



## Theodis Parsons Palmer

September 23, 1926 - January 3, 2019

The family requests that floral tributes be in white, ivory, and green.

Theodis Parsons Palmer, wife, working mother, educator, businesswoman, church leader, social worker, administrator, advocate for women and their families, activist for civil rights and social change and a visionary, transitioned Thursday January 3, 2019, at the Agape Hospice and Suites in Lexington, South Carolina. Born in Pike County, Missouri, on September 23, 1926, she was the third of four children born to the late Richard and Evelyn Douglas Parsons.

Theodis was a graduate of Sumner High School (St. Louis, Missouri) Class of 1943, attended Lincoln University, (Jefferson City, Missouri) and graduated from Howard University in the Class of 1949. While at Howard University, she earned a degree in business administration and completed further studies in business at American University, (Washington, DC). She was employed in Washington, DC for many years, but after meeting Robert John Palmer (Bob) she knew her life would dramatically change and she would move from a metropolitan city to the segregated Jim Crow South. On July 3, 1955, she and Bob eloped and married in the parsonage of Emmanuel United Methodist Church. She was immediately immersed in the funeral profession by her husband's obligation to conduct a funeral prior to their honeymoon.

She was lovingly received into the Palmer and Dibble families by their matriarchs, Adelaide Palmer McDonald and Sallie Lee Dibble. Other than her husband, the most significant relationship in her new family was with her late mother-in-law Ellie Naudin Dibble Palmer. Her mother-in-law was instrumental in teaching her how to adjust to her southern environment and how to break barriers and be a force to be reckoned with in her own right. Through her own observation, the guidance and mentoring of her mother-in-law, she was shown how to break through color barriers while strengthening the role of women which led to her community choices in activism and her leadership role in the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA). Her love and devotion to Bob placed her in the heart of segregation and the Civil Rights movement at a time when the 1954 Brown vs. Board of Education had just been decided. Behind the scenes, Freedom Riders were fed, provided overnight accommodations on her living room floor and lunches were packed to assist them with their travels. The incident of Rock Hill, South Carolina, occurred the day after the Freedom Riders had spent the night in her home. The ambulance service of the family business was being used to transport national and state Civil Rights leaders to safety and responding to false calls by the Klu Klux Klan while taking local residents to hospitals, those who had died while incarcerated and those lynched had to be returned to their families and buried. Theo helped to plan strategy in church basements, listened to CB radios of impending danger and reported happenings to liberal news sources such as The Charlotte Observer. In the 1960s, Mrs. Palmer quietly walked the picket lines (even while pregnant), marched for social change, and went to jail in white gloves and heels. Yet in the midst of it all, meals had to be prepared, children had to be protected, safety was paramount, but a change was inevitable. Theo took change to another level. She did not ask of other children what she would not expect of her own, thus her own children were involved in the integration movement. She imported international and Ivy League college students through Teacher Corps, to expose children from the segregated south to the Arts. She created programs for strengthening basic skills in math, English,

creative writing, drama, and other fine arts. Theo transported children to worlds they had never seen: Poinsett State Park, state historic sites, Washington DC; Williamsburg, Virginia, New York and college tours before they became popular. Local African American children were exposed to life skills such as swimming and etiquette. When Black children could not use public swimming pools, she contacted the Pentagon to have them transported to Shaw Air Force Base for lessons. Later Bates Pool was built. She provided a safe haven, through the YWCA, for children in many years of day camp. Theo coached students on how to take advantage of opportunities, how to challenge and how to reap the benefits of the integration laws that had been passed. Theo encouraged them to challenge their parents as to why they had to go in the back door, or why certain public facilities were off limits. If any authority challenged them, she encouraged the young people to be courteous but continued to ask the probing why questions and to persist in correcting injustices. As a result of this non-violence strategy, the following entities were integrated in the Sumter community: The Red Cross, YMCA, theaters, playgrounds, local parks and drama productions related to self-pride and barrier-breaking were conducted-all to build the confidence level of the young people. Thus Theo represents one of the "unsung heroes of the Civil Rights Movement."

