



## Adell Thompson Adams

July 29, 1941 - February 19, 2020

Early Wednesday, February 19, 2020, the Lord called another soul from earthly labor to heavenly reward. Adell Thompson Adams quietly left this earth at her residence in Columbia. Born July 29, 1941, in Columbia, South Carolina and was the fourth of five children born to the late Roy Walker Thompson and Nettie Holliday Thompson.

A 1956 graduate of Harbison Junior College, she spent a gap year in New York before entering Benedict College in Columbia. She earned a Bachelor's of Arts degree in Music Education with Magna Cum Laude standing in 1962. While at Benedict, she met the love of her life, Benjamin E Adams. To this loving union, two children were born: Benjamin, Jr. and Adrian. Thirty-four years of marital bliss ended on July 5, 1995, with his death.

In the early 1970s, Adell became a community activist in numerous organizations including: Greenview Neighborhood Club; Congaree Girl Scout Troop; SC Teachers' Association; Richland Educators' Association, where she served as president; SC Educators' Association, where she also served as president) and the Columbia Chapter of the NAACP, where she and her late husband were members of the State Board Conference. Additionally, she served as Chair of the Richland County Election Commissions until 2019 and was instrumental in creating single member districts for Richland County Council, making it possible for African-Americans to be elected to the Council.

For all her many accomplishments, she has had numerous highway recognitions including Interchange #555 at I-20 named the Adell T. Adams Interchange.

In addition to her parents and her husband, she was preceded in death by two brothers: Roy Walker Thompson, Jr. and Fred Albert Thompson; a sister Shirley Thompson Mazzie.

She leaves to cherish precious memories her two sons Benjamin E. (Karen) Adams, Jr. of Columbia and Adrian E. (Shawn) Adams of Marietta, Georgia; five grandchildren: Terrell, Adrian Jermaine, Ryan, Keosha, and Malcolm; seven great-grandchildren; one sister Katherine (Henry) Griffin of Columbia; a host of other relatives and friends.

# Cemetery Details

## Memorial Gardens of Columbia

Columbia, SC

# Previous Events

## Public Viewing

FEB 28. 1:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Palmer Memorial Chapel - Columbia  
1200 Fontaine Place  
Columbia, SC 29223  
(803) 786-6300  
palmermemorialchapel@gmail.com  
<https://www.palmermemorialchapel.com>

## Family Visitation

FEB 28. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Palmer Memorial Chapel - Columbia  
1200 Fontaine Place  
Columbia, SC 29223  
(803) 786-6300  
palmermemorialchapel@gmail.com  
<https://www.palmermemorialchapel.com>

## Public Viewing

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FEB **29**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Luke's Episcopal Church  
1300 Pine Street  
Columbia, SC

## Celebration of Life

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FEB **29**. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Luke's Episcopal Church  
1300 Pine Street  
Columbia, SC

# Tribute Wall



“ *Adell Thompson Adams*

October 04, 2023 at 11:33 AM



“ *Jacqueline Utsey Boulware Aka Jackie lit a candle in memory of Adell Thompson Adams*



**Jacqueline Utsey Boulware aka Jackie** - May 07, 2020 at 05:02 PM



“ *I REMEMBER MRS.ADAMS AS KIND,  
SOPHISTICATED AND SINCERE IN HER  
AFFILIATION WITH NAACP:  
HER EFFORTS FOR HUMANKIND WILL  
ALWAYS BE FONDLY CHERISHED  
AND APPRECIATED ::  
REST IN PEACE !  
LEON N. & VIRGINIA RICHBURG  
AND FAMILY  
MANNING, SOUTH CAROLINA*



**LEON N.RICHBURG,SR** - March 03, 2020 at 03:57 PM

SJ

“ *Condolences To The Adams Family, May God continue to comfort and strengthen you during this difficult time.*



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**Stina Tucker Johnson** - March 02, 2020 at 11:12 PM

JA

“ *Adell Adams was an articulate, outspoken member of The South Carolina Education Association and The Richland County Education Association. She was a groundbreaker and mover and shaker in both organizations. She was a strong, Black woman who was not afraid to stand up and speak out. I greatly admired her.*

*I'm sorry for your loss.*

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**Joyce Abel** - February 29, 2020 at 05:35 PM

CP

“ *To the family: She will be missed, a very strong woman. She didn't let her health stop her.*  
*Rest from your labor on earth!*



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**Catherine A. Palmer** - February 28, 2020 at 09:48 PM

CM

“ *Cynthia Buford - McDuffie lit a candle in memory of Adell Thompson Adams*



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**Cynthia Buford - McDuffie** - February 28, 2020 at 06:58 PM

MJ

“ Adell and I shared leadership of the Richland County Board of Elections as a cohesive team. We were coworkers on the Richland County Democratic Women's Group and the SC Silver Haired Legislature, dedicated to community betterment. Her tireless efforts and voice for the citizens of South Carolina will be missed. Rest In Peace, Adell.

Marjorie L Johnson - February 28, 2020 at 02:09 PM

CM

We the Girls Scouts Salute U for a job well done. U help to mold us to the young women we are today. Mrs.Adams gave us a voice, one that let us know that we could be anything our Heart desires. U introduce us to so much. Ur job here was well done. So take ur rest. Mrs.Adell Adams.

Cynthia Buford - McDuffie - February 28, 2020 at 07:08 PM

JJ

Oh My God!!! I did not know that Mrs. Adams had passed until today, May 7, 2020. This is hard. I too join Cynthia McDuffie in saluting her. She was an AWESOME worrier! She instilled a lot of positive things in the girls of the Greenview Community. I too was raised in her Girl Scout Troop. She introduced us to so much and gave us so many life learning experiences. She helped to build my self-esteem and her along with my mom, taught me that I can do anything that I set my mind to. She taught us to value education and to speak up for what is right. Thank you, Mrs. Adams, for all of the countless hours you put into all of us girls in the neighborhood! I will never forget you.

Jacqueline Utsey Boulware aka Jackie - May 07, 2020 at 05:01 PM

JW

“ Mrs. Kat we are sending my deepest condolences to you and your family. May God continue to be with you all during this hard time.

Love, Jessica, Zy'Mirah and Zachariah Wilson..

Jessica Wilson - February 28, 2020 at 10:01 AM

MF

“ Maurice Hill & Family purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Adell Thompson Adams.



Maurice Hill & Family - February 28, 2020 at 06:45 AM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Adell Thompson Adams.



February 27, 2020 at 10:39 AM

TF

“ The Seibles & Stewart Family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Adell Thompson Adams.



The Seibles & Stewart Family - February 27, 2020 at 08:33 AM

TH

“ Ms. Adell was my neighbor in Greenview and my (motherly) boss when I served on the Richland County Election Commission with her. RIP Ms. Adell, you will be missed!  
Tina Herbert



Tina Herbert - February 27, 2020 at 07:57 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Adell Thompson Adams.*



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February 26, 2020 at 06:29 PM



“ *Memories to Treasure was purchased for the family of Adell Thompson Adams.*



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February 26, 2020 at 12:07 PM



“ *Yvette Taylor lit a candle in memory of Adell Thompson Adams*



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**Yvette Taylor** - February 25, 2020 at 10:19 PM



“ *Deepest sympathy to the family of Adell T. Adams. May you find strength and comfort in God during this difficult time.*

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**The Christies** - February 25, 2020 at 09:10 PM



“ *My heartfelt condolences to the family and love ones*



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**Rosalind Means-Alford** - February 25, 2020 at 04:26 PM