



Mrs. Barbara Toni Gadegbeku

February 6, 1936 - January 20, 2016

In Loving Memory of Barbara Toni Chandler Gadegbeku

On January 20, 2016, Barbara Toni Chandler Gadegbeku, 79, former resident of Kingstree, South Carolina, peacefully transitioned from this world. Barbara Toni Chandler Gadegbeku was born in Williamsburg County, the daughter of the late Dr. Samuel David Chandler (Kingstree or Salters, SC) and the late Mrs. Luvenia Williams Chandler (Cope, SC). She was educated in the public schools of Williamsburg County and graduated from Tomlinson High School 1956 in Kingstree, South Carolina. She received her Bachelor of Science degree in Biology and Chemistry from South Carolina State University. After graduating from South Carolina State University, she matriculated at Howard University, Washington, DC, pursuing a Master's of Science degree in Vertebrate Zoology with a specialization in Embryology. It was there she met her husband of 53 years, Dr. Polycarp "Doc" Kwame Gadegbeku from Monrovia. The couple was married on February 15, 1958. They moved several times during their early years of marriage, living in Louvain, Belgium, Toledo, Ohio, and Monrovia, Liberia, West Africa before finally returning to the United States. They settled in Kingstree, SC. Though from a small family, her dream was to have many children. Together, she and Doc raised seven children - four girls and three boys.

During those years of travel, Mrs. Gadegbeku, affectionately known as Ms. G, continued to pursue her education through study and research at the

University of Louvain, Belgium. She became fluent in the French language, a gift she used in the corporate community of Baxter-Travenol Laboratories, Inc. as a translator of quality control letters and documents. She was also published academically in the field of Embryology, studying transplantation of ovaries in *Drosophila*.

She worked tirelessly in the Kingstree community as an educator in the high school and technical college. She managed a daycare center for many years. Always an entrepreneur, she was the owner of several small businesses and managed real estate. She was active as a community activist and a political voice for the people, serving on numerous community boards and projects for the town and county. She was however happiest serving and advocating for the youth of her community. She enjoyed her many social and Masonic-affiliated circles of friends. She and Doc were known for their entertainment and travel with their friends and children.

“Ms. G” was a phenomenal mother. She nurtured and instilled the love of God, education, books and music in all of her children. She had a melodious voice and an artistic hand with drawing and crafting. She was also instrumental in raising nieces, nephews and grandnieces in her home as they settled in the United States from West Africa.

Her voice will continue to resonate in the hearts of her many family members, including children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews and cousins: Dr. Benetta Bell (Gary), Columbia, SC; Dr. Philippe Gadegbeku (Lesley), Duluth, GA; Dr. Linda Toomer (Eugene), Suwanee, GA; Mrs. Diane Evans (Kenneth), Conway, SC; Mrs. Irene Hodges (DeWayne), Debary, FL; Mr. Samuel Gadegbeku, Columbia, SC; Mr. Polycarp Gadegbeku, Jr., Florence, SC; and 14 grandchildren - Jonathan Micheal Agyei and Katherine Elizabeth Efua Bell; Zoe Camille Zakiya Gadegbeku; Benjamin Nathaniel Osakewe, Emily Claire Eshe and Carmen Elise Asha Toomer; Torrance Alexander Opora and Victoria

Alexandria Mawusee Evans; Tiffany Layla, DeWayne Allen Coshi Jr. and Simone Afua Hodges; Samuel Nyamekya David Gadegbeku, Maxwell David Kojo Gadegbeku and Devan Chandler Oba Gadegbeku

She was preceded in death by her sister, Anna Louise Chandler Griffin. She leaves to mourn her passing several cousins in the Fayetteville, Kingstree, Columbia, Winnsboro and Orangeburg areas, six sisters-in-law and three brothers-in-law, numerous nieces and nephews, and a host of lifelong friends.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Alzheimers Association.

Cemetery Details

Greenlawn Cemetery

Kingstree, SC

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN **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>

Funeral Mass

JAN **29**. 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM (ET)

St. John Neumann Catholic Church
100 Polo Road
Columbia, SC 29223

Tribute Wall



“ *Mrs. Barbara Toni Gadegbeku*

October 04, 2023 at 11:33 AM



“ *Mrs. Gadegbaku was a beautiful and kind woman who was godparent to my older brother and close friend of our family. May she rest in peace*

Albert Cooper - May 31, 2017 at 09:55 AM



“ *Benetta Gadegbeku lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Barbara Toni Gadegbeku*



Benetta Gadegbeku - February 06, 2016 at 05:32 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mrs. Barbara Toni Gadegbeku.*



January 28, 2016 at 07:47 PM

JH

“ I will always cherish my time with her at the Delta Cotelion. She talked extensively of her research and teaching; She traveled to Liberia and other countries and was very proud of Sam as an addition to the family. She and her late husband had a passion for health and wellness of others. She was excited about her children and their accomplishments to include all of the family.



Sincerely,

Jean S. Hopkins (Nurse)

Jean S Hopkins - January 28, 2016 at 07:41 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mrs. Barbara Toni Gadegbeku.



January 28, 2016 at 03:14 PM

ML

“ Mary E. Lyles-Younger



Mary E. Lyles - January 28, 2016 at 11:00 AM

BB

“ Thank you Mrs. G. for inspiring me to soar beyond perceived limitations. May you rest in eternal peace forever more!

BernaNadette Bettard - January 28, 2016 at 09:44 AM

AM

“ You are in our thoughts and prayers.

Al & Margaret - January 28, 2016 at 08:55 AM

BP

“ Billy & Stephanie Blackmon (Dick's Pools) purchased the Sweet Solace Spray for the family of Mrs. Barbara Toni Gadegbeku.



Billy & Stephanie Blackmon (Dick's Pools) - January 27, 2016 at 08:37 PM

JL

“ Jessie M. & Jerald . Chandler Lundy lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Barbara Toni Gadegbeku



Jessie M. & Jerald . Chandler Lundy - January 27, 2016 at 06:38 PM



“ Loving Lilies and Roses Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mrs. Barbara Toni Gadegbeku.



January 27, 2016 at 06:35 PM

AD

“ Aunt Barbara was more than my aunt. She was my second mother. Her words of advice I still carry with me today. She was always willing to give a helping hand to anyone she knew. I will never forget how she pushed her way to the president's office of South Carolina State College to get me registered for the semester. She said to me, "Ajo, sometimes you just can't deal with peons." Or the time she said, the baby pig asked its mother why the mother's mouth was so long. The mother replied, You will find out one day. Aunt Toni, I found out.
Aunt Toni, go to your rest. May light perpetual shine upon you.
Your favorite niece,
Ajo

Ajo Dennis - January 24, 2016 at 09:37 PM

JR

“ I was Honored to have met such a Beautiful Spiritual Afrikan Amerlcan QUEEN Whom was known as Mrs. G of Replete Omnipotent Essence with Graceful ASTUTENESS, Genuine Affection for Her Family, Tranquil Ambiance and A Legacy of Cherished Memories; BLESSED SERVANT of The Most Divine Creator Your Soul Rest Awhile for now but Your SPIRIT Dwelleth in All whom Your EARTHLY LIFE imbued.



BLESSED SYMPATHY TO THE FAMILY
Jennifer C. Gary, RN

Jennifer C. Gary, RN - January 24, 2016 at 02:35 PM

WF

“ *With lots of love, Your Children's Dental Group Family purchased the Large Basket Garden for the family of Mrs. Barbara Toni Gadegbeku.*



With lots of love, Your Children's Dental Group Family -
January 23, 2016 at 10:54 AM