Leadership in the YWCA was a rewarding experience. It reinforced self-esteem, encouragement, determination, and exploration. At the time, Theo was one of only three Black Executive Directors throughout the country. She received national and global training and was the person sent to evaluate YWCA self-reviews on the one imperative-the Elimination of Racism. As a result of her work and out of appreciation, the YWCA offered to send her to seven countries to examine programs and to suggest how programs could be implemented globally with limited resources.

In 1965, as Executive Director, Theo was the brainchild for many community innovations and most efficiently managed the operation by implementing the following programs: CETA; rural head start program for District Two at Morris College ( the program was a collaborative effort between the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, Morris College Department of Education and the YWCA); College-bound summer enrichment for disadvantaged youth, job experience and rural development; Rural Women's Project; TWIN-Tribute to Women in Industry; Dignity Housing Associations, Inc., two housing complexes for the elderly, disabled and/or handicapped- Dignity Village in Sumter and Palmer Place in Camden, South Carolina; Family Violence-Safe House shelter (since 1982 it has served three counties, Lee, Clarendon, and Sumter) and other services for victims of Domestic Violence (developed a pioneer program for Men Who Batter); Sexual Assault, Child Abuse and Neglect; Double Dutch and other Youth Programs; and Alcohol and Drug Prevention relating to the special problem of women and girls. Under her leadership, the YWCA was instrumental in launching an infant mortality demonstration project with a mobile medical unit which provided health screenings and immunizations in rural under-served areas of Sumter County. This was a collaborative effort between DHEC, Sumter County Council, Dr. Stewart Hamilton and the Children's Trust Fund.

The dedication and commitment of Mrs. Palmer to the YWCA was unsurpassed. Being a hard worker, she willingly undertook the tasks of developing and implementing a budget amounting to more than \$1million, managing facilities valued at over \$2 million according to the unqualified audit in 2007, organizing and supervising committees, promoting programs among community and business leaders and constantly searching for resources of funding and initiating programs to tap such resources.

For over 44 years she fulfilled one or many of the roles in her introduction simultaneously. What many could not see and said could not be

accomplished, she brought to fruition. Breaking barriers became her business.

As a businesswoman, she and her late husband, Robert John Palmer, founded the Guaranty Insurance Agency and she assisted with its management. After Bob's death, she became President and owner of the Palmer Memorial Chapel, Inc. of Sumter.

She was a member of Emmanuel United Methodist Church and served in many capacities and on numerous boards as an officer on the local, district, and conference levels of the United Methodist Church. She was a charter member of the Eta Zeta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., the first president of the Sumter League of Women Voters and the first Black woman to serve on the SC State Board of League of Women Voters, a founding member of The Forum, Church Women United, The Greater Sumter Chamber of Commerce, MADD, the Environmental Coalition of Sumter County, life member of the NAACP, National Council of Negro Women and the Columbia Chapter of the Links, Inc. She was appointed by then Governor Richard Riley to serve on the first Governors School for the Arts Board of Directors in SC; Board of Trustees of Columbia College, other Board memberships included: South Carolina Humanities Council, National Endowment of the Humanities, South Carolina National Bank, The Covenant Place Retirement Home, Sumter Gallery of Art, and the National Association of YWCA Executives. She received numerous awards for community leadership and outstanding contributions including Women of Achievement by the SC Commission on Women, inducted into the South Carolina Hall of Fame, and honored for over 50 years of outstanding service as a charter member of Eta Zeta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her only brother O'Neil "Pat" Parsons and her older sister Arminta Parsons Uter. In 1995, her beloved life mate, Robert John Palmer, transitioned after 40 years of

marriage. In December of 2000, she married Dr. Tanner McMahon who also preceded her in death in 2007.

