



## Dorothea King Yates

April 12, 1925 - October 18, 2017

### Reflections

Dorothy King Yates lived a long, beautiful life of service. Though many knew her, they may enjoy knowing more. At 92, Dorothea still made her breakfast and her bed. She read her Bible every day and turned off the news opting for Family Feud. The "Most Popular Girl" and "May Queen" in Armstrong High School's 1941 graduating class had three favorite colors: pink, blue, and beige. She wrote poems, liked to draw, and had an exquisite singing voice.

Dorothea was a 37-year, 5th grade teacher who saw every child as capable and visited parents after school to tell them so. She was first recipient of Blackwell Elementary's Teacher Of the Year award in 1975 and was affectionately called, "the teacher's teacher." Known for originating Class On Wheels, Dorothea retired from Richmond Public Schools in 1984.

Dorothea adored her family: Mama (Emma), grandparents, parents, aunts, uncles, cousins, and in-laws. She filled her home with music and made potato salad to rival any serious chef. She was a sun-up-to-sun-down gardener with fig, apple, and cherry trees in her Montrose Avenue backyard.

Dorothea belonged to Ebenezer Baptist Church 80+ years; she was a Girl Scout there, sang in the choir, and later volunteered as Co-Chairperson for its

food bank. She baked mackerel on Sunday mornings, and liked her seat in the church balcony. She drove a car because she had to and more than anything, Dorothea loved her husband, Carl, her daughter, Diane, her grandsons, Carl and G, and her eight great-grand children.

# Cemetery Details

## Richmond National Cemetery

1701 Williamsburg Road  
Richmond, VA 23231

# Previous Events

## Service

OCT **26**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Ebenezer Baptist Church  
216 W. Leigh Street  
Richmond, VA 23222

# Tribute Wall




“ *Dorothea King Yates*

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October 13, 2022 at 08:33 AM



“ *Dear Diane, I am so sorry to hear of your mother's passing. Alexis left me know, but I must apologize because I had not seen the email until a few days after the 25th. I had eye surgery. I had just asked Alexis how you and your mom were doing a couple of Sundays prior; it was my intention to call you before that. My deepest condolences and prayers. May you find comfort in your treasured memories of time spent together.*



*She is, I know, enjoying Jesus and singing in the heavenly choir. Peace and blessings upon you and your family.*

*Min. Doris Lyles, New Bethlehem FWB Church*

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**Min. Doris Lyles** - November 16, 2017 at 12:48 PM

DY

“ My Mother was "ONE OF A KIND." She was caring yet tough, forgiving AND forgetting, generous beyond words, Christian without doubt, and elegant without apology. First and foremost, my Mother was a servant unto her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

*My Mother exemplified what it meant to be a good and gracious person. She didn't care who your parents were, how educated you were or where you went to school, how much money you had or how you got that money, what your perceived disabilities were, and/or what you thought of yourself. She only cared about how you were being NOW. My Mother believed in her Bible; at 92 years of age, she read it every day, and lived what she believed until her death on Wednesday, October 18, 2017.*

*For those of you who THOUGHT you knew her, let me tell you that she was so much more. She lost her Mama who reared her (Emma) and her husband (Carl) in the same month. Double-hit and grief-stricken, she persevered and continued on. A strong woman of God who believed in her savior, Jesus Christ, my Mother referenced the Bible each and EVERY time there was a family crisis. She taught me to hold onto God's unchanging hand and to trust in His mercy.*

*She loved her family beyond measure - especially those aunts Lucille, Gullnare, Thelma, Hortense, Gladys, and Marie who reared her. She loved her ancestors and in-laws. Her mother-in-law, Ruth Yates said, "Dorothea is a daughter to me and I love her." My Mother could cook up a home-cooked meal any time of the day or night (just like Emma) to make anyone question what GOOD cooking was. (Just ask anyone about her potato salad, ok?)*

*I watched my Mother open brown paper packages from Horace Ashe of new meat and prepare gravy to lift it. I listened as she consoled Rev. Howard Chubbs when he faced his death. I watched and listened to her as she gave all she had to comfort and console the weak and scared. As a child, I moved out of my bed and gave up my clothes when my Mother knew someone in need. She would*

*say to me, "This is what we have to do." My Mother was a God-gift and I gratefully acknowledge that.*

*Dorothea K. Yates was a gift from Almighty God and I am honored to be her only child.*

*Thank you all for your kind expressions of sympathy and condolence. May her memory be with us forever and may she continue to inspire the best we have to give.*

*LOVE,  
Diane*

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**Diane M Yates** - October 30, 2017 at 10:38 PM

A.

“ *My deepest heartfelt condolences to the family in the loss of your dear loved one. May you be comforted by beautiful, cherished memories and especially may you receive needed strength and peace from God (2Corinthians 1:3,4).*

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**A.** - October 28, 2017 at 04:34 PM

LL

“ *I have very fond memories of being in Mrs. Yates class at Blackwell Elementary School. She was an excellent teacher. She taught during the years when "No child was left behind. Every child was going to leave with knowledge. I was in her class, when her daughter first went to college. She lectured to us then the importance of an education. I extend my heartfelt sympathy to her family. Rest in peace.*

*Linda Brown Lewis*

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**Linda B Lewis** - October 26, 2017 at 07:06 PM

AY

“ *Diane and the Yates Family,*

*I was so very sadden to hear of the passing of Dorothea. She was a grand woman, teacher, and friend. We first encountered at James H. Blackwell Elementary School, when she taught me in Fifth Grade Summer School. I spent 10 years at this school from Elementary to Junior High. I was so fortunate to be one of the last 9th Grade Graduates there in 1970. Our teachers cared so much for us. It was a legacy that every child in a house hold ended up being mentored by the great teachers there. Dorothea Yates was one of the best Educators and even later in life she was still sharp and remembered her students. In 1995 she became my Sister in Law and I fell in love with her kind nature all over again.*

*I will certainly have a void in my heart as I think of the times we shared on trips and the acceptance I received from the Yates family. Dorothea, I look forward to seeing you again in Glory, Save a seat for me.*

*With Deepest Sympathy and all my Love,  
Almetta Curry Yates*

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**Almetta Yates** - October 25, 2017 at 03:56 PM



“ *Fairest of All was purchased for the family of Dorothea King Yates.*



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October 25, 2017 at 02:55 PM

RA

“ To the family of Mrs. Yates. Please accept my sincere condolences at the passing of your loved one. She has touched so many in her time with us . All that is left to be said is " Well Done, Good And Faithful Servant."

*R.A.Roane  
Blackwell Elementary 5th Grade Class*

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**R. A.Roane** - October 25, 2017 at 08:43 AM

AM

“ To Diane: very sorry to read about your mother's passing. She was a wonderful lady. You are in my prayers at this time and in the days to come.

*Alvin Morris*

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**Alvin Morris** - October 24, 2017 at 07:37 PM



“ We the March Family and Staff wish to extend our deepest and heartfelt sympathy in the passing of your loved one. Our prayers go out to you and your family in your time of loss. We know and understand that you have received many expressions of love and we will continue to lift you up in prayer. May the memories you cherish of brighter and happier days help to ease your sorrow and comfort you always.

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**March Funeral Homes** - October 24, 2017 at 01:13 PM