



Erla Marie McKinnon

July 30, 1919 - May 17, 2017

ERLA MARIE MCKINNON, daughter of the late Eliza Beatrice Jackson and William McKinnon, was born on July 30, 1919 in New York City, New York. She was the only child born to this union. On the wings of the angels, the Lord called her home to eternal rest on Wednesday, May 17, 2017.

Mrs. Erla McKinnon's early childhood was directed by strong religious training which became the backbone of her commitment to her family, friends, co-workers, community and Baltimore City. She was a staunch supporter of the Democratic Party.

Personally, she was a dedicated member of St. James' Episcopal Church where she virtually attended every Sunday. She was known to have given her thoughts to the priest while he was delivering his sermon.

Erla graduated from Fredrick Douglas High School in 1938. Following high school, she attended Coppin State College (as it was named at that time) and obtained her B.S. Degree in Elementary Education. Her appetite for more education lead her to New York University where she received a M.A. Degree in Elementary Education. Her graduate work included sociology and and guidance counseling at Morgan State College, University of Maryland, Johns Hopkins University, Towson State College, and numerous in-service trainings.

Erla loved to teach elementary classes. She was often heard to say "These children are entering their formative years. So, we need to shape their minds."

Erla retired as a guidance counselor in July, 1977 after thirty-five years of service in the Baltimore City Public School System. She was later appointed to the School Board for five years.

During Erla's sixty-plus years of membership to St. James' Episcopal Church, she served in many ministries. These included: St. Martha Guild, the Vestry, the Search Committee, Chairman of the Food Bank and Outreach where clothing and food was donated to those who were in need. Her membership in the Food Bank was invaluable. Erla founded the Outreach Ministry over thirty years ago and remained an active member. Erla gave her time and talent generously to the many ministries she served.

The community lauded over Erla's efforts for reaching the unattainable. In an effort to enrich the minds of women, she became a Charter Member of Woman Power, Inc. Some of the other organizations include: Baltimore City Police Community Relations Committee, Commissioner of Urban Services Agency, Greater Mondawmin Neighborhood Association, and The New Ashburton Neighborhood Association.

Erla treasured the time spent with her best girlfriends and family members celebrating birthdays, retirement and traveling. Her great pleasure came from traveling by bus, plane and cruising to various destinations. Yes, she was a "Lady on the Move." The first Sunday in August, the Homecoming Service at the New Ridgeway United Methodist Church in Pittsville, VA, was an annual trip she never missed. She let no one or anything interfere with this trip because she was "going home."

During her illness, the many acts of kindness from her family and friends

served as a testament to her generous and loving spirit. Erla's presence and influence will be greatly missed. If you happen to travel through the 2400 block of Longwood Street, look for the sign that reads "Erla McKinnon Way". This was one of her proud moments.

Left to cherish her memory are: her sister, Pearl Robertson; brother, Edwin Haynes (Pearl); sister-in-law, Betty; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and many friends.

Cemetery Details

Lincoln Memorial

Suitland, MD

Previous Events

Public Viewing

MAY 25. 8:30 AM - 8:00 PM (ET)

March Funeral Homes - West Baltimore
4300 Wabash Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21215
(410) 542-2400
info@marchfh.com

Family Hour

MAY 25. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

March Funeral Homes - West Baltimore
4300 Wabash Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21215
(410) 542-2400
info@marchfh.com

Wake

MAY 26. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

St. James Episcopal Church
1020 W. Lafayette Ave
Baltimore, MD 21217

Service

MAY 26. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. James Episcopal Church
1020 W. Lafayette Ave
Baltimore, MD 21217

Tribute Wall



“ *Erla Marie McKinnon*

October 13, 2022 at 08:33 AM



“ *May your hearts soon be filled with wonderful memories of joyful times together as you celebrate her life.*

Ella Allen-Huskey - May 28, 2017 at 05:56 PM



“ *When the Baltimore Women for Change former group Women for Obama met it was a pleasure to meet you.*

angela pinder - May 26, 2017 at 04:13 PM

DW

“ Aunt Earla was my mother's best friend. Not a day went by that momma, Dr. Mary Antoinette "Toni" Phillips and Aunt Earla didn't talk. In fact, they would talk several times each day. I don't remember when Earla wasn't my mother's friend.

She attended my wedding and every important event in my life. On Mother's Day, she shared with me how much difficulty she had breathing Saturday night. But she still declared, "But Leah, I'm grateful!" That's the kind of spirit she had. She was consistently grateful for life.

I know of few people who worked as hard, served as faithfully, loved as genuinely and gave as much, yet took so little. She truly left her footprints in the sands of all of our lives.

Russell and I, as well as the rest of our family will dearly miss this treasure of elegance.

Dr. Leah E. White - May 23, 2017 at 10:30 PM

SG

“ May 23, 2017

I first met Erla Marie McKinnon when she was on staff in the Baltimore City Gift and Talented Program. She was extraordinary in relating to her students and loved my son Patrice Marriott unconditionally. In subsequent years, she never failed to send Patrice her regards whenever she saw me.

Erla and I worked together as members of Woman Power and she became one of my most loyal supporters throughout my service as an elected official. It was a privilege to be a part of the Woman Power Celebration of Women's History Month that honored Erla Marie McKinnon as the 2016 Woman of the Year.

Salima Marriott Gibbs

Salima Marriott Gibbs - May 23, 2017 at 08:07 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.*

March Funeral Homes - May 20, 2017 at 02:01 PM