Precious memories will be cherished by: two daughters: Lorin Peri Palmer and Vikki Laurence Palmer; one grandson, Palmer A.D. Fielding; one sister, Lois B. Parsons; two nieces: Ema P. Green and Genela (Grover) Harden; four nephews: Joel Khalfani, Jeff (Britta) Uter, Jim (Carrie) Palmer and Brooks Naudin Palmer; a sister-in-law Rose Martin Palmer; extended family including employees and dear friends.

In her final Executive Director's report, January 2009, to the YWCA membership, she quoted Booker T. Washington who stated, "Success is to be measured not so much by the position one has reached in life, as by the obstacles which are overcome while trying to succeed." In closing, Theodis Parsons Palmer truly felt, "Know from whence we came. For some it would have been a signal to retreat. For us it was a call to duty."

Memorial donations may be made to one of the following:

Theodis Parsons Palmer Leadership Fund send to:

Central Carolina Community Foundation

2711 Middleburg Drive, Suite 213

Columbia, South Carolina 29204

803-254-5601

[www.yourfoundation.org](http://www.yourfoundation.org)

Agape Hospice/Agape Senior Foundation

1624 Main Street

Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Howard University School Of Fine Arts

Division of Development & Alumni Relations  
1851 9th Street, NW, 3rd Floor  
Washington, District of Columbia 20001

# Previous Events

## Public Viewing

JAN 10. 1:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Palmer Memorial Chapel - Sumter  
304 South Main Street  
Sumter, SC 29150  
(803) 773-3381  
palmermemorialchapel@sc.rr.com  
<https://www.palmermemorialchapel.com>

## Public Viewing

JAN 11. 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Palmer Memorial Chapel - Sumter  
304 South Main Street  
Sumter, SC 29150  
(803) 773-3381  
palmermemorialchapel@sc.rr.com  
<https://www.palmermemorialchapel.com>

## Public Viewing

JAN 11. 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

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

## **LINKS Homegoing Ceremony**

---

**JAN 11.** 6:00 PM (ET)

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

## **Family Visitation**

---

**JAN 11.** 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM (ET)

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

## **Alpha Kappa Alpha Ivy Beyond the Wall Ceremony**

---

**JAN 12.** 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Emmanuel United Methodist Church  
401 S Main St  
Sumter, SC 29150  
(803) 773-6197

## **Musical Tribute**

---

JAN 12. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Emmanuel United Methodist Church  
401 S Main St  
Sumter, SC 29150  
(803) 773-6197

## **Celebration of Life**

---

JAN 12. 12:00 PM (ET)

Emmanuel United Methodist Church  
401 S Main St  
Sumter, SC 29150  
(803) 773-6197

# Tribute Wall



“ *Palmer Memorial Chapel created a Tribute Video in memory of Theodis Parsons Palmer*



---

**Palmer Memorial Chapel** - January 11, 2019 at 04:24 PM



“ *Theodis Parsons Palmer*

---

October 04, 2023 at 11:33 AM



“ *So sorry to hear of Mrs. Palmer's passing. She was a wonderful role model for me. She always inspired me to be the best that I could be. She hired me for my first job at the YMCA as a teenager and was also my sponsor as a debutante in Sumter. Please accept my heartfelt condolences.*

---

**Theresa Martin** - January 27, 2019 at 01:13 PM

LR

“ We ( family of the late President and Mrs. OR Reuben) extend the very deepest of condolences to the Palmer family, all of whom we hold dear; and we offer our prayers of comfort and uplift as you grieve the loss of Mrs. Theodis Palmer. As you well know, Mrs. Palmer was one of the dearest friends of our long departed mother, Dr. Anna D. Reuben, as they worked to develop the YWCA and other ventures to enhance the well-being of our community in Sumter. Thinking of Mrs. Palmer brings thoughts of our own mother. The Palmers and Reubens remain close through generations.

