



## Edna Keys-Chavis

January 2, 1954 - July 24, 2020

### Legacy of Love

Edna Elizabeth Keys-Chavis entered into eternal rest on Friday, July 24, 2020. She was a wonderful mother, friend, businesswoman, support, trailblazer and amazing woman overall.

Edna was born in Saluda, Virginia on January 2, 1954 to parents Wirt and Virginia Keys, both of whom have preceded her in death. When her mother passed suddenly, she and her siblings moved from New Jersey back to Virginia and were raised by her uncle James Burrell, Sr. (now deceased) and wife Dollie Burrell, along with their five children--James Burrell Jr. (Ettora), Anton Burrell, Donna Burrell, Craig Burrell (Mary) and Eric Burrell. Edna never lost sight of this selfless act, and used every opportunity she had to frequently honor and celebrate her aunt and uncle.

Edna graduated from Armstrong High School in 1972. She furthered her education in Petersburg, Virginia at Virginia State University, where she majored in Business Administration. There she met and married her husband, Eugene Williams. They relocated to Maryland, and she continued her

education and graduated with honors from Morgan State University in Baltimore, MD. Throughout her life, she continued to educate herself and earn many certifications and awards. From the marital union, a daughter, Mickia, was born.

Edna loved the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and her life was a testament of her faith and beliefs. In any adversity she faced in life, she trusted God to guide her. Edna was an active member of Real Life Ministries in Richmond, Virginia, where Rev. Dr. Deborah M. Martin is pastor. She demonstrated her love for Christ through how she openly loved people, and often went out of her way to extend kindness to others.

Before her retirement in 2007, Edna was a long-term City of Richmond employee, ultimately rising to the position of Richmond City Clerk, an executive position, appointed by Richmond City Council. Her appointment in 1991 made her the first female and the first African-American to serve in this role. Edna provided superb leadership for 16 years as the Clerk, resulting in the office receiving many outstanding service awards and recognitions.

Edna participated where she saw a need--whether socially or politically--joining numerous boards and committees to further impact change. When she helped, she contributed her full energy, talents, and time to serve. Some causes that were dear to her involved advocating for families, women, and lessening the impacts of poverty and lack of education. Some of her most notable (public) awards were becoming the YWCA's 25th Annual Outstanding Women award recipient in Government/Politics and for being an active committee member in the slavery reconciliatory statue installment in 2007.

Edna was stylish and lived a vibrant life. She never met a stranger; people she encountered came to love and adore her. She was an avid traveler and among some of her favorite trips were lengthy stays in Dubai and many parts

of South Africa. She was also very compassionate and gave generously to many philanthropic causes locally and abroad, very often donating anonymously.

Edna leaves to cherish her memories a devoted family: daughter, Mickia Hemingway; six siblings, Genevieve Burrell, Lewis Burrell (Angela), Linwood Keys (Carolyn), William Keys, Mildred Gray and Yvonne Keys. Although she was not the eldest sibling, she functioned and supported her family and extended family as its matriarch. She will be greatly missed. Edna also leaves a host of nieces, nephews, great nieces, great nephews, cousins, a beloved friend--former Richmond City Mayor Larry Chavis, and her Maltese dog Bree who would often be seen with Edna in coordinated attire on their long walks.

Edna Keys-Chavis, was an amazing woman.

# Cemetery Details

## **Mt. Calvary Cemetery**

1400 South Randolph Street  
Richmond, VA 23220

# Previous Events

## **Walk through Visitation**

**JUL 31.** 11:00 AM - 5:00 PM (ET)

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

## **Celebration of Life**

**AUG 1.** 10:00 AM (ET)

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

# Tribute Wall



“ To View the Webcast of the Funeral for Edna Elizabeth Keys-Chavis, Please Click the Link below.



**March Funeral Homes** - July 28, 2020 at 10:58 AM

CH

*To the family  
So sorry for you loss.  
Cathy A Harris Ruther Glen Va*

**Cathy Harris** - July 28, 2020 at 11:43 AM

VA

*Sending prayers and condolences.....*

**Valane** - July 31, 2020 at 09:33 AM

DW

*I was so sorry to hear of Edna's passing. I will always remember her grace and friendship while working in City Hall. I send my condolences to her family and friends. Rest in peace Edna*

**Daisy Weaver** - July 31, 2020 at 09:57 AM

DS

*We will always remember Edna's loving spirit and kindness.*

*Family, Remember, Edna will be forever in our hearts.*

*We send our prayers and love to you always.*

*Robert and Darlene Scott and Family*

**Darlene Greene Scott** - August 01, 2020 at 10:18 AM



“ *Edna Keys-Chavis*

October 13, 2022 at 08:33 AM



“ *Edna Keys Chavis, when you walked this earth, you was one special jewel. So many will miss your beautiful smile. You have left and indelible mark on this earth. Earth have loss a precious jewel, but heaven have gain a star, Rest In Peace special lady*

**Lionel Jordan Sr** - August 03, 2020 at 02:01 PM



“ *Brenda Jordan-Shelton lit a candle in memory of Edna Keys-Chavis*



**Brenda Jordan-Shelton** - August 01, 2020 at 02:10 PM



“ *Evangeline Washington lit a candle in memory of Edna Keys-Chavis*



**Evangeline Washington** - August 01, 2020 at 12:17 PM

FB

“ I am forever grateful for Edna's mark on my life. In the Office of the City Clerk, she took the time to challenge and coach me and many others to excellence. A true visionary and gifted administrator, she will forever be one of my role models for career and life. Mickia, your mom was a jewel whose facets will continue to shine brightly in the lives of many, including mine. May God bring you His peace and comfort.



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**Felicia Craighead Boyd** - August 01, 2020 at 11:20 AM

HM

“ Helen McCall lit a candle in memory of Edna Keys-Chavis



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**Helen McCall** - August 01, 2020 at 10:59 AM

WB

“ My condolences to Lewis and the family in the passing of our dear sweet angel, Edna!  
Edna and I were high school friends. Edna was warm, loving and compassionate as a teenager with a smile that would light up a room! These attributes she exemplified throughout her life.  
Farewell dear Edna  
God has called you to rest  
You gave to all your best  
Wanda Botts

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**Wanda Botts** - August 01, 2020 at 10:46 AM

BC

“ *Barb CookeJames lit a candle in memory of Edna Keys-Chavis*



Barb CookeJames - August 01, 2020 at 10:38 AM



“ *She was a wonderful person, I will surely miss her warm spirit. Your family will be in my thoughts and prayers*  
*Rita McDaniel*

Rita Terry McDaniel - August 01, 2020 at 09:22 AM

BJ

“ *More than 30 years since Edna and I worked together at City Hall and although I had not spoken with her in recent years, I watched her progress in her career and was honored to call her a friend. Deepest sympathies to the family. Brenda Johnson*

Brenda Johnson - July 31, 2020 at 07:38 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Edna Keys-Chavis.*



July 31, 2020 at 06:57 PM

CW

“ Remembering a special friend with unique style and unending grace. Rest in Peace - Angle of Love. With heartfelt sympathy to Mickia and Family.

CT and Clara Woody

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Clara Woody - July 31, 2020 at 05:12 PM



DH

“ The prayers and thoughts of the Hathaway family are with the Keys-Chavis family as you prepare to celebrate Edna's new life in heaven. I am confident that your faith in God's promises will sustain you in this new season of life. Dr's Milton & Sylvia Hathaway & Family.

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Dr Milton A Hathaway - July 31, 2020 at 03:15 PM



TR

“ Sorry for you loss Mickia. Sending thoughts, love and prayers during this difficult time. May God comfort you.  
Trisha

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Trisha Redmond-Garrett - July 31, 2020 at 02:30 PM

LW

“ There are people who enter your life and make an impression. Edna was surely that type of person; kind, loving, giving, a great listener and supportive. I thank God for having her as a friend and cousin and I know that she is safely in His arms.

