



Ruby Mills Taylor

August 12, 1917 - October 24, 2003

RUBY ELIZABETH MILLS TAYLOR, a loving and inspiring spirit, was born to a large east Baltimore family on August 12, 1917. She is the thirteenth of fourteen children parented by the late Samuel William Francis Mills and Fannie Banks Mills. During the early morning hours of Friday, October 24, 2003, Ruby made her transition in the comfort of her home in the arms of a beloved friend and caregiver. In a life marketed by scholarship and service, Ruby Taylor began her early education in the same Baltimore City School system to which she later returned to serve generations of youth for thirty-eight years. She was graduated from Douglas Senior High School and attended the pre-college program there before entering what was then called Morgan State College. There she obtained her Bachelor of Science degree in Biology in 1940 and was awarded membership in the science honor society, Beta Kappa Chi. Her career path as a science educator required her to continually update her knowledge and remain proficient in her disciplines in order to provide the most current science education to the youth in her charge. Her continuing education led to further study at Johns Hopkins University, Indiana University, the University of Pennsylvania, Towson State College (as it was known at the time), the University of Maryland and Loyola College of Maryland, where in 1966 she received her Masters in Education. Ruby began her teaching career as a substitute teacher in Baltimore City during World War II. She inspired a love of learning, exploration and discovery in the many classrooms where she taught, including those in the Colored High

School at Sparrows Point and Salisbury High School in Salisbury, Maryland. In Baltimore, Maryland, she taught at Dunbar Senior High School, Lombard Junior High School where she served as department head of science, and Walbrook Senior High School where she also headed the science department. Perhaps her greatest professional joy came in creating enthusiasm in her students for penetrating the mysteries of life, and learning about their own development and the environment around them. She taught Biology, Earth Science, the Ecosystem of the Chesapeake Bay, Astronomy, General Science, Chemistry, Health, Human Sexuality and Human Physiology. Ruby took pride in having instructed whole families of children and young people who, themselves, have become significant contributors to their own communities. In the "old school" tradition of teaching, she made home visits to talk with her students' parents when she had concerns about their performance or attendance. She was also known to follow her students and their careers throughout their lifetimes and to provide ongoing love, encouragement and sometimes even financial help. In the early years of her career, Ruby met Raymond Bernard Taylor of Washington, DC through a mutual friend. The couple married in March of 1945 upon his return from military service in the European theater during World War II and settled in northeast Washington DC. After six years, they moved to west Baltimore where they resided throughout their twenty-two years of marriage. Ruby and Raymond loved ballroom dancing, card parties and travel, and Ruby inspired much of Raymond's poetry writing. In October 1949, the two were blessed with the birth of a daughter, Maybelle Anne Taylor, whose spiritual growth, analytical thought and artistic talents they nurtured throughout their lives. In April of 1967, Raymond made his transition at the age of fifty-nine, and Ruby became a single parent of a college-age daughter, whom she continued to support and encourage throughout all of her personal and professional adventures. In February 1975, Maybelle blessed Ruby with her only granddaughter, whom she immediately embraced with the warmest of "grandmother love." Ruby developed deep lifelong friendships with sorors from

Morgan State's Alpha Delta undergraduate chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha (AKA) Sorority, and sorors of Baltimore's graduate AKA chapter of Epsilon Omega. For years she supported the sorority's Salute to Outstanding Young Women programs, scholarship fundraisers and many other service projects that encouraged and supported young talent in the Baltimore City community. She was a "golden" soror, having been an AKA since 1939, for sixty-four years. She proudly introduced her daughter to the sorority and the culture of the scholarship and service these women represented. Her daughter Maybelle has been an AKA since 1969, for thirty-four years. Ruby was a member of a group of women who called themselves "The Pals," who came together when their husbands were in military service during World War II. Together, these women and their families have shared over sixty years of love, fun and mutual support, which continues through today. Similarly, Ruby has remained close to a core group of former Dunbar Senior High School faculty members who come together as friends to share stimulating discussions of socio-political issues, community interests and family events. Her signature characteristic, familiar to family, friends, colleagues, students, church members, neighbors and casual acquaintances alike, was the extremely high standard of excellence that she set for herself and those with whom she came into contact. She led by example in the classroom, her home, her neighborhood, and her church. Her service to her community was no exception. She applied her science expertise as a twenty-year volunteer at the National Aquarium at Baltimore, as a Girl Scout leader, and as a judge in local science fair competitions. She has maintained her support of Friends of the Baltimore Zoo and the Maryland Science Center, and gave tickets to these facilities as gifts to family members and friends. In addition to these activities, Ruby remained supportive of her Alma Mater, Morgan State University, through her membership in the Howard L. Cornish Alumni Chapter. She has been a member of St. Peter Claver Catholic Church for over fifty years, and served for many of those years as a member and President of the Altar Guild. Always

