



Edna Allen Dean

August 13, 1938 - July 1, 2020

Edna Veora Allen Dean of Richmond VA, passed away quietly with her sister by her side on July 1, 2020 at the age of 81. She was predeceased by her husband John Dean, and her parents Edward Baker Allen of Farmville, VA and Vera Omega Allen nee Jones of Charles City, VA.

Edna was born in Farmville and attended Robert Russa Moton High School there. In 1951, while attending Moton, she participated in a student walk out that led to the landmark United States Supreme Court case, *Brown vs. Board of Education*, in which the Court declared state laws establishing separate public schools for black and white students to be unconstitutional.

She continued her education at Springfield College where she received her bachelor's degree in Recreation. Later she received a master's degree in Social Work at Columbia University, an associate's degree in Funeral Services at John Tyler Community College, and a PhD in Social Work Education at Union Graduate School. She was also a member of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority.

Once Edna entered the work force, she served in a multitude of positions in a variety of places. She lived in Massachusetts and New York. She also lived in Los Angeles for many years before returning to Virginia. She took over the operation of the family business, E.B. Allen Funeral Home, after the untimely

passing of her father, E.B. Allen. Edna worked as a Social Worker. She was also an associate professor in Social Work at Longwood University for 24 years. Longwood is currently in the process of naming a newly constructed building after Edna.

After retirement, she continued to serve the university community as well as the local community. She referred the Longwood honors staff to the history of magnolia trees on the site designated for an Honors Garden, a project connected to the governor's "Renew Virginia" initiative and Michelle Obama's vegetable garden on the White House grounds. Edna provided the research linking the magnolia trees, that originated at the White House, to the garden site. She was instrumental in boosting the efforts to get the project approved and provided a focal point for the future Longwood students and campus visitors to learn central issues in our national life. In addition, with her mother and sister, and the Martha E. Forrester Society, Edna participated in the process to purchase the building to make R.R. Moton into a historical landmark and museum.

Edna was married twice. Edna married Charles Bledsoe in 1977. She later married her childhood friend, John Dean at First Baptist Church in Farmville, VA.

Edna shared her musical talents playing for the choir at the family's church home, First Baptist Church. Her home was always open to others, especially her college students. Her dedication to young adults awarded her the honor of the Edna Allen Scholarship created in her name.

She is known for her friendships and her love of travel which took her many places including Mexico, East Africa, England, Italy, Greece, and the Caribbean. She also loved food and she knew the best locations for eating no matter what road you traveled. Edna is also known for her flair for interior

decorating, her appreciation of textiles, shopping, and fashion. Her generosity, feistiness, and quick retorts will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved her.

Dr. Edna Veora Allen Dean was also known as Eddy, Auntie, and Baby Sis. She leaves to cherish her precious memories: her two nieces, Lori Isaac and Dr. Jill Isaac Anderson (Kevin Anderson); her three great-nephews, Royce Isaac, Amare Anderson, and Jaydon Anderson, and a plethora of cousins and friends

Cemetery Details

Private

Previous Events

Memorial Service

JUL 8. 11:00 AM (ET)

March Funeral Home-Laburnum Ave.
2110 E. Laburnum Ave.
Richmond, VA 23222

Tribute Wall



“ To View the Webcast of the Funeral for Edna Allen Dean, Please Click the Link below.



March Funeral Homes - July 05, 2020 at 07:49 PM

KR

Dr Dean was the musician at First Baptist Church. My husband Kylor Reed was a member of the men's choir and I was a member of the sanctuary choir. We have fond memories of singing joyfully as the church worshiped God through the beautiful music she played. To the family we say as you grieve, remember the awesome contributions Dr. Dean gave to her community.

Kylor & Mary Reed - July 07, 2020 at 08:49 AM

CF

*Dr. Dean will be greatly missed in our community. she was always there as an advisor and a friend. She always had those encouraging words. Always kind and concern about people,. and the town of Farmville. She will be missed, but never forgotten.
Chuck & Frances Reid*

Chuck & Frances - July 07, 2020 at 10:18 AM



“ Edna Allen Dean

October 13, 2022 at 08:33 AM

“ I had the honor and privilege of knowing Auntie for my ENTIRE life so there are so many memories that I have of her. She was not only my mother’s sister, she was my BONUS mom.