*May you be comforted by the knowledge that God has welcomed home the very good and faithful servant Mrs. Theodis Palmer to a land of eternal joy and blessing ... Well Done, Well Done!*

*Dr. Lucy J. Reuben and family*

---

**LJ Reuben** - January 17, 2019 at 05:34 PM

CC

“ *Lorin and Vickie, I learned of your mom's transition a few minutes ago. So many beautiful memories flooded my mind. I pray that God's peace, love and strength with surround you as to continue the legacy established by your mom and all the other strong Palmer women. Cheryl Thompson Coleman*

---

**Cheryl Thompson Coleman** - January 16, 2019 at 10:47 PM



“ *1 file added to the album LifeTributes*



---

**Palmer Memorial Chapel** - January 15, 2019 at 09:48 AM



“ *"To The Palmer Family, You have my sincere condolences for the loss of our dear Mrs. Theo Palmer. May God strengthen and keep you in this hour."*  
*Keeping you in prayer.*

*Melanie Dees*

---

**Melanie Dees** - January 14, 2019 at 03:03 PM



“ *Our sincere condolences to the Palmer Family on the loss of Mrs. Theodis P. Plamer. From the Eady Family here in Sumter, S.C. Mrs. Sandra Eady-Clark and Family....*

---

**Sandra E. Clark** - January 13, 2019 at 02:11 PM

MM

“ Have you ever had a friend or relative who ALWAYS made you feel welcomed... who always greeted you with the warmest sincere smile... and who would even open their home to you and others without blinking an eye? I was so lucky. I was so blessed. I had such a relative.

*There is something very special about my South Carolina (and Georgia) cousins. They are different. They are so genuine and refreshing, warm and welcoming. The term "Southern Hospitality" is something everyone should experience.*

*Yesterday, God called home a very special angel, my Cousin Theo. Theo was truly a remarkable woman. She would approach you with the biggest smile that would light up your day. She was so kind and was a supportive mother and friend. Her mind was SHARP as a tack! It's hard to believe that she was in her 90's.*

*Theo was married to my dad's best childhood friend (who happened to be his 1st cousin), Bob Palmer. Bob was a hard worker and owner of Palmer Memorial Funeral Home in Sumter, SC. He passed away many years back of cancer, and left Cousin Theo to run the business with her daughter and Bob's brother (Perry).*

*Theo and Bob had two REMARKABLE daughters who have carried on incredible legacies of having business skills, preserving the Palmer history, and serving the community. They are both actively involved in Sumter, making sure that the rich southern history is not lost.*

*When our oldest son, Eddie was an infant (27 years ago), Theo and Bob opened up their home to my family. We stayed with them, even though we had other relatives in Sumter. Now that I look back on it, I believe that over the years, I have stayed at Theo's home more than any other relatives' home in South Carolina.*

*There was something special about Theo's home. It was the WAY*

*she treated you. Never did she make me feel like it was an imposition. Over the years, I have attended other funerals (of relatives) in Sumter. The majority of the time, I stayed with Theo. She even opened her home to other relatives that I brought with me. I know that I was nervy for doing that, but Theo never complained. I can truly say, she ALWAYS made all of her guests feel welcomed and special.*

*(Note: Theo and Bob had their home built in a special area in Sumter. The history ALONE of the house needs to be shared. This was no ordinary house and the location is no ordinary location. Let's put it this way, I have never been to a house that has a "pool house" that is as big as another house... especially in the '60's or '70's. This was a planned community. I hope that my cousins will write about this one day. )*

*In one of my last visits with Cousin Theo, she told me of this beautiful romantic love story of how Cousin Bob relentlessly pursued her when they were "courting." Men just don't seem to go through the efforts that he did. Bob was DETERMINED to marry her, and he went through a lot of hoops to get her the perfect ring. I wish I had written down the story when Theo shared this with me a couple of years ago.*

*I think the biggest compliment that I had was when Theo told me that I reminded her of my dad (Dr. Harry P. McDonald). Dad was known for reaching out to relatives, visiting them and thoroughly enjoying time spent with them. I guess that I AM like him. I can honestly say that I and understand why Dad LOVED his southern cousins (the descendants of State Representative Robert John Palmer). They are truly exceptional, warm, beautiful people! I have a lot of FUN when I am with them!!*

