



Victorine Q. Adams

April 28, 1912 - January 8, 2006

Victorine Quille Adams, daughter of the late Joseph C. Quille and Estelle Tate, was born on April 28, 1912 in Baltimore, Maryland. Following a beautiful and glorious sunrise, Victorine peacefully departed this life on Sunday, January 8, 2006. The Quille family of four, which included Victorine's brother the late Sgt. William C. Quille, was united in love, devotion and Christian ethics. The pursuit of education rang supreme in the Quille household. Education was a customary expectation as were attending church, displaying good manners, obedience and respect for others. Mrs. Adams embraced the educational principles and values taught in the Quille Family. She graduated with honors from Frederick Douglass High School and then continued her studies at the Coppin Normal School. In 1930 Mrs. Adams earned a degree in education and began her teaching career. Mrs. Adams later earned a Bachelor of Science degree from what was then Morgan College and pursued graduate work at the New York University School of Business. In 1935 Victorine married her soul mate and the love of her life - William L. Adams. One might call them the "ideal couple" because of their complimentary, life-long legacy and affection for business, civic and community outreach. Mrs. Adams possessed a quiet and gentle spirit, quick wit, positive attitude and an irresistible smile that defined her life and set the tone for her dignified determination to give voice to African-American women. Being the wife of William Adams did not force Victorine to live in the shadow of her husband's business success. A businesswoman within her own right, Mrs. Adams was owner and manager of

Charm Center, Inc., an upscale ladies apparel boutique on Pennsylvania Avenue. The Charm Center boutique not only clothed the outer woman, but Mrs. Adams personally dressed the inner woman by lecturing on grooming, personality development and social graces. Her commitment to the growth of women, her concern for the family unit, and her love for the rights of the underprivileged was the springboard to her untiring involvement for a better quality of life for African Americans. An ardent civic leader and passionate activist, Mrs. Adams identified with a plethora of civic, political and social organizations. Her outstanding political accomplishments have been publicly recognized on many occasions and include countless citations and awards. Most notably was the outstanding documentary, "The Visionaries", which depicted the life of Victorine Adams and was premiered on Maryland PBS in December 2001. In 1946 Mrs. Adams organized the Colored Women's Democratic Campaign Committee in the Old Fourth District. Voter rights weighed heavy on the heart of Mrs. Adams. She initiated a Junior Registration Corps to train children to "get out the vote" and later directed a Register-to-Vote Campaign that enrolled more than 4,000 people. For this accomplishment, she was elected to the Afro-American Honor Roll in 1949. She secured teams of volunteers to man the voter registration stations throughout the city in an effort to locate and register potential new voters, especially the young voters. Along with her fellow Colored Democratic Campaign Committee, she joined other leaders in preventing the redistricting of the city. In 1958, Mrs. Adams joined with Ethel P. Rich and organized "Woman Power". In its first year, the Woman Power Leadership Conference desegregated Baltimore City's downtown hotels. Victorine Adams was a driving force and source of power in the Baltimore community. In the 1960's she was elected to the Maryland Assembly and was later elected and served 16 years on the Baltimore City Council. She was distinctly recognized as being the first African American woman elected to the Baltimore City Council. Parallel to her political aspirations, Mrs. Adams had a zeal for assisting the poor; thus, the Baltimore Fuel Fund was born. The Baltimore Fuel Fund, the