In recent years, the antics of my mother and aunt have earned them the nickname of Thelma and Louise. But their amusing interactions in their golden years were really not that much different from all of the OTHER years.

I remember when Auntie lived in California. It was like Good Cop, Bad Cop but instead it was Good Mom, Bad Mom, not that Auntie was bad but she was always pushing the limits. Auntie got to baby sit in California. My mother told her no bubble baths because it irritates the skin. At Auntie’s place, I remember there was ALWAYS a pink bottle of Mr. Bubbles in the bathroom on the edge of her bathtub. So...it was usually the very FIRST thing that was done at her house.

I always thought that little kids were supposed to be quiet. But I remember Auntie changed all of that when she taught me to ASSERTIVELY raise my fist in the air and holler out, “Power to the People,” with EXTRA emphasis on the letter p. Then there were the disagreements between my mother and aunt as to whether or not Auntie was REALLY hanging out with the Black Panthers.

I remember Auntie passing through California again when I was pregnant in my last trimester. She suggested we meet for lunch and she introduced me to The Cheesecake Factory in Marina del Rey. When she saw me, she said with her usual sense of humor, “You sure are pregnant.” We laughed and talked and I think that’s why I love The Cheesecake Factory to this day.

There are so many memories...I remember traditions, the Sunday family dinners at 2:00, and her playing piano afterwards. I remember her openness to difficult conversations. She was personable and a potty mouth all at the same time.

I remember so many amusing conversations over meals at home and on the road that I had the opportunity to witness between my mom and her. They argued a lot. But I know that it was simply sibling rivalry. They TRULY loved each other. I remember asking Auntie if she liked being in Richmond and she said, "I want to be with my sister. And, I like Jill taking care of me." Auntie had a tough side, but she also had a very tender side.

Auntie was always pushing the limits. I LOVED that about her and wanted to be like her when I grew up. She inspired me to travel internationally. I love African art and the color orange just like her. I aspired to be able to match her flair for dressing and home decorating. She was a progressive woman and worked hard once falling asleep while walking across the floor. But she was also domestic and sexy...remembering that walk of hers. And, I hoped to be a fabulous cook like her and a connoisseur of fine dining and entertaining.

I have so MANY memories of all the different faces of Auntie. The rough Auntie and the tender Auntie. The humorous Auntie and the militant and rebellious Auntie. The talented, progressive, domestic, authentic, and sexy Auntie. She was multifaceted like a diamond. She was an inspiration, a role model, and an extraordinary bonus mom.

I miss her so much, but her memory will remain strong, vibrant, and so very valuable. Our diamond. Job well done Auntie. Rest well.

Lori Isaac - July 20, 2020 at 11:36 PM

CS

“ 2 files added to the album *79th Birthday*



Clara James Scott - July 13, 2020 at 05:10 PM

CS

“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



Clara James Scott - July 13, 2020 at 05:03 PM

RV

“ *I 'm so very sorry to hear of Edna's passing. We first met when we were little girls and we all played the piano. She and Edwilda lived across the street from my grandparents (Charles and Florence Lancaster) who I visited each summer. Our families knew each other well.
My prayers and sincerest condolences are with you all.
Most Sincerely,
Rosemary Hawkins Valentine*

Rosemary Valentine - July 13, 2020 at 10:00 AM

ST

“ /

Sandra Hawkins Thomas - July 13, 2020 at 09:42 AM

LI

“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



Lori Isaac - July 08, 2020 at 02:22 PM

LI

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Lori Isaac - July 08, 2020 at 02:18 PM

SG

“ To Edwilda and the Allen Family,

I was saddened to her of the passing of "Baby Sis." She along with you, your mother and father, and your grandfather were part of the Griffin family and Griffin children's world growing up. "Baby Sis" was one of the teenagers who looked out for all of us growing up. She always made me feel special from as early as I can remember. She was a great member of the First Baptist church community and always a help to my father and mother.

I remember her as a beautiful, intelligent and empathetic young woman. She made a contribution to the Farmville and Prince Edward County early, and never stopped contributing. She will be missed.

Leslie F. "Skip" Griffin, Jr.

Skip Griffin - July 08, 2020 at 08:28 AM

DW

“ Dorothy White purchased the Simply Elegant Spathephyllum for the family of Edna Allen Dean.



