



## Mary E. Coates

April 19, 1935 - April 23, 2005

Mary Elizabeth Coates, daughter of the late Harriette Grant Coates and James Z. Coates, Sr. was born in Baltimore, Maryland on April 19, 1935. She departed this life peacefully on Saturday April 23, 2005 after a long illness. Mary was the "Baby Girl" of nine children - with three older sisters and five younger brothers. Mary loved her family and put their needs before her own. Mary attended the public schools of Baltimore graduating from Douglass High School in February 1954. After attending Morgan State University for two years, she left college and entered Government Service. Mary worked 10 years for the Internal Revenue Service before transferring to the Social Security Administration where she remained for twenty-one years retiring in 1988 as a Claims Authorizer. In 1990 Mary joined the Clerical staff of Howard County Public Schools where she served as Secretary in the Maintenance Department and at Burleigh Manner Middle School. She retired from Howard County in the year 2000. Mary never really retired. In between careers in Government Service and the public schools, she became the church secretary and returned to be a substitute teacher in the Howard County schools. Never having a family of her own, Mary became a "mother" to many - friends, coworkers, and relatives. She listened to the heartfelt concerns of all who came to her. She gave advice, counsel, rebuke, comfort and encouragement to anyone she encountered. Her entire life was dedicated to helping others. As a child she stood up for and protected her sisters and brothers. As a young woman she cared for her many nieces and nephews, whether sick or well -

Aunt Mary was always there. She shopped all the time, and in her room she kept boxes of gifts. No one who came to visit her during the holidays and special days left without a gift. She made everyone feel special. In later years she took care of her parents, lovingly nursing her widowed mother during her last days. Mary's dedication to people reached out beyond her family to her co-workers, friends and neighbors. She was a confidant and Big Sister to many young women on her job. She had a friendly and sweet smile and a kind word whenever and wherever you met her. Mary leaves to cherish her memory: her three sisters, Harriette Lane Johnson, Winifred Henderson and Doris D. Coates; her five brothers, James Z. Coates, Jr., Paul Anthony Coates, Michael J. Coates, Ridgley S. Coates and Robert H. Coates; one uncle, Joseph Coates (Alverta); three aunts, Cecelia Grady, Mildred Jackson and Gaither Coates; two goddaughters, Tanya Travers Williams and Allison McClarry Toland; and a host of other nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives, friends and a loving church family. Submitted with sorrow; yet in VICTORY The Family

# Tribute Wall



“ *Mary E. Coates*

March 25, 2023 at 10:25 AM



“ *Mary E. Coates*

October 13, 2022 at 08:33 AM



“ *My deepest sympathy during your time of sorrow but knows that the God of comfort is with you all during this time of tribulation. (2Corinthian 1:3-4) Due to the many unforeseen occurrences that brings tragedy to our lives Jehovah God promises one day soon Death will be no more (Rev 21:3-4) and his son have been given the authority to bring all those in the memorial tombs back to life. John 5:28-29 What a wonderful prospect for our future.##imported-begin##Carter##imported-end##*

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ *Dear Family, I am very sorry to hear about your loss but please be assured that Almighty God looks down and sees your plight. He promises you that in the very near future he is going to swallow up death forever and raise the dead to life again and we will all live in a paradise earth free from all the problems of this old dying system. Please read Isaiah 25:8,9;John 5:28,29 and Revelation 21:3,4 to find these promises of or God and Father.##imported-begin##Sophia Briscoe##imported-end##*

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ We were very shocked to hear the news that Aunt Mary had passed. Our deepest sympathy goes out to the family and our prayers are with you all. I will never forget Aunt Mary. I was always happy to see her warm smile when I visited at church, and will always remember "Sunshine" - especially since I was one of the original "Sunshine Girls". Love to the family - The Wilders - Brian Sr., Karla, & Brian Jr.##imported-begin##Karla Wilder##imported-end##

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July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ Thank God that Mary let her light so shine before others, that they saw her good works and how she glorified her Father in Heaven. The Good Shepherd will comfort each of you and strengthen you according to His Word. God is your Shield, your Glory and the Lifter of your head. God Bless You. Lula Roy & Family.##imported-begin##Lula Roy##imported-end##

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July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ Love Ones, You're in our hearts and minds. It's very hard to put in words the sympathy we feel but we hope this lets you know how we feel and how much we care. We, too, were shocked and saddened to hear that Mary had passed. Mary touched our lives in many ways. Mary's life spoke of her faith in the gospel of Christ and in her death we rejoice that for a child of God absent from the body means present with the Lord. May this be your comfort at this time as it has been ours. You continue to be in our prayers. Love, Andrew & Alberta##imported-begin##Andrew & Alberta Talley##imported-end##

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July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ God Bless, Comfort and Strengthen you in this time of your loss and find comfort in knowing she fought a good fight and is present with the Lord. Love and Prayers. Mary Stoddard Gordon###imported-begin###Mary Stoddard Gordon###imported-end##

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July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ Barbara and I had the privilege of sitting with Mary at dinner during the convocation in December. We spent the whole time talking about how Barbara and I met, our family, etc. I knew then that Mary wasn't feeling well because I noticed that she appeared tired and slower than usual. Nonetheless, it was a joy to spend that time with her, and she even spoke about it again the next day when we saw her at breakfast. As far back as I can remember Mary has been an example of faithfulness. I can hardly remember not knowing her. We are certainly going to miss her, but we look forward with anticipation to the first resurrection where we'll never have to part again. Our prayers are with you. Love, Tony, Barbara, Lois and TJ Hurst###imported-begin###Anthony & Barbara Hurst###imported-end##