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Linda Worsley - July 31, 2020 at 02:25 PM



M.

“ CONDOLENCES AND PRAYERS TO THE FAMILY. WE ARE RTAY PROUD OF HER ,BEING A DAUGHTER OF OUR CONGREGATION UNDER THE PASTORAGE OF THE LATE BISHOP JOHN W. PERNELL. SHE SERVED WITH BEAUTY,CLASS,AND PROFESSIONALISM. SHE MADE HER MARK PHILLIPIANS 3:13. REST IN PEACE ! FROM BISHOP MILTON J. HUNT AND THE REFUGE TEMPLE CHURCH FAMILY!

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**milton j .hunt** - July 31, 2020 at 01:12 PM

RT

“ Sending My Prayers and Condolences To The Family of Edna Keys-Chavis. I will not ever forget her Bless and Sweet Spirit.  
*Ramona Taylor*  
*Former City of Richmond Co-Worker*

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**Ramona Taylor** - July 30, 2020 at 10:42 PM

TB

“ Tamara Alexander Ryan and Jamila Braxton purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Edna Keys-Chavis.



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**Tamara Alexander Ryan and Jamila Braxton** - July 30, 2020 at 05:57 PM

TR

“ I am forever grateful to Mrs. Chavis for being a mentor to me when I was starting my career in public service. She taught me so much. We stayed in touch over the years, and I will miss our chats. My love and prayers go out to the Mickia and the family. All my love,  
*Tamara Alexander Ryan*

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**Tamara Alexander Ryan** - July 30, 2020 at 05:52 PM

CI

“ Colliers International purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Edna Keys-Chavis.



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**Colliers International** - July 30, 2020 at 11:50 AM

MF

“ Mildred Bullock Smith and family purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of Edna Keys-Chavis.



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**Mildred Bullock Smith and family** - July 30, 2020 at 09:38 AM

DT

“ To the family you have my heart felt condolences. I will miss my friend dearly and will never forget the fresh cut flowers that adorned her desk. Rest in Power Edna.

*Dalee Thomas*

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**Dalee Thomas** - July 30, 2020 at 08:46 AM

WJ

“ Wendell Johnson lit a candle in memory of Edna Keys-Chavis



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**wendell johnson** - July 30, 2020 at 07:19 AM

EC

“ *To Sis Mickia & Chavis Williams Family!*

*May Jesus comfort your hearts, Edna was a sweet person to have known. Sis Mickia, please know when we live for Jesus, you will see her again! God Bless you & entire family! We are praying for you & family!*

*Love, Evangelist "Sister" Donna & Min Bradford Clayton*

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**Evangelist Donna & Min Bradford Clayton** - July 29, 2020 at 10:23 PM

CH

“ *We are so sorry for your loss. She has left an empty place in our hearts and neighborhood. Carolyn and Dick*

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**carolyn Hoagland** - July 29, 2020 at 06:24 PM

CB

“ *We were so sorry to learn of Edna's passing. We were neighbors in Chester for several years, and enjoyed getting to know her. She was lovely and kind, and will be missed not only by us but by many in River's Bend. We're praying for your family.*

*With sorrow,*

*Barney and Cathy Boyle*

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**Catherine Boyle** - July 29, 2020 at 06:16 PM

H)

“ *Henrietta Woody ( Rickey's Sister ) lit a candle in memory of Edna Keys-Chavis*



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**Henrietta Woody ( Rickey's sister )** - July 29, 2020 at 05:43 PM

H)

*Mickia i am so sorry for your loss,you and your family are in my prayers.*

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**Henrietta Woody ( Rickey's sister )** - July 29, 2020 at 05:49 PM

TA

“ *The Robinsons (Cheryl, Lynwood, Virginia and Alex) purchased the Sweet Sincerity for the family of Edna Keys-Chavis.*



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**The Robinsons (Cheryl, Lynwood, Virginia and Alex)** - July 29, 2020 at 05:01 PM

WR

“ With the deepest of heartfelt sympathy, we extend our condolences to Edna and family. We fondly remember Edna as we stepped onto Virginia State's campus as young freshmen women. She was a caring and loving friend who brought us all together in so many ways. We will miss you, but never forget that we shared a part of our lives with you. Do rest peacefully, my friend. The Robinson Family, Cheryl (Keen), Lynwood Robinson, Virginia and Alex.