first of its kind in the nation, was a model for other cities and was one of Mrs. Adams' major contributions during her philanthropic career. The fund was started in 1978 with the support of the honorable William Donald Schaefer and the Baltimore Gas and Electric Company. By 1981 the state established the Maryland Fuel Fund, in partnership with WMAR TV2, and was organized as an umbrella group of metropolitan counties being served by the Baltimore Gas and Electric Company. Furthering her community endeavors in the 1970's, Mrs. Adams spearheaded a special project known as the Century Club which directed a successful door-to-door campaign to raise funds for the new Provident Hospital's first building fund drive. Her efforts with the Provident Hospital Century Club raised over \$173,000.00 - an unprecedented amount to be raised by an African American during this era. Blessed with the impeccable gift of organization, Victorine Adams had the ability to seamlessly pull together a team of supporters to accomplish enormous and often difficult tasks. She was well-known for her "write-in" campaigns that brought about new meaning to the collective power of the pen. Her write-in campaigns historically undergirded many of the freedoms we enjoy today. One of her single greatest write-in campaigns resulted in the location of the Social Security Complex in downtown Baltimore which generated more than 6,000 new jobs and 10,000 auxiliary job opportunities in this area. The fervor of Mrs. Adams can be found woven through the golden threads of many other organizations where she served faithfully. They include Phi Delta Kappa, Sigma Gamma Rho, Iota Phi Lambda Sororities; Negro Business and Professional Leaders; National Council of Negro Women (organized the first chapter in 1948); Baltimore Urban League; NAACP; Charmette Inc; School Marms; Martinques, Inc,; League of Women Voters; N.O.W. - Women Together; Council for Cultural Progress; Hanlon Park Improvement Association; Coppin State and Morgan State Alumni Associations; Health and Welfare Council Homeless Task Force; Chairperson for the City Council Task Force on Unemployment, and the Kidney Foundation. Victorine Adams took her spiritual development and

relationship with God seriously. She was a long time, active and devoted member of the St. Peter Claver Roman Catholic Church where she served on the Altar Guild. Because of her esteemed love and belief in educational values, the spirit of Victorine Adams will live for many years to come through The William L. and Victorine Q. Adams Foundation. Established in 1984, one of the goals of the Foundation is to promote the undergraduate study of business for African American students of Baltimore City. Since its inception, the scholarship has enabled many promising students an opportunity to achieve their educational goals. Mrs. Adams leaves a legacy of love and devotion to her husband of 70 years - William Adams, her stepdaughter Gertrude Venable, step-granddaughter Trudy Venable and a host of family members, close friends and the community.

Tribute Wall



“ *Victorine Q. Adams*

March 25, 2023 at 10:25 AM



“ *Victorine Q. Adams*

October 13, 2022 at 08:33 AM



“ *Ms. Adams was a very influential member of the Baltimore community. Her involvement showed that she was a loving and caring person. It is truly a sorrowful thing to lose such a special loved one. It's good to know that God has made provisions for us to see our dead loved one again (John 5:28, 29). May you find comfort from God's word during this difficult time.##imported-begin##To the Adams Family##imported-end##*

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ *To the family, I offer my sincere sympathy. As you find comfort in your many wonderful years of memories, may you also look to the "Father of tender mercies and the God of all comfort..." (2 Corinthians 1:3,4) for comfort and strength.##imported-begin##G. Winston##imported-end##*