Dorothy White - July 08, 2020 at 01:41 AM

MH

“ I extend my heartfelt condolences to the family of Dr. Edna Allen Dean. As a young professional, she took me under her wings and gave me much needed advice that has served me well throughout the years. I am grateful for her candor, humor, and sincere commitment to her community. She leaves a rich legacy.

Michael Herndon - July 07, 2020 at 10:10 PM

JS

“ Joy Cabarrus Speakes lit a candle in memory of Edna Allen Dean



Joy Cabarrus Speakes - July 07, 2020 at 08:27 PM

CS

“ 5 files added to the album Memories Album



Clara James Scott - July 07, 2020 at 05:21 PM

DJ

*Edwilda and family,
Baby sis has been in my life since I was born many years ago. She and her family were lifelong friends and protectors growing up as well as our neighbor. Baby sis was so kind and thoughtful and I loved to hear her play the piano and organ at First Baptist church. I called her baby sis so long growing up I did not realize her mother had named her Edna, LOL. I will miss my friend because that is who she really was, a friend.*

Deborah White and family

Deborah white Jackson - July 08, 2020 at 11:45 AM

CB

“ A friendship that began when we both completed social work degrees (60s) has been sadly terminated -rest in peace Carolyn S Bowman MSW

Carolyn S Bowman - July 07, 2020 at 04:16 PM

CS

“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



Clara James Scott - July 07, 2020 at 02:33 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet* was purchased for the family of *Edna Allen Dean*.



July 06, 2020 at 10:53 PM

LW

“ *Dear Family,*
You're in our thoughts and our prayers.
We shall always remember Edna fondly, as she was a lovely person.
God bless,
Cousin Laneuville Scott Walker and family

Laneuville Scott Walker - July 06, 2020 at 09:19 PM

JS

“ I was so saddened by the passing of a dear friend Edna. She was so sincere kind and thoughtful. Her mother use to bring her and Edwilda out to the house when we all were kids and they loved to play in the country. Edna did so much for the community, her church and encouraged so many students while she was a professor at Longwood. If you had a down day Edna would have you laughing and forgetting how you felt. I will miss her. She was a diamond in the rough. May she rest in peace.

Joy Cabarrus Speakes

Joy Cabarrus Speakes - July 06, 2020 at 08:43 PM

SJ

“ We are saddened by the loss of Dr. Edna Allen Dean. She has been an Educator, Mentor, & Friend. She exhibited kindness, loyalty and concern for humanity. May her soul Rest In Peace! Her Labor is not in Vain! Peace & Blessings to the family!

sybil jones - July 06, 2020 at 05:46 PM

SJ

Sincerely

Bobby, Sybil and Family

sybil jones - July 06, 2020 at 05:49 PM

JV

The Cumberland County Branch NAACP sends our condolences to the family of our Life Member, Dr. Edna Allen Dean.

JoAnn R Vaughan - July 08, 2020 at 12:23 PM

KS

“ To my cousin Edna we are going to miss very much, I was so shocked to hear of your passing. But I was always proud to hear of all of your accomplishments it I deemed it honor to say whenever your name was mentioned that's my cousin. Rest in peace my beautiful cousin until we meet again love and miss you!!!!

Kirk L Spencer - July 06, 2020 at 09:07 AM

CH

“ In predominantly white colleges a couple of decades ago, there were black professors who not only served in academia but were bridges and safe spaces for first generation black students navigating new terrain. At Longwood University one such person was Professor Edna Allen Bledsoe. She impacted countless students. I am one of those students. I am so grateful that our lives crossed. You are one of the reasons I dedicate my life to service. RIP Soror Edna

Charlene Hill - July 06, 2020 at 01:22 AM

EM

“ So very sorry to hear about the passing of my friend, Edna She and Edwilda were like sisters to me. We were blessed to have her select and perform the music for our wedding . Condolences to the family. She will be greatly missed.

