda, Trudy, Floette

College Friends

Gloria Welborne

Shirley McSween

LaNikkia Anthony
Goddughter

Sorority Sisters

Rose Southerland
Michelle Russell

Rosa Lee Ward
Godmother

Pam Streeter
Tammy Norman

Carrie Pope
Katie Taft

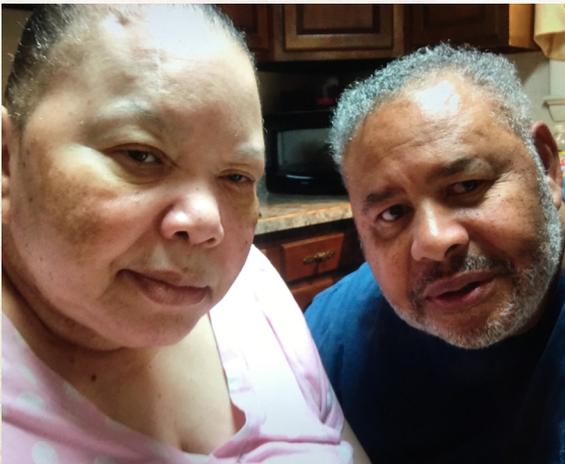
Tuwana Taft
Robyn Pope-Brown

Edna Jervis
Minnie Jones

Elma Edwards

Kendra Maxwell

Modina McClain



~ Acknowledgements ~

We, the Welborne family express our sincere and grateful appreciation for all your love and support during our time of loss. We thank you for the many calls, cards and expressions of sympathy and love extended by family, friends and neighbors.

A special thank you to the County Executive Angela Alsobrooks and her family for all of their support. To my Prince George's County Government family we thank you for the many calls, words of encouragement and flowers. Theresa Grant for supporting my family through my mother's care towards the end.

To Pastor Bishop LaVaughn Hughes and First Lady Hughes we wish to express our sincere appreciation for your words of comfort and support during these difficult times. To the members of Faith Temple #2 Original Free Will Baptist Church family, thank you for all the prayers and comforting calls.

Richard Montgomery-Richard RixStar Montgomery
Olivia Miller-Graphics and Program Designer
Debra Anderson-Voice Over

A special thank you to the Hospice of the Chesapeake for their outstanding care of my mother during the last 6 days of her life here on this earth. To the Doctors, Nurses and support staff we truly appreciate your compassion shown throughout my mother's care.