*I will miss my cousin. But I thank God that He granted me the precious time with Cousin Theo! I have no doubt that Dad and Cousin Bob have welcomed her at the Pearly Gates of Heaven with open arms!*

*Love you, Cousin!*

---

**Maria McDonald McNamar** - January 13, 2019 at 11:09 AM

NM

“ *May the peace of God be with all of you during this time of bereavement.*

*Ni Marchan*

---

**NILOTIS MARCHAN** - January 12, 2019 at 12:18 PM

BH

“ *To the Palmer Family: We are saddened to hear of the departure of your mother; however, we are encouraged to know that she has touched so many lives, for we see the evidence of her spirit of love through your kindness. Mrs. Lorin, it is our prayer that the God of all comfort will succour you and your family during this time. We love you and will be praying for your continued strength. Trinity Education Community and Conference Center, Mr. Levern Gerald, Executive Director, Management, and Staff.*

---

**Barrien D. Henderson** - January 12, 2019 at 06:49 AM

JB

“ *Johnnie Boone-McCrea lit a candle in memory of Theodis Parsons Palmer*



---

**Johnnie Boone-McCrea** - January 11, 2019 at 10:33 PM



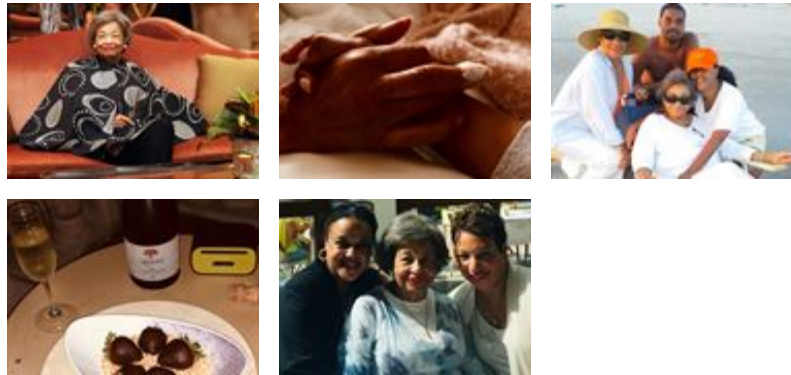
“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Theodis Parsons Palmer.*



January 11, 2019 at 07:16 PM



“ *91 files added to the album Life Tributes*



**Palmer Memorial Chapel** - January 11, 2019 at 03:29 PM



“ *In Memory of a life so beautifully lived.... a heart so deeply loved. We are very sorry for your loss. Mrs. Palmer was a very important part of my life as a child. Her love leaves an indelible imprint in my memory. I find comfort in knowing that my life has been enriched by her.*

*Bernice Montgomery ,Paramount Transit Service and Paradise Pointe Professional Home Care will truly miss her smile.*

**Bernice Montgomery** - January 10, 2019 at 08:03 PM

BN

“ Lorin, Vicki and family,  
As I read Mrs. Palmer’s obituary it brought back so many memories of those summer enrichment programs, bus rides to Shaw for swimming lessons and the activities at the YWCA.

I could go on and on about the times our families spent together. The last time I saw her was about 10 years ago in Fort Worth when she came to a national YWCA convention.

Know that God blesses you and the world with her. May she rest in perfect peace.

Love,  
Bea Jones Nealy



---

**beatrice nealy** - January 10, 2019 at 07:50 PM

PW

“ Many memories, many smiles, many accomplishments are just a few words that comes to mind when I think about Mrs. Palmer she has made an impact on the lives of so many and she will surely be missed but we can all look back and SMILE for having known such a great lady. Patty Wilson

---

**patty wilson** - January 10, 2019 at 04:04 PM

SM

“ We are very sorry for your loss. Mrs. Palmer was a very important part of the community; we have known her for years through Church Women United and the YWCA. She will be missed. She and your family are in our thoughts and prayers.

Cindy and Sal Macias

---

**Salvador Macias** - January 10, 2019 at 10:42 AM

LN

“ MRS. PALMER WILL BE REMEMBERED FOR HER DECENT DIGNITY, ELEGANCE AND GODLY SOPHISTICATION:: WINSTON CHURCHILL WROTE; WE MAKE A LIVING BY WHAT WE GET; WE MAKE A LIFE BY WHAT WE GIVE:: MRS.THEODIS PARSONS PALMER GAVE OF HER TIME,TALENT AND RESOURCES FOR THE ENHANCEMENT OF HUMANKIND: FOR THAT, WE ARE GREATFUL FOR HER SERVICE AND DEDICATION:: :: REST IN PEACE ! LEON N. & VIRGINIA B.RICHBURG SUMMERTON,S,C



LEON N.RICHBURG,SR - January 10, 2019 at 09:09 AM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Theodis Parsons Palmer.



January 09, 2019 at 10:00 PM

DF

“ Dr. Jacob P. White and The White-Pindar Family purchased the Loving Lilies and Roses Bouquet for the family of Theodis Parsons Palmer.



Dr. Jacob P. White and The White-Pindar Family - January 09, 2019 at 05:24 PM

MC

“ *Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. Prayer of Faith for the Family.*  
*Mae R. Cooke and Family*



---

**Mae R. Cooke** - January 09, 2019 at 04:16 PM

DW

“ *Our hearts and prayers are with you during this difficult time. We are forever grateful for the contributions Mrs. Palmer made to the community. Her legacy will forever be etched in our history.*

*The League of Women Voters of Sumter County*

---

**Dee Woodward** - January 09, 2019 at 03:44 PM

TM

“ *Fond memories of days gone by. My best ever math teacher. I will always remember lessons taught and lessons learned; both academic and in life's journey. You always gave me a B+ grade all school year. My final grade you gave me an A+ much to my delight. You told me as I stood thanking you for the grade; that it was the first time you ever did that. At that moment I felt special. May God bless the Palmer family with peace and loving memories. Former Student, Thomas Clark*

---

**Tho masClark** - January 09, 2019 at 09:49 AM

BD

“ *We are so sorry for the loss of Mother Palmer. God's blessings of comfort to the Palmer family from Briana and Bruce Davis*

---

**briana davis** - January 09, 2019 at 09:38 AM

LT

“ *Boylan Haven Mather Academy, National Alumni Association of Camden, S.C., extend our heartfelt Prayers and Condolences to the Palmer family.*  
*Bernadette Sessions, President*



---

**Lynne Thomas** - January 09, 2019 at 09:23 AM

SJ

“ *Mrs. Theo always wanted young girls to become the best young women they could. I really enjoyed those Summer camps and activities we did with her and the YWCA staff. She always called me "Little Miss Mckenzie" very few times she called me Joyce even when I became an adult.*

---

**sherri joyce Mckenzie Johnson** - January 09, 2019 at 07:45 AM

DA

“ *Lorin and Vicki:*

*Though so frequently surrounded by death and sorrow given the family profession, your mom will always be remembered by me as full of life and joy. Her smiles were warm and endearing, her gaze steady and graceful at all times. She was one of my favorite "Sumter-ians," and I will cherish her memory and celebrate her life forever.*

*You are both in my thoughts, now and always.*

*Love,*

*T'laine aka Doris Rivers Anderson aka Kamili*

---

**Doris Rivers/Kamili Anderson** - January 08, 2019 at 06:53 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Theodis Parsons Palmer.*



---

January 08, 2019 at 06:26 PM



“ *Your entire family have our most sincere condolences. We the Johnson family are priveidge to have worked for and known such an outstanding woman, your Mother. May God give you peace and comfort, during this sorrowful time. The Johnson Family, Global Monument Co.*

