

A Psalm of Life

BY HENRY WADSWORTH LONGFELLOW

What The Heart Of The Young Man Said To The Psalmist.

Tell me not, in mournful numbers,
Life is but an empty dream!
For the soul is dead that slumbers,
And things are not what they seem.

Life is real! Life is earnest!
And the grave is not its goal;
Dust thou art, to dust returnest,
Was not spoken of the soul.

Not enjoyment, and not sorrow,
Is our destined end or way;
But to act, that each to-morrow
Find us farther than to-day.

Art is long, and Time is fleeting,
And our hearts, though stout and brave,
Still, like muffled drums, are beating
Funeral marches to the grave.

In the world's broad field of battle,
In the bivouac of Life,
Be not like dumb, driven cattle!
Be a hero in the strife!

Trust no Future, howe'er pleasant!
Let the dead Past bury its dead!
Act,— act in the living Present!
Heart within, and God o'erhead!

Lives of great men all remind us
We can make our lives sublime,
And, departing, leave behind us
Footprints on the sands of time;

Footprints, that perhaps another,
Sailing o'er life's solemn main,
A forlorn and shipwrecked brother,
Seeing, shall take heart again.

Let us, then, be up and doing,
With a heart for any fate;
Still achieving, still pursuing,
Learn to labor and to wait.



Pall Bearers

Family & Friends

Floral Attendants

Family & Friends



Expression of Gratitude

We, the family of the late Dr. Miriam Abernathy, would like to thank each of you for your many acts of kindness that you have shown during our bereavement. It is the thoughtfulness of friends like you that gives us the strength to face the days ahead. May God bless each of you in a very special way.

The Family

Arrangements Entrusted to:

Simmons Funeral Home & Crematory of Orangeburg
Simmons Funeral Home of Santee

Paul A. Simmons, Founder and President
2868 Columbia Road, Orangeburg, SC 29118
803-534-2646



8824 Old #6 Highway, Santee, SC 29142
(803) 854-2044

www.simmonsfuneralhome.com

CELEBRATION OF LIFE FOR



Dr. Miriam
ABERNATHY

SUNRISE
December 21, 1926

SUNSET
March 26, 2023

Friday, April 1, 2023 at 11:00 a.m.

Simmons Funeral Home and Crematory
Chapel

2868 Columbia Road
Orangeburg, SC 29118

Rev. Eddie C. Williams, Officiating

Celebration of Life

Order of Service

Prelude Soft Music

Processional Clergy & Family

Opening Hymn “Amazing Grace”

Prayer of Comfort Rev. Larry McCutcheon

Scripture Readings Rev. Minnie Anderson
 Old Testament Psalm 23
 New Testament I Corinthians 15:53-28

Solo Myra Thomas

Tributes Rev. Larry McCutcheon
 Henry Robinson

Hymn “When We All Get to Heaven”

Words of Comfort Rev. Dr. Eddie Williams

Prayer, Committal & Benediction

Recessional



Reflection of Life

Dr. Miriam McTeer Abernathy was born on December 21, 1926 and was the second child and only daughter of the late Dr. E.B. (Mack) McTeer and Mrs. Claudia Geneva White McTeer of Orangeburg, South Carolina. Miriam attended Felton Training School on the campus of South Carolina State University. Her high school education was completed at Mather Academy in Camden, South Carolina.

She received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Home Economics from Bennett College, Greensboro, North Carolina, a Master of Science and Doctor of Philosophy degree in Food and Nutrition and Nutrition and Biochemistry, respectively from the University of Wisconsin – Madison. She was the first African American to receive a doctoral degree from the School of Home Economics at the University of Wisconsin - Madison. Miriam’s professional career began at South Carolina State University, where she first served as Assistant to the Cafeteria Manager. She then worked as an Instructor, Assistant Professor, Professor and Chair of the Department of Home Economics at Tennessee State University in Nashville. Her last 25 years in post-secondary education were spent as a Professor of Nutrition and Coordinator of the program in Food and Nutrition at South Carolina State University.

She was married to the late Dr. Robert O. Abernathy from Dallas, Texas, who was a Professor and Chair of the Department of Mathematics at South Carolina State University. Together, they travelled extensively, visiting 70 countries and six continents. Miriam made the voyage with her sister in law, Dr. Mamie Abernathy McKnight to the seventh continent, Antarctica.

Miriam was an active member of Trinity United Methodist Church where she served on the Trustee and Administrative Boards, as a collection steward, and as a member of several committees. She was an active member of the Trinity United Methodist Women. She was a member of the Board of Trustees at Claflin University for 19 years. Dr. Abernathy was also a devoted member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Miriam was a Registered Dietitian with the American Dietetic Association and was the first African American to serve as president of the South Carolina Dietetic Association. After her retirement in 1994, she embarked on a very active career as a realtor.

Her volunteer activities included TRMC auxiliary and TRMC Hospice both at the Regional Medical Center of Orangeburg. She also volunteered with Habitat for Humanity. Miriam loved traveling, playing the piano, playing word games and pinochle, and flower gardening. She was dedicated to her work as an educator – one who enjoyed and always delighted in helping others learn.

In addition to her parents, Dr E.B. and Mrs. McTeer, Miriam was preceded in death by her husband, Dr. Robert O. Abernathy, her brother, Dr. William Austin McTeer, and her nephew William A. McTeer, Jr. Miriam leaves to cherish her loving memories her cousin who she considered a son, Anthony F. Williams (Angela) of Hopkins, SC along with his mother Barbara J. Williams of Orangeburg, SC, nieces, nephews, cousins, and other loving relatives and dear friends, all of whom will miss her dearly, but rejoice that she is with the Lord.