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**Willa C Robinson** - July 29, 2020 at 04:41 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Edna Keys-Chavis.



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July 29, 2020 at 03:07 PM

DJ

“ Darlene Jordan lit a candle in memory of Edna Keys-Chavis



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**Darlene Jordan** - July 29, 2020 at 02:50 PM

TG

“ We send our deepest condolences to the family. Please let us know if there is ANYTHING we can do to help.

*Daniel, Tiffany, Karter and Ethan Gresham*

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**Tiffany Gresham** - July 29, 2020 at 01:30 PM

MC

“ To the family & friends of Edna Keys-Chavis,

*We at Mount Calvary Cemetery wish to express our deepest sympathies for the loss of your loved one and we pray that God will help to ease your pain in the days to come. We are proud and honored to be chosen as the final resting place for Edna. This is a responsibility that we do not take lightly and I pledge the highest level of perpetual care to honor her memory. Please do not hesitate to call us with any concerns or if there is anything we can do to make these difficult experiences any easier.*

*Jim Glass  
General Mgr.  
Mount Calvary Cemetery  
804-355-5271*

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**Mount Calvary Cemetery** - July 29, 2020 at 01:06 PM

DH

“ To the family of Edna Keys-Chavis,  
*Praying for you and hoping that in time peace and comfort will heal your heart. I will remember Edna as a beautiful and caring neighbor that was very dear to me. Memories of her will bless you always in the everyday things that still carry the tenderness of her life.*

*Thinking of you,  
Dr. Shelia D. Hines*

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**Dr. Shelia D. Hines** - July 29, 2020 at 08:26 AM

DA

“ So sorry for yor loss. Edna was the first person I met when I moved 18 years ago. She was a great friend and wonderful neighbor. She will be greatly missed.

*Darryl Spitzer*

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**darryl** - July 29, 2020 at 08:10 AM

EP

“ My prayers are with the family. We were blessed to be next door neighbors (Chester - Riversbend) for a few years. Blessed more to have her as a friend. We will miss her. She was a wonderful and kind lady.

*Much Love,  
The Pankey Family*

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**Eric Pankey** - July 28, 2020 at 11:33 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Edna Keys-Chavis.



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July 28, 2020 at 02:34 PM

TC

“ To the Keys family, my thoughts and prayers are with you all. Edna was such a sweet spirit and always a classy lady. May God's peace and love comfort you now and the days to come.

*Tarsha Mason- Candelaria*

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**Tarsha Mason - Candelaria** - July 28, 2020 at 02:33 PM

LA

“ *Loretta Y. Adkins lit a candle in memory of Edna Keys-Chavis*



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**Loretta Y. Adkins** - July 28, 2020 at 02:29 PM

LA

*It is with sorrow I learned of Edna's passing. We go back to the 70's, Edna doing testing in personnel. Such dignity with a smile always on her face, I will never forget her. REST WITH THE ANGLE'S, my friend.*

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**Loretta Y. Adkins** - July 28, 2020 at 02:45 PM

WB

“ *Praying for the Chavis family. Our family thought so much of Mrs. Chavis. She was very special to us especially our Dad Walter T. Kenney, Sr. Rest In Peace. ❤️*

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**Wilma Battle** - July 28, 2020 at 12:09 PM

VJ

“ *It was sad to hear of Edna's passing. I remember times of laughter and her smile as we approached to talk together on E. 16th Street, Richmond.*



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**Velda Bernadette Jackson** - July 28, 2020 at 06:53 AM



“ 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** - July 27, 2020 at 04:47 PM