



Mrs Almenia Benbow Richardson

March 19, 1930 - January 4, 2014

Almenia Benbow Richardson, wife of the late Leon Norman Richardson, passed on Saturday, January 4, 2014 at the Sumter Health and Rehabilitation Center of Sumter. Born in Williamsburg County, she was a daughter of the late James Benbow and Bertha Filmore Benbow.

She was educated in the Williamsburg County Public School and was a graduate of Tomlinson High School in Kingstree, SC. She earned a Bachelor of Science Degree from Allen University of Columbia, SC and in 1976 a Master's Degree from the University of South Carolina. She did further studies with the University of Iowa and South Carolina State College in Orangeburg, SC.

Almenia began her teaching career at Liberty Street Elementary School and in later years Alice Drive Elementary, where she remained and retired after forty two years of service. After retirement, her love for teaching continued with both the Head Start of Sumter and Shaw Air Force Base Head Start program. Almenia's professional affiliations were numerous and included: South Carolina National and American Education and Parent Teachers Associations (PTA) and the International Reading Association. She was a Golden Life member of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated; a Founding member of the Eta Zeta Omega Chapter of Sumter and Camden, coordinator of Reading is Fundamental (RIF) Services and advisor instrumental in the chartering of Nu Gamma Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated of Morris College of Sumter.

Almenia attended Mt. Pisgah AME Church and later joined Emmanuel United Methodist and served faithfully as a Sunday School Teacher and with the United Methodist Women.

In addition to her husband and parents, she was preceded in death by her sister, Mozella Bristow and three brothers in-law.

Surviving are three sisters; Mable Davis, Wilton, CT, Theresa Smalls, Georgetown, SC and Inez Washington of Sumter, SC; a brother, Franklin (Geneva) Benbow, Philadelphia, PA, three sisters-in-law, Edna Richardson and Azalee Richardson of Sumter and special caretaker, Berthenia R. Willis of Tallulah, LA. Elizabeth White, a dedicated caretaker of the home; a special niece, Deborah Coleman Calhoun, who is like a daughter and a host of other relatives.

Funeral Services will be held 1:00 pm Saturday, January 11, 2014 at Emmanuel United Methodist Church, South Main and Bee Streets, Sumter, with Rev. Doris R. Bright, officiating and Rev. Willie F. Dicks, Jr., Eulogist. The public may view on Friday from 1:00 to 6:00 pm, at the Palmer Memorial Chapel, 304 South Main St., Sumter. The Sorority, Ivey Beyond the Wall Service will be from 7:00-8:00 pm. on Friday. Mrs. Richardson will be placed in the church at 12:00 noon for viewing until the hour of service. Interment will follow in the Hillside Memorial Park. The family will receive friends at the residences of her sister, Inez Washington, 509 Dicks St., and Deborah Coleman Calhoun on 819 Club Lane, Sumter.

Memorial Tributes may be made to: Education Advancement Foundation of Alpha Kappa Alpha, Sorority, Incorporated, P. O. Box 1444 Sumter, SC 29151. Palmer Memorial Chapel Inc. is in charge of the arrangements. Please leave condolences for the family on their website found at:
www.palmermemorialchapel.com

Cemetery Details

Hillside Memorial Park

3001 Cains Mill Rd
Sumter, SC

Tribute Wall



“ *Mrs Almenia Benbow Richardson*

October 04, 2023 at 11:33 AM



“ *To be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord. Praying that God grants you all the peace that passes all understanding during this most difficult time. Ms. Inez Washington, you did an awesome job is caring for your sister I know this from all the times you talked about her and prayed for her. You and your family continue to trust God in all things and give him praise for the wonderful life she lived. Peace and Blessing,*

Phaedra Queen

Phaedra Queen - January 11, 2014 at 05:30 PM



“ *IotaOmega Omega Alpha Kappa Alpha lit a candle in memory of Mrs Almenia Benbow Richardson*



IotaOmega Omega Alpha Kappa Alpha - January 11, 2014 at 10:11 AM

SB

*Near a shady wall a rose once grew,
Budded and blossomed in God's free light,
Watered and fed by morning dew,
Shedding its sweetness day and night.*

*Shall claim of death cause us to grieve
And make our courage faint and fall?
Nay! Let us have faith and hope receive_
The rose still grows beyond the wall.*

Soror Larissa Cuffie, Basileus - January 11, 2014 at 10:20 AM

HM

“ IT IS PROFOUND SORROW THAT I ACKNOWLEDGE THE PASSING OF SISTER RICHARDSON AND EXPRESS MY SYMPATHY TO THE FAMILY. I PRAY THAT GOD CONTINUES TO BLESS AND COMFORT EACH OF YOU. A SPECIAL BLESSING UPON SISTER INEZ WASHINGTON WHO STOOD BY HER DEAR SISTER'S SIDE IN HER TIME OF NEED. MAY YOU ALL BE LIFTED UP AND ENCOURAGED TO CONTINUE THE LEGACY OF YOUR DEAR SISTER THROUGH FAITH IN GOD, SERVICE TO HIS CHURCH AND IN SERVING THE NEEDS IN YOUR RESPECTIVE COMMUNITIES.

GOD BLESS YOU,
HELENA MILLS
COLUMBIA, SC

Helena Mills - January 10, 2014 at 09:36 AM

AM

“ Our loved ones live forever in our thoughts and in our hearts. May many happy memories bring comfort at this difficult time. Almenia was a beautiful person. We pledged Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, while attending Allen University in the fifties. What a wonderful sorority sister, I loved her dearly. She can now rest in peace in God's precious garden of pink roses. Sleep my dear sister.

*Soror Amy J. McLester
Allen University Class of 1955
Iota Omega Omega Chapter
Camden, S.C.*

Amy J. McLester - January 10, 2014 at 08:20 AM

MM

“ God bless Mrs. Richardson. She was a dedicated church member who served the youth at Emmanuel of which I was a part of. She later became my soror. She was a faithful and dedicated servant and shall be blessed perpetually. Blessings to the family. I am hopeful that they will find solace in knowing others are prayerful for them.

*Marsha McKenzie
Dr. Jackie McKenzie
Charlotte, N.C.*

marsha McKenzie - January 09, 2014 at 09:31 PM

MM

“ Marsha McKenzie lit a candle in memory of Mrs Almenia Benbow Richardson



marsha McKenzie - January 09, 2014 at 09:22 PM