---

**The John Johnson Family** - January 08, 2019 at 07:31 AM



“ *The Dardens, Janice, Skip, Mike, Lori, Oman, Naimah purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Sp ray for the family of Theodis Parsons Palmer.*



---

**The Dardens, Janice, Skip, Mike, Lori, Oman, Naimah** -  
January 07, 2019 at 07:23 PM



“ *Sending my condolences Lorin, Vikki, Aunt Lois and the entire family. God bless you all. Rest In Peace, Aunt Theo.*

---

**Autumn Uter-Rawls** - January 07, 2019 at 04:50 PM

PR

“ Always enjoyed talking with Mrs. Palmer you knew she was the voice of Greatness. I will always remember our last conversation at her home. Phronie L Ragin Employee of the the YWCA of the Upper Lowlands, Inc Sumter.

Phronie L Ragin - January 07, 2019 at 03:57 PM

GT

“ Gloria Taylor lit a candle in memory of Theodis Parsons Palmer



Gloria Taylor - January 07, 2019 at 02:54 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Theodis Parsons Palmer.



January 07, 2019 at 01:59 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Theodis Parsons Palmer.



January 07, 2019 at 01:26 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Theodis Parsons Palmer.*



---

January 07, 2019 at 12:35 PM



“ *from cousin-in-law Jeanette Dibble: Theo always expressed her devotion and dedication to Palmer Chapel---during retirement years as we walked footpaths during my vacation time in Hilton Head, she recounted her sustaining and rewarding hours devoted to Chapel business as a framework for her active life. Always the pragmatist, she shared secrets on the best out-of-the-way shops for good bargains. It was a pleasure to tap into her generous "knowledge bank"! '*

---

**Jeanette Dibble** - January 07, 2019 at 11:59 AM



“ *NHE, Inc Managing Dignity Village and Palmer Place purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Theodis Parsons Palmer.*



---

**NHE, Inc Managing Dignity Village and Palmer Place** -  
January 07, 2019 at 11:54 AM

PJ

“ *Patricia Grant Jefferson lit a candle in memory of Theodis Parsons Palmer*



---

**Patricia Grant Jefferson** - January 07, 2019 at 11:02 AM

JF

“ *Vickki and Lauren,  
Let memories of the times you shared  
give you comfort,  
for her life was rich  
because of you.  
The Darden Family, "Buttercup", Janice Skip, Mike, Lori,*

---

**Janice Frame** - January 07, 2019 at 10:44 AM

TR

“ *The Family of Michael Russell purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Theodis Parsons Palmer.*



---

**The Family of Michael Russell** - January 07, 2019 at 07:44 AM

PY

“ *Lauren, I just heard that your mother had passed. I want to extend my condolences to you, Vickie and your whole family. Your mother was always a gracious lady.*

---

**Pamela Jenkins Yancey** - January 06, 2019 at 09:21 PM

LW

*I agree Pam  
I remember Mrs Palmer bringing Loren to Tap and Ballet when we all  
took classes at Lincoln High School!*

**Linda White** - January 06, 2019 at 09:51 PM

C(

“ *Cheryl Caution-Parker (Washington) lit a  
candle in memory of Theodis Parsons Palmer*



**Cheryl Caution-Parker (Washington)** - January 06, 2019 at 08:46 PM

JK

“ *Much Love and Respect!!!! Rest In Power my beloved Aunt  
Theo!!!!!!*

**Joel Khalfani** - January 06, 2019 at 07:35 PM



“ *We have many fond memories of Mrs. Palmer as one of our  
beloved church members and from attending Y.W.C.A. camps. She  
would often give us rides from swimming lesson to the Y. I also  
remember her wishing me well moments before I walked across the  
stage to receive my degree when I graduated from Columbia  
College. She was such a kind spirit and her influence has touched  
many. She will be sorely missed but fondly remembered.  
Condolences and Blessings.  
Marsha McKenzie and Dr. Jackie McKenzie  
Matthews, N.C.*