eager to learn something new, Ruby studied to become and later served as a docent at the Baltimore Museum of Art in her sixth decade of life; took computer classes in her seventh decade; and pursued piano lessons in her eighth decade. She was active in her Coppin Heights-AshCo East Neighborhood Association, and served on the Planning Board for the Coppin Heights Community Development Corporation as well as the Board of Directors for the Neighborhood Housing Services of Baltimore. Ruby was a skilled seamstress and handcrafts woman in crochet and embroidery, which she taught her daughter, and in whom she instilled the “pride of craftsmanship.’ Ruby, her mother Fannie, and sisters, Agnes, Anna, Mabel and Sarah were the inspiration for Maybelle’s passion for knitting, weaving and spinning. Even in the last two years of her life, Ruby, her daughter and caregiver Effie Bellamy, took a quilting class. In a Tribute Celebration held on August 10, 2003, some of 300 of her family and friends gathered to wish Ruby well on her 86th birthday and to express their love for the many roles she played in their lives. The family wishes to thank all those whose presence surrounded her at that time. There were few places in the City of Baltimore where Ruby Mills Taylor could go without encountering a student, former co-worker, a fellow volunteer, a family member or friend who would recognize her and warmly embrace her. Her light shone for eighty-six years of her journey here on earth, and shines still in our hearts. Ruby was preceded in death in transition by her husband Raymond Bernard Taylor, and by twelve brothers and sisters: Agnes Voila Mills Thomas, Roland Mills, William Mills, Charles Washington Mills, Elmer Jerrett Mills, Mabel Hester Mills Carver, James Mills, Mary Jane Mills, Fannie S. Mills, Bernard Daniel Mills, Ernest Banks Mills and Sarah Emma Mills Wicks; and a number of brothers and sisters-in-law. Ruby will be lovingly remembered by: her devoted daughter, Maybelle Taylor Bennett; her beloved granddaughter, Rebeccah Leah Bennett; her only surviving sister, Anna Rebecca Mills Chester; and a host of dearly loved nieces, nephews, cousins, family and friends.

Tribute Wall



“ *Ruby Mills Taylor*

March 25, 2023 at 10:25 AM



“ *Ruby Mills Taylor*

October 13, 2022 at 08:33 AM



“ *To the Taylor's Family: I would like to express my sincere condolences to the family and friends. It may seem unfair that death has the power to take away someone that we love. The Bible is comforting in this regard. It promises a "resurrection" {Acts 24: 15}. Yes, Almighty God, through his Son Jesus Christ, will bring back our dearly beloved ones. I pray that you look to the God of all Comfort, that comforts us in all our tribulation.##imported-begin##Denise King##imported-end##*

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ *To the family of Rudy M. Taylor, my deepest condolences on the lost of your loved one. May you find comfort in the scriptures. At John 5:28-29, the bible assures us that those who have fallen asleep in death and who are in God's memory will rise again. The bible also tells us at Isaiah 25:8, in the near future God will bring a permanent end to death. May these scriptures comfort you and your family.##imported-begin##Albert Washington##imported-end##*

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ My condolences to the family; ours were families that shared growing together and nurturing each other. Ruby Taylor was a celebration of life and touched so many of us. It is an honor to have known her and her family. Thank you. Peace##imported-begin##Nancy Ross Baskerville##imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ My deepest sympathy during your time of sorrow but know 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 Just think there will come a time not only will death be no more but Jehovah promises that no one will have to say I'm sick according to Isaiah 33:24. I feel the need to express these words of hope because so many of us today treasure the gift of life and we do all we can to maintain it to hold on to it. That is why it hurts so badly when our loved ones die. With so many of us desiring life today no matter how good or bad it is we still want life here on earth. No one looks forward to that time of death. That is why I am under obligation by the spirit and love of God to share that hope that is in our near future that the righteous shall inherit the earth and reside upon it forever according to Psalms 37: 29 along with the above stated promises on a paradise and peaceful earth. We all can hold true to this everlasting promise because Isaiah 55:11 states all the words Jehovah have spoken WILL NOT RETURN WITHOUT RESULTS. What a wonderful prospect for our future especially enlight of the fact that Hebrews 6:18 States of God, it is IMPOSSIBLE for him to lie.##imported-begin##Carter##imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM