



Acknowledgements

We, the family of Elizabeth W. Graves, extend our sincere thanks for all the love, prayers and kindness shown us during this time of sorrow. May the love of God forever be with each one of you.

Arrangements Were Entrusted to:

Gregory Funeral Service, Inc. | 601 North York Street
Gastonia, North Carolina 28052 | 704-867-4364
www.gregoryfuneralservice.com

Home Going Celebration for Elizabeth Joy Worthy Graves

March 9, 1942 - August 11, 2024



Sunday, August 18, 2024

Visitation: 1:00 pm

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. - Omega Omega Service - 1:30 pm

Service: 2:00 pm

Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church
1420 Crowders Mountain Rd.
Bessemer City, North Carolina 28016

Reverend Thurman Clark, Pastor
Reverend Dr. Clinton A. Feemster, Officiating

Life Reflections

Elizabeth Joy Worthy Graves, 82, was born to the late Lindsay and Ida Worthy in Bessemer City, NC on March 9, 1942. She departed this life on August 11, 2024.

Joy attended Stewart Elementary and Lincoln High School, graduating in 1960. While at Lincoln High School, she played basketball and enjoyed singing in the choir. She furthered her education at Johnson C. Smith University, majoring in economics in 1964. During her time as a Golden Bull, she pledged Gamma Lambda Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. in 1962. Later, she earned a Master of Education Administration degree from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte in 1978.



She was an educator in Annapolis, Maryland, Alexandria, Virginia and Gaston County Schools, retiring in 1998. She then worked in Student Life Administration at Johnson C. Smith University, Livingstone University and Barber Scotia College. While her daughter was posted as a diplomat in Cairo, Egypt, she taught 3rd grade for 3 years, which she expressed was "one of the best experiences of her life".

Joy was an active member of the Charlotte Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta (DST) Sorority, Inc., Senior Citizens Organization (in which she was the Queen) and a host of community engagement projects.

She married the late Felix Graves in 1974 and they have a daughter, Candace A. Graves and grandson, Julian Graves. Joy enjoyed traveling and living around the world and anything DST related.

Precious memories are left in the hearts and minds of her daughter, Candace A. Graves; grandson, Julian Graves; siblings: Tweety W. Stewart, Tony Byers, Goldie Byers (Sevilla) and her Aunt Sherleen Gilmore Williams, all of Bessemer City, NC. She also leaves a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends to mourn her.



Order of Service

Reception of Family and Friends - 1:00 pm to 1:30 pm
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. - Omega Omega Service
1:30 pm to 2:00 pm

Opening Statement and Prayer - Reverend Thurman Clark, Presiding

Musical Selection - Henry Gilmore, III

Scripture - Old Testament - Bishop John Alvin McCullough II

New Testament - Reverend A. Wayne Love

Musical Selection - Tyrone Terry

Prayer of Comfort - Reverend Thurman Clark

Musical Selection - Lincoln Academy/Lincoln High School Choir

Words of Comfort - Reverend Dr. Clinton A. Feemster

Prayer and Benediction



There is No Night Without A Dawning

By Helen Steiner Rice

There is no night without a dawning

No winter without a spring

And beyond the dark horizon

Our hearts will once more sing

For those who leave us for a while

Have only gone away

Out of a restless, care worn world

Into a brighter day