



Phyllis B Hutchinson

January 6, 1941 - June 24, 2025

Phyllis Romell Bassard Hutchinson, a devoted public servant, cherished mother, and lifelong advocate for community, education, and faith, passed away peacefully on June 24, 2025.

Born on January 6, 1941, in Columbia, South Carolina, Phyllis was the youngest of seven children born to John S. Bassard, Sr. and Gladys B. Bassard. She received her early education in the Richland County School System and graduated in 1958 from the historic Booker T. Washington High School. A standout student, Phyllis was frequently recognized for her academic achievement, civic engagement, and steadfast school spirit—devotion she maintained throughout her life.

She went on to pursue a business degree at the esteemed Cortez Peters Business School in Washington, D.C., a decision that laid the foundation for a long and distinguished career in federal service. Her professional journey included key roles with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Walter Reed Army Medical Center, the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, and most prominently, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. From 1969 until her retirement in 1997, Phyllis served as a GS-9 Estate Analyst, advocating for veterans with passion and diligence. She led workshops, served on policy-shaping committees, and worked relentlessly to improve the lives of those who had served their country.

A respected leader and mentor, Phyllis held positions such as President of the American Business Women's Association and Federal Women's Program Coordinator in 1981—roles that exemplified her commitment to empowerment, equity, and public service.

Faith remained the cornerstone of Phyllis's life. Baptized in 1952 at Chapelle Memorial AME Church, she later joined St. Martin de Porres Catholic Church with her mother and siblings in 1959. In 1981, she found her spiritual home in the Lutheran Church, where she was confirmed and became a vibrant member of the congregation. Her faith journey included active participation at Gethsemane Lutheran Church, and later, Ascension Lutheran Church in Columbia. Even as her health waned, she remained deeply connected—offering encouragement, prayer, and steadfast support to her church family.

Phyllis was preceded in death by her beloved parents, John and Gladys Bassard; her former husband, Charles T. Hutchinson, Jr.; her children, Renee M. Hutchinson and Troy S. Hutchinson; and her siblings, Breman Bassard, John Bassard, Jr., Theresa B. Taylor, Knowlton Bassard, and James Bassard.

She leaves behind a loving legacy through her daughter, Janine H. Greene (Howard); her brother, Alphonso B. Bassard (Laverne); her “adopted” son, Dr. Keith Alford; and five devoted grandchildren: Monae Hutchinson (Houston), Toure M. Greene (Columbia), Zakee Robinson (Ft. Walton), Tierra Robinson (Irmo), and Arthur Wright (Norfolk). She is also survived by four great-grandchildren—Kevieghn, Chase, Ziamara, and Carson—as well as the extended Hutchinson family of Camden, NJ, and a host of loving nieces, nephews, cousins, and lifelong friends.

Phyllis will be remembered for her unwavering faith, her life of service, and the quiet strength with which she uplifted everyone around her. Her compassion,

integrity, and enduring love for family and community will remain an inspiration to all who knew her.

Cemetery Details

Palmetto Cemetery

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 2. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Palmer Memorial Chapel
1200 Fontaine Place
Columbia, SC 29223

Lie in State

JUL 3. 10:00 AM (ET)

Ascension Lutheran Church
827 Wildwood Ave.
Columbia
Columbia, SC 29203

A Celebration of Life

JUL 3. 11:00 AM (ET)

Ascension Lutheran Church
827 Wildwood Ave.
Columbia
Columbia, SC 29203

Tribute Wall

KI

“ 1 file added to the album *Tribute Wall*



Kim - July 03, 2025 at 10:22 AM

KF

“ 1 file added to the album *Tribute Wall*



Kim (family friend) - July 03, 2025 at 09:50 AM

DC

“ Doris J Andrews , Lincolnshire Community lit a candle in memory of Phyllis B Hutchinson



Doris J Andrews , Lincolnshire Community - July 03, 2025 at 08:56 AM

CT

“ Rita M. Tyler (Atlanta ,Ga) Carol D. Tyler
(Columbia, SC)
Children of the late Benjamin and Mattie D.
Tyler



Carol D. Tyler - July 02, 2025 at 07:45 PM

LA

“ Larry A. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Phyllis B
Hutchinson.