**Marsha McKenzie** - January 06, 2019 at 12:23 PM



*We pray you will find solace in knowing others are prayerful for you.  
Leroy and Ruby McKenzie  
Sumter, S.C*

---

**Marsha McKenzie** - January 07, 2019 at 06:40 PM

KC

“ *My sincere love and deepest condolences to the family of my beloved Mentor, Mrs. Palmer, as I knew her best. I respected her so much as an individual and as a supervisor. She became my friend and her character and genuine care for her family, women and people in general, spoke the loudest to me. I am honored to have graced her presence. Rest in Peace Mrs. Palmer, I love you.  
Karen Mickens Coe*

---

**Karen Coe** - January 05, 2019 at 05:09 PM

MM

“ *Condolences to you and your family Loren, we send our deepest sympathy. May God blessings keep the loving memories you have in of your mother within you heart.  
Martha Davis McBride & Family 🙏🙏🙏*

---

**Martha Davis McBride** - January 05, 2019 at 11:09 AM

SL

“ *Thoughts and prayers to a wonderful family. I did not get the privledgr of knowing this amazing women, however her daughters Vicki and Lauren are a living testament of her values.*

---

**Sue Ladson** - January 05, 2019 at 10:25 AM

JW

“*Theodis Parsons Palmer was a phenomenal woman whose footprints of personal inspiration and community service are quite visible and meaningful to many people throughout our community, State, and nation. As a lifelong Sumter resident, I have known and worked with Mrs. Palmer for over 60 years. Today, I am flooded with fond memories of our experiences together. We met when we were both teachers at Lincoln High School in the early 1960s, and since that time we were friends with similar community service interests and activities to support positive social change and other efforts to help make the world a better place. I remember how she related to, and found unique value in people, especially volunteers and employees. In this regard, she adopted the TWIN leadership Program at the YWCA to promote leadership opportunities for women in corporate, industrial, and professional careers. I will always remember that she was a beautiful, classy, and confident woman who inspired me and many others to aim high, do our best, have compassion for less fortunate people, and exemplify high moral values. To her wonderful family, our family sends love and heartfelt sympathy. We pray that God will keep you in his care at this time, and forever.*

--- Mrs. Julia Evans Wells and Family

---

**Julia E. Wells** - January 04, 2019 at 08:42 PM

RW

“*Rocket and I really enjoyed our time with your sweet family at the Agape Hospice House. I promised a picture of Rocket for you.*



---

**Rodney Williams** - January 04, 2019 at 07:13 PM

CP

“ My Condolences to the entire Palmer Family. Mrs.Palmer was a kind, loving,and very strong woman whom I had the pleasure of meeting, taking care of, and loving.She will be Truly missed.SIP ANGEL 🙏. Love Cynthia



---

**Cynthia Porter** - January 04, 2019 at 06:47 PM

CP

“ My Condolences goes out to the entire Palmer family. She was a very loving, kind, and strong woman that I had the pleasure of meeting , taking care of,and loving.She will be truly missed. SIP ANGEL 🙏 Love Cynthia.😭

---

**Cynthia Porter** - January 04, 2019 at 06:14 PM

LS

“ My deepest condolences to the Palmer Family.

*Mrs. Palmer, a mentor, friend and pillar of the community. She will be sorely missed.*

*Rest in Peace Mrs. P.*

*Love Always,*

*Lorraine and Josh Smith*

---

**Lorraine Smith** - January 04, 2019 at 03:58 PM

LR

*My thoughts and prayers are with you Lorin, Vickie and Palmer during your time of bereavement. I appreciated the Palmer Memorial Chapel being there for me a year ago during the passing of my mother. You were very gracious and caring and I will always remember you for that and I know that your mother instilled in you these values and loving qualities. May God's grace be sufficient for you and your entire family today and in the days ahead. Rev. Linda Richbow & Family*

---

**Linda K Richbow** - January 10, 2019 at 04:48 PM