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ MAY YOU FIND COMFORT, TRUST, AND CONFIDENCE IN OUR HEAVENLY FATHER; WHO OFFERS US A PERMANENT SOLUTION TO DEATH. READ AT ISAIAH 25:8 " AND HE WILL SWALLOW UP DEATH FOREVER." AND MY SINCERE CONDOLENCES ON YOUR LOSS.##imported-begin##C SORRELL##imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ I am among the many public officials whom Victorine Adams encouraged and inspired. She made the world a better place for generations yet unborn. It is with deepest sympathy that I share your great loss##imported-begin##Senator Delores Kelley##imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ Gertrude, You have my deepest sympathy! Death may come, but cannot bring, An end to our remembering, The ones we held as very dear, and moments shared when they were here. Death may come, but can't erase, the memory of a loved one's face. For it will always be a part of joys that live within the heart. May God ease your pain, and ever Bless and Keep You. Grace Young Jones from down the "Point" years ago.##imported-begin##Grace Young Jones##imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ Mrs. Adams was a beautiful person and will surely be missed by all who knew her. With heartfelt sympathy to the family.##imported-begin##Elizabeth Briggs##imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ Mrs. Adams was a lovely and caring lady; always greeting you with a beautiful smile and always with a kind word. As a former employee of the Victorine Q. Adams Fuel Fund, Inc. (VQAFF) for over 10 years, I had come to know Mrs. Adams very well. Even after leaving the VQAFF, over 7 year ago, Mrs. Adams always remembered me at Christmas by having poinsetta flowers sent to me at home every year. She never forgot and she'll always be remembered. With warm thoughts to the Adams' family##imported-begin##Angela Weems##imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ Victorine was a living example of the following quote by Mark Twain: Stay away from people who belittle your ambitions, small peopoe will always do that, but the truly great, will make you feel that you too can become great! She was truly one of the greats! I will miss her.##imported-begin##Edward F. Lynch, Jr.##imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ I met Mrs. Victorine in 1994 personally but had heard about all the good things that she was doing for the African American Community for years well before. She was a very close friend of my Mother-In-Law Mrs Pauline Scott. From the first time I met her she was a charm and very loving and caring woman. I had the chance to read the letter of recommendation that she wrote for my niece to enter a prestigious college. The letter was so powerful my niece was accepted with no hesitation. The start of the fuel fund was just one of the many extensions of the love and caring that Mrs. Adams had for the less fortunate. She will be truly missed. I thank God for the opportunity to have known the lady personally and her memories shall always be in my heart.##imported-begin##Lanae Scott##imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ May the peace of Christ Jesus be with the Adams family during your time of sorrow. Your sister in Christ St Peters church member##imported-begin##Mary E Cromwell##imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ Hello Family & Friends , I am so sorry to hear of your loss and I am offering my condolences. The scriptures can be of great comfort to us all. I am reminded of the scripture at John 5:28,29 where Jesus says "Do not marvel at this, because the hour is coming in which all those in the memorial tombs will hear his voice and come out." May you be comforted by this scripture.##imported-begin##Sophia##imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ Though during your time of grief it may not seem possible but there is always light at the end of every tunnel especially when someone dear has been separated from us due to death. Death in this present day is not something we want as a part of life’s cycle. Our heavenly father Jehovah God wants you to know that. He wants all people to know he is aware of all our suffering and losses due to our enemy Satan and he will soon rectify because this is not the way he purpose life to be. 1John 4:8 lets us know God is Love so out of his love for us he made a provision that only the true and Almighty God can do. Jehovah have promise according to Rev 21:3,4 that death one day will be no more... the things that causes pain and mourning will be no more. As for those we have lost to death, John 5: 28, 29 states those in the memorial tombs will hear God’s sons voice, Jesus Christ and will awaken from an eternal sleep that have been made a temporary state now due to the ransom sacrifice of Jesus Christ. How wonderful the day when you will be able to enjoy your once lost loved one to death. Yes Jehovah promises us the gift of everlasting life according to Titus 1:2. The righteous ones will reside on earth forever as he informs us at Psalms 37:29 because that have always been his purpose since the beginning of mans creation again stated at Titus 1:2. You can have trust in this promised hope because Isaiah 55: 11 states of Jehovah his words will not return to him without results. Yes trust in God’s word the bible because Hebrews 6:18 says it is impossible for God to lie. My prayers are with you.##imported-begin##B Carter##imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ please accept my sympathy on your loss. Do you know the Bible offers us hope. at Isaiah (26:19) its tell that dead will live again, they will awake and cry out joyfully. these words has comfort me and my family.##imported-begin##anna##imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ To the family of Victorine Adams. Please accept my sincere condolences during this time of your loss. Please read and find comfort in Psalms 34:18; John 5:28,29 and Rev. 21:3,4. God has promised to do away with death and the pain that it causes. May these words be of comfort to the family.##imported-begin##McNeil##imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ Dear family and friends of Victorine. I am so sorry to hear about your lost of a loved one. The bible tells of a time when we will see them again. At John 5:28,29. All that Jehovah promises will come true##imported-begin##A. Jones##imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ Hello Adams's ! May these fews words be of comfort and hope for you all. The time is coming soon when no one will ever be sick or grow old agian as the bible say Rev.21:3-5. Happy news indeed. May the God of all comfort be with you all as 1Cor.1:3. My condolences, Lillian .##imported-begin##lillian crosby##imported-end##

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“ To the family, As each day goes by, the pain may subside, but the loss never leaves your heart and mind. May you find comfort from the promises found in God's Word, the Bible at Acts 24:15 and John 5:28,29. 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##sorry2 hear##imported-end##

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