Larry A. - July 02, 2025 at 06:39 PM

EB

“ Sending our condolences and love to Janine
and the entire family. May the peace of God
fall fresh upon you today and the days to
come.



Edward and Dorothy Bates - July 02, 2025 at 04:31 PM

PB

“ Extending condolences to the family and
friends of Phyllis B Hutchinson. The
Hutchinson family has been apart of my life,
my entire life and I feel the loss. Our God is
intentional, so I know that her departure is
purposeful. Ms Phyllis will be missed but, I know that she is home.
To be absent from the body is to be present with God.



Pasca Bates Brown - July 02, 2025 at 04:27 PM

TF

“ *The Alford Family lit a candle in memory of Phyllis B Hutchinson*



The Alford family - July 02, 2025 at 02:40 PM

TF

“ *When we moved next door 11 years ago Ms. Phyllis treated us like family from day one. We loved her so much. Our family will carry her spirit in our hearts forever.*

The Peake Family - July 02, 2025 at 01:07 PM

TF

“ *When we moved next door 11 years ago Ms. Phyllis treated us like family from day one. We loved her so much and our family will carry her spirit in our hearts forever. We miss her already.*

The Peake Family - July 01, 2025 at 09:40 PM

TD

“ *Thomasina Boler, Edith Burwell & Rosa Daniels purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Phyllis B Hutchinson.*



Thomasina Boler, Edith Burwell & Rosa Daniels - July 01, 2025 at 09:39 PM

TD

“ Thomasina Boler, Edith Burwell & Rosa Daniels planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Phyllis B Hutchinson.

Thomasina Boler, Edith Burwell & Rosa Daniels - July 01, 2025 at 09:39 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Phyllis B Hutchinson.



July 01, 2025 at 06:11 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Phyllis B Hutchinson.

July 01, 2025 at 06:11 PM

PB

“ Janine, Sorry for the loss of your sweet mother. I'm so blessed to have known her through you for over 30 years. Love you always friend/family!!

Pebbles B.
Wash., DC



Pebbles B - July 01, 2025 at 11:21 AM

HL

“ *Ms. Phyllis, a distinguished woman. God has called you home.
Rest in Power. May God give Peace and Comfort to Janine, Toure and the Bassard and Hutchinson Family during their time of bereavement.
With Love,
The Liverman Family*



Hazel Liverman - July 01, 2025 at 08:56 AM

FF

“ *From The Johnson Family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Phyllis B Hutchinson.*



From The Johnson Family - June 30, 2025 at 07:55 PM

GK

“ *Gene and Kelvin purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Phyllis B Hutchinson.*



Gene and Kelvin - June 30, 2025 at 07:28 PM



“ *Rainbow Of Remembrance Spray was purchased for the family of Phyllis B Hutchinson.*



June 30, 2025 at 04:28 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Phyllis B Hutchinson.*



June 30, 2025 at 10:33 AM



“ *Janine, so sorry for the loss of your dear mother. The Jacobs Family*

Jacobs Family - June 30, 2025 at 09:39 AM



“ *Laura lit a candle in memory of Phyllis B Hutchinson*



Laura - June 27, 2025 at 03:01 PM



“ *1 file added to the album Tribute Wall*



Laura - June 27, 2025 at 03:00 PM

DC

Sincere condolences are extended to the entire Bassard and Hutchinson family during this time of bereavement. May God grant you the comfort, strength and peace needed during this time. I am lifting you in prayer 🙏.

Doris J Andrews , Lincolnshire Community - July 03, 2025 at 08:54 AM

GF

“ *My sincere sympathy and condolences and prayers to the family and relatives and friends.*



Gloria Brown and Family - June 27, 2025 at 04:58 AM