



Deborah A. Briddell

January 25, 1950 - November 27, 2016

On Sunday, November 27, 2016, Deborah (Waters) Briddell went to her eternal resting place. She was born in Dover, Delaware on January 25, 1950, to the late Almeta Viola Waters and the late Elwood Holland. Although a native of Delaware, most of her formative years were spent at the Maryland School for the Blind which is a residential school in Baltimore, Maryland. She graduated, as well as, from the Parkville Senior High School in June of 1970. She then entered Marywood University in Scranton, PA, and graduated from there in 1974 with a B.A. degree in Elementary and Special Education. In January of 1975, she began teaching in the Resource Room for the Visually Impaired in Sussex County. She retired in June of 2000, after spending 6 years in the Milford School District and 20 years in the Seaford School District. After retiring, she spent 5 years volunteering in the community, teaching Braille. In January of 2005, she began working as service Coordinator for the Peer Support Service of the Delaware Association for the Blind. While there, she acquired a certification in Volunteer Administration from Delaware Technical and Community College. As of August 2010, Deborah began work as an Activities Assistant for the Modern Maturity Center in Dover, where she worked with the blind in the adult daycare center and gave resource information for the blind, to the general public.

Deborah spent much of her time serving as an advocate for the blind as a member and past President of the National Federation of the Blind of Delaware and through participation on many councils and committees for the

State. These include: The State Rehabilitation Council where she has served as vice chair, chair and past chair; Statewide Independent Living Council; Governor's Advisory Council on the Blind; Delaware Coalition for Americans with Disabilities; Independent Living Advisory Committee where she served as chair; Delaware Assistive Technology Initiative Advisory Board; and Delaware Library Access Service Consumer Advisory Council and Friends where she served as chair.

She loved reading, playing cards, listening to her favorite group, "Earth, Wind and Fire" and playing the piano. She was the Minister of Music for several churches in the Dover area; Star Hill AME Church near Camden and Emmanuel AME Church in Hartly.

Deborah began playing for the youth choir of Mount Zion AME Church in June 1971. She served as musician for the choir for over 30 years and was active in the youth and women's ministries. She was appointed to the Board of Christian Education by the late Rev. Rudolph Coleman and served as its director for the past several years. As director of Christian Education, Deborah started the church newsletter, "Spiritual Perspective" and remained a staple with the church's vacation Bible school.

Deborah was a faithful member of the National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa Inc. and Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. and loved all of her sisters deeply.

Deborah loved to travel and has been to many places throughout the country with the National Federation of the Blind; not to mention, the many church trips she went on with her various "road partners".

Her greatest position and passion was as "Mom-mom" to her granddaughters, Aniya and Louciana.

Deborah is preceded in death by her brothers, Oscar Waters, Jr. and Stephen D. Waters; her sister, Barbara Johnson; a nephew, Oscar Adkins and her best friend for life (and former husband), Oris A. Lewis. During Deborah's union with Larry J. Briddell, Sr. of Salisbury, MD, she gave birth to her heart; Larry J. Briddell, Jr. by whom she is survived. Along with her son, she leaves behind her uncle, Hurley Purnell of Berlin, MD and favorite aunt, Thelma A. Brown; a

sister, Lena Ingram of Dover; three nephews, Michael A. Patterson of Georgia, D. Jerome Minus of New Jersey, and Aron E. Johnson of Dover; a host of cousins (including her “sister-cousin”, Jacqueline A. Brown of Bear, DE), great-nieces and nephews; three great-great nieces and two great-great-great nieces, not to mention, all of her friends, church families and two great friends and confidants, Rev. Rita Paige and Ken Huff.

Lovingly submitted,

The Family

To send flowers to the family or plant a tree in memory of Deborah A. Briddell, please visit our Heartfelt Sympathies Store.

Tribute Wall

RD

“ My heart was saddened to hear of the loss of our friend Debbie. But we rejoice in her life of service to the Lord and to the people of Delaware. My prayers are with the family and the whole community that she provided such a great presence in. Debbie's work on various councils, the Modern Maturity center and at the church will not be forgotten. May we all find hope that lies ahead for the servants of the Most High God.

Robert Doyle - December 10, 2016 at 12:00 AM

JB

“ Today you will be laid to rest.

Sleep in heavenly peace my sista-cousin.

I will miss you now and eternally.....peace with love filled memories.

Jackie Brown - December 09, 2016 at 12:00 AM

CL

“ Condolences to the family We will miss Debbie.

Carla Minus Lewis - December 09, 2016 at 12:00 AM

BU

“ My sincere condolences to the Briddell family. May your memories of Debbie bring you comfort in the days and weeks ahead and have faith in God's promise of seeing your love ones again by means of a resurrection. He wants you to be there to embrace your loved ones again. Imagine planning together for an everlasting future, never again to say good-bye! (John 5:28, 29)

Barbara Urquhart - December 06, 2016 at 12:00 AM

MJ

“ I am sorry for your loss, please accept my sincere condolences. I hope the family will find some comfort and strength in Jesus promise of the earthly resurrection(Acts 24:15)and the renewed Paradise earth, where death will be no more and no family will mourn the death of a loved one.-Revelation 21:3,4;John 5:28,29;Luke 23:43. may GOD(Psalms 83:18)grant you peace and comfort now, during this grievous time.-Matthew 5:4.

M Jones - December 03, 2016 at 12:00 AM

GS

“ It saddens me to think that Debbie's life journey has ended, although I fully recognize that her absence in body pales in that her presence with the Lord is magnified. I worked with Debbie at Banneker Elementary in the late 70's & she had wisdom far behind her years and a heart of gold. She taught me so much and it was a joy being in her presence. May the Lord bless her family & friends and all those whose lives she touched in such a special way.

Gloria A Scott - December 02, 2016 at 12:00 AM

KM

“ Miss Debbie taught me braille when I was a child. It can't be overstated--she gave me one of the most important skills in my life. We shared a love of reading; ten years later, when I was a teenager, Debbie found out that I was laid up after a back surgery and sent me a box of books to keep me occupied and keep my spirits up while I recovered. I never forgot that. The blindness community in Delaware has lost a good friend and a tireless advocate.

Kip Massey - December 01, 2016 at 12:00 AM

PB

“ Please accept my sincere sympathy for your family during this difficult time of grief. My prayers are with you.

Pat Burrell - December 01, 2016 at 12:00 AM

DH

“ We offer our deepest sympathy to Debbie's family. Our hearts are saddened that we will not see Debbie at a council meeting or Legislative Hall fighting for people who are blind or visually impaired, but there is hope. We will not share a laugh on a ride home after some education event, but there is still hope. Debbie dedicated her life to the uplifting of our community for which, we are deeply grateful; she offered us hope. Elizabeth and I will sorely miss Debbie, but there is everlasting hope. Debbie knew our Savior, who is the essence of hope. It is for this reason that we are certain to meet again and, just think, then she will see with her eyes. Rest peacefully Friend.

Debbie & Elizabeth Harrington - November 30, 2016 at 12:00 AM