Erenest E. Miller - July 05, 2020 at 12:52 PM

JC

“ I am feeling so sad over the loss of one of my dear friends, my "sister", Edna - fondly known as "Baby Sis" - "back in the day". Having known Edna and her sister, Edwilda, since they were 5 and 6 years old, respectively, practically all of our lives, I am mourning her like one of my family members. I spent many happy times in their home in town, and they often visited me on the farm in Darlington Heights. I will NEVER forget how warm and hospitable their mother and father, Mr. and Mrs. Allen, were to me! They treated me like one of THEIR daughters!! Like my cousin, Jeanne, I had my first bath in a "real" bathtub with Edna and Edwilda, instead of a tin tub. Also, I enjoyed my first waffles and omelets there, at the hands of Mr. Allen. He ensured that I was "well-fed". Those are some of my fondest memories of my childhood!!! We giggled a lot for years and I spent nights with them at their home in Richmond, and later, at Sunrise of Richmond. On my last visit to see Edna and Edwilda in late February, we reminisced about old times, and teased each other about our old boyfriends at Robert Russa Moton High School. I was not able to visit them since, because of the coronavirus. Edna was kind and funny, and I am going to miss her so much.
LOVE YOU, GIRL!

Joan Johns Cobbs

Joan Johns Cobbs - July 05, 2020 at 12:49 PM

LI

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Lori Isaac - July 04, 2020 at 03:15 AM

LI

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Lori Isaac - July 04, 2020 at 03:09 AM

CL

“ *Christina, Carol, Estrellita, Carlotta, Loretta purchased the Heavenly and Harmony for the family of Edna Allen Dean.*



Christina, Carol, Estrellita, Carlotta, Loretta - July 03, 2020 at 07:55 PM



“ A sympathy card was purchased for the family of Edna Allen Dean.



July 03, 2020 at 05:33 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Edna Allen Dean.



July 03, 2020 at 03:03 PM



“ Edna “Baby Sis” was a friend and neighbor in Farmville, VA. My fondest memory of her is as one of our first baby sitters. As a teen and young lady, she always had time to spend with her little neighbors! Thank you, Edna, for many fun-filled hours in your care! Rest In Peace! Love to Edwilda and family!

Cocheyse Griffin-Epps - July 03, 2020 at 11:31 AM



“ I grew up with Edna and Edwilda. There are so many memories - spending weeks at their house in town/ bathing in a real bath tub instead of our tin tub on the farm— their Dad’s great school lunches - and so many more. She and Edwilda were two peas in a pod- what will Edwilda do without her? ? And how fortunate Edna was to have such a devoted and loving niece like Jill! ❤️

Jeanne Johns Adkins - July 03, 2020 at 10:53 AM

DT

“ Dr. Bledsoe (Edna).. Thank you for reach out to me in 1987 and offering me a ticket to new opportunities. Encouraging me to step into an area that was absolutely unfamiliar. I trusted your word back then and I can truly say it was one of the best decisions I've made in my life. When I said yes to STP'87 it connected me to people that I have come to call my Longwood family. The work was challenging but well worth it. You were determined to see me succeed and not fail. You were determined that I'd land on campus and be as bright and sharp as anyone else in the classroom. You were a giant in a land of ordinary people. When you pushed me thru the door of opportunity, I never looked back. I am who I am today partly because of you. A scared kid entering into Longwood. I am now proudly recognized as Dr. James Trent.... THANK YOU!!!!!! RIP... That which you imparted in me, I will share with others, I will share all of my fond memories of you with others. Your legacy will continue to live.....

Dr. James Trent - July 02, 2020 at 04:38 PM

SB

“ Ms. Edna was also my musician at Tearwallet Baptist church and she was just such a calm and lively person. And I always enjoyed when she played the Organ. Ms. Edna had a beautiful smile and such a warm heart. To the family weeping endurance for a night but joy will come in the morning. My condolence to the family. Susie Thornton



Susie Thornton Booker - July 02, 2020 at 03:16 PM

JP

“ Edna was a person who could always lift your spirits. She could make you laugh or provide words of comfort, depending o your need. I had known her for many years and she was also our musician at Tearwallet Baptist Church for about 15 years... My sincere sympathy to Edwilda and the family ~ Joanne Smith Petty



Joanne Petty - July 02, 2020 at 02:40 PM

DW

“ Edna's was a classy lovely lady. I enjoyed every time we were together. She was a great support for me always.I did her hair for 20+ years. I will miss her. Condolences to the family.
Dodie White
Our Salon United in Lynchburg

Dodie White - July 02, 2020 at 01:26 PM

KA

“ What we loved: Her sense of humor, she had the ability to heal hearts and she never met a stranger. She was the best social worker and her legacy will live on. To the family thanks for sharing her with us!



Kamala Allen - July 02, 2020 at 01:04 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.

March Funeral Homes - July 02, 2020 at 11:49 AM