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July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ Only God can heal the heartache of losing a loved one. Be comforted in knowing that Mary made her calling and election sure and we shall rejoice with her in glory!###imported-begin###Phyllis Biscoe###imported-end##

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July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ Our prayers to the family , casting all your cares upon Him, for He cares for you Be Blessed, love Butch & Cyndylou###imported-begin###Mr & Mrs Alphonso (Butch) Woods,Sr###imported-end###

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ "My heart can sing when I pause to remember a heartache here is but a stepping stone", are words to a song Mary taught me to sing. Mary's departure is one of the stepping stones along the trail that's winding ever upward. I thank the Lord for allowing her to share her life with me while letting me know the joy of living for Christ. She was the Lord's handmaiden and a wonderful friend who I will greatly miss. Mary tirelessly showed us how to love the Lord and how to love one another. The Haven of Rest, Sanctuary of Praise Church, Adams, Turner, and Brown-Dodd families also extend their condolences to the family.###imported-begin###Shirleen Adams###imported-end###

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ Leon and I will forever be grateful to God for allowing Sister Mary E. Coates to be such a vital and loving part of our Church Family. Her loving and generous spirit and her love for the lord will always be something we will cherish. Her walk with God was always evident and now she is resting in the one she so faithfully served. To the family may the love of God embrace you now as you go through this time of loss in your life. "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." Psalm 46:1###imported-begin###Kismith & Leon Travers###imported-end###

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ To the family of our beloved Sister Mary. My family and I have been truly blessed to have known Sister Coats. She always had a pleasant smile and disposition to us. Sister Mary and my daughter Faith shared the same birthday. They always had a "April 19" connection. I am not able to attend Sister Coates Homegoing service due to another obligation, but family be encouraged. "(2 Tim 4:7) I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: (2 Tim 4:8) Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing." Mary is alright now, resting from her labor! God Bless. Pastor Jamie & family###imported-begin##Pastor Jamie###imported-end##

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“ I am truly thankful to God that he allowed me to meet a true servant of God, known as Sunshine, she brought light and sunshine to many people of all ages. I will miss all of the talks we had and the encouragement she gave me. Last time we talked she was concerned about my illness and if I was taking care of myself. I really enjoyed working with her getting the items together for convocation. I am praying for the family because we will all miss Mary. Remember that when the sun is shining, even when the clouds are out I will be thinking of her, because she is the sunshine in my heart.(Janice) I will miss aunt Mary deeply. During our last conversation she let me know that she was proud of me and I could do whatever I put my mind to. I looked forward to going to camp when I knew I was old enough to be a "SUNSHINE GIRL" I will never forget the time we spent trying to make sure the computer in the church office was running correctly. I LOVE YOU AND MISS YOU.(La Vira)###imported-begin##La Vira Brown###imported-end##

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July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ To the Coates Family: My deepest condolences to your family in the passing of Sis.Mary Coates. Sis.Mary will forever be "Sunshine" and my fondest memories of her will be those shared at Camp Lightfoot as a youngster. I will miss her bright smile and words of encouragement when I'd visit the church with my mother. She will be forever missed! Respectfully, Towanda Gray##imported-begin##Towanda Gray##imported-end##

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“ I have so many wonderful memories of Mary and the family. One that stands out is sitting in the kitchen on Gilmore Street and eating all those wonderful meals on Sunday after one service and going back to Union. I praise God for having someone so special in my life. You are truly in my prayers.##imported-begin##M. J. Abbyss (Mae)##imported-end##

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July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ Family, You are in our thoughts and prayers, and you have our deepest sympathy. Mary will be missed by everyone. May God love comfort you.##imported-begin##Abram & Ernestine Taylor##imported-end##

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July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ Frank - I will miss Mary dearly as I depended heavily on her to keep things running smoothly in the Church Office. I will forever cherish our relationship -- God said it was time for her work to be finished and now she can finally rest from her labor. Robyn - During our last conversation in the Church Office on the Sunday before she entered into the hospital, I had the opportunity to give her a "switch tee" for not calling us to let us know she was ok. I will cherish Mary's meticulous work ethics and the drive/desire to serve in all areas of the Church -- She will be sorely missed. Children - Sis. Mary was always faithful and loved the young people -- she always supported & encouraged us in our activities. Family, be encouraged that Mary fulfilled her purpose and is now at rest.##imported-begin##Frank, Robyn Chris, TJ & Kamille##imported-end##

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July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ God is a great God, HE can do anything but FAIL!! I was so saddened by the news of Aunt Mary's passing. My fondest memories of Aunt Mary were when I was a little girl at Camp Lighfoot. We could not wait until we turned 11 or 12, so that we could become a Sunshine girl. We will never forgetting her singing Sunshine girls, let's get up, let's get up Sunshine girl. Love, Tommy, La KEnya, Tommy, Cameron and Jordan Ervin##imported-begin##LA Kenya and Tommy Ervin##imported-end##

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July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ I am deeply saddened to hear of Mary's passing. However, my heart rejoices to know that she lived her life as a faithful servant of the Lord and has gone on to be with Him. I will always have fond memories of Mary and the kindness and love she shared with me and many others. My thoughts and prayers are with the family.##imported-begin##Cordelia(Butler)Freeland##imported-end##

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“ To the Coates Family: I was very sad to hear about the loss of Sister Mary. I will forever remember the wonderful and loving person that she was and how much she always encouraged me and gave me a warm embrace whenever I was able to come home for a visit. Due to my military duties I am unable to attend the funeral, but I am praying for you all and that God will renew your strength. I am blessed to have met such a wonderful Saint in Sister Mary Coates. SK2 Mychal L. Travers, United States Navy.##imported-begin##SK2Mychal L. Travers##imported-end##

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July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM