



Francis Wheatley Gates

December 14, 1924 - September 3, 2018

Francis Wheatley Gates, a native of Easton, Maryland, departed this life on Monday, September 3, 2018, at University of Maryland Shore Medical Center at Easton. He was 93.

He was born on December 14, 1924, in Easton, Maryland, to the late James Edward Gates and Ella Winchester Gates. He graduated from Robert Russa Moton High School in Easton in 1941 and went on to serve his country in the United States Army in March of 1943, during World War II where he attained the rank of Corporal and fought in Germany, France, and Scotland. He left the Army in 1946, and fulfilled his commitment to education by earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education from Bowie State College (University) in 1949. His pursuit of educational excellence did not end there. He received a Master of Education degree from Loyola College in Baltimore, Maryland. He was the recipient of honorary doctorate degrees from Morgan State University, and the National Theological Seminary and College in Kansas City, Kansas.

On December 22, 1951, Francis entered into holy matrimony and life-time partnership with Ada Baker. Through their union, they produced a devoted daughter, Pamela.

Hard work had been a part of Francis' early life. His work ethic was built through various traditional jobs such as delivering groceries as a child to waiting tables as a young man to pay his way through college. He began his professional career in the service of the State of Maryland's public school System in 1949, as a social studies teacher at Robert Moton High School in Westminster, MD. His next 15 years were spent in principalships at Johnsville Elementary School (Sykesville, MD), Robert Moton High School (Westminster, MD), and at the locally beloved Lockerman High School in Denton, Maryland. From 1967 until his retirement in 1980, he held staff positions within the Maryland State Department of Education. Most notably, Dr. Gates was Chief of the Migrant Education branch from 1973-1980.

Following his retirement, he joined the faculty of Sojourner-Douglass College as a political

and social science instructor and was the director of its Eastern Shore satellite school. He was most presently associated with the Bennie Smith Funeral Home, headquartered in Dover, Delaware. He was an executive member of the firm whose work experience with the company spanned over 30 years. His soul was always warmed when families expressed the positive impact that his words of sympathy and comfort had on them in their time of bereavement.

Outside of his esteemed career work, Dr. Gates was committed to his faith and the uplift of his community. He was a member of Bethel A.M.E. Church in Easton, Maryland, where he served on the Steward Board, Trustee Board, and as Director of the Gospel Choir. He was recently honored as the “Oldest Member of Bethel A.M.E. Church of Easton, Maryland” at their 200th Anniversary Celebration. He has also served on the General Board of the A.M.E. Church as Vice-chairman of its Commission on Higher Education.

He was a current member of the Delta Gama Sigma Chapter of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc.; Gamma Theta Boule of Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity; University of Maryland Chapter of Phi Delta Kappa; Blake-Blackston Post #77, American Legion; and Life Member of the NAACP. A 32nd-Degree Prince Hall Mason, he was a former member of Eastern Star Lodge #16 and Western Maryland Consistory #270.

Dr. Gates' love for young people and their education was always evident. He was known for asking young people about their future plans and became ecstatic when youngsters wanted to attend college and go into the field of education. He advocated for more African Americans to go into the field and to ultimately, become school leaders for the next generation.

Dr. Gates was preceded in death by his beloved wife of 63 years, Ada Gates in 2015. He was also preceded in death by his four brothers, Chester, Leon, Earl, and Alexander and one aunt, Margaret King.

Dr. Gates leaves to cherish his memories and celebrate his life and achievements, his daughter, Pamela B. Gates of Easton, MD; grandson, Michael A. Collier, and a great-grandson, Michael Adam Collier (MAC) of Seattle, Washington; sisters-in-law, Doris Borden (Baltimore, MD), Loretta Baker (Easton, MD); and a god-daughter, Selina Davis (Greenwood, DE); several nieces, nephews, cousins and other relatives; a loving caregiver, Sheila Wright (Ridgely, MD), and a host of friends.

To send flowers to the family or plant a tree in memory of Francis Wheatley Gates, please visit our Heartfelt Sympathies Store.

Tribute Wall

EF

“ To the Gates Family..So sorry for your loss, but rejoice in the fact that he was a man of GOD. Don't be sad for him he wouldn't want that....think of all the great memories he left behind, that will put a smile on your face. RIP Mr Gates

Ella Coursey & Doretha Coursey & family - September 12, 2018 at 12:00 AM

HF

“ My deepest condolences for the loss of your dear loved one. While nothing will completely take away your grief, by meditating on Gods promises found in the Bible, you can find real hope and the strength to keep going. My family and I have found the scripture at Isaiah 25:8 to be especially comforting. Here it promises that God "will swallow up death forever and the Sovereign Lord Jehovah will wipe away the tears from all faces."

H. Fields - September 10, 2018 at 12:00 AM

PS

“ Rest In Peace, our dear friend.
Peter and Natasha Singleton

Peter and Natasha Singleton - September 09, 2018 at 12:00 AM

BM

“ *"God's Heavenly Garden "*

*Sometimes God picks the flower that is still in full bloom;
Sometimes the rosebud's chosen that we feel He's picked too soon.
Sometimes the flower is fading with petals floating down,
But God knows the perfect time to gather flowers from the ground.
There is a Heavenly garden
In which God takes great pleasure
Because He's placed within it The loved ones that we treasure.
He walks among the blossoms Giving them ETERNAL REST,
And I know that it must please Him
Because He chose our very best.
(Poem written by Dorothea K. Barwick)*

We at Bethel have been BLESSED by the times that Mr. Gates worshipped with us on several occasions. We met him through the acquaintances, and Friendship of Mrs. Helen Ayers, Mrs. Ruth Davenport, and Mrs. Helen Marshall. He loved to play the piano, as well as keeping busy in various organizations. We will always remember Mr Gates.

(JOHN 11:25) I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die).

*With Love and Prayers
Bethel Church Family ❤️
Pastor: Rev. Albert Jones, Jr.
Rev. Dorothy Sisco
Rev. Jesse & Evangelist Deborah Warrick*

Bethel AME Church - Centreville, MD - September 08, 2018 at 12:00 AM

IR

“ *Sorry for the passing of your love one. Read Psalms 46:1 for words of comfort and peace.*

Irene - September 08, 2018 at 12:00 AM

LJ

“ Dear Family :

When a close Relative or Friend dies, we sorrow as Mary and Martha did for their brother Lazarus (John 11:17-27). We miss the departed so much that our hearts break and weep, as Jesus wept at the passing of His friend.

Yet, it was at this sorrowful moment Jesus made a delightful statement on life after death: "I am the resurrection and th life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. " On the basis of this we give departed believers only a temporary farewell. For they "will be with the Lord forever, "(1 Thessalonians 4:7) We can rest assured that they are in the Lord's safe hands.

Blessings and Prayers to each of you!

Lorraine Jenkins - September 08, 2018 at 12:00 AM

RF

“ Isaiah 25:8 "He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death. "

Mr. Gates will always be remembered by so many. He has left positive memories to everyone that has known him.

Always cherish the fond memories of your loved one.

Ruth King and Family - September 08, 2018 at 12:00 AM

JO

“ I am so sorry for the loss of Francis Gates your loved one and I would like to extend my deepest condolence to the family. May you find comfort in God's words in (Revelation 21: 4.)

JoyceA - September 05, 2018 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 - September 05, 2018 at 12:00 AM

TW

“ Sorry For Your Loss
Jesus Loves Me
We Are Special

Thomas Widgeon - September 05, 2018 at 12:00 AM

TF

“ *Death is the hardest part of life. May Family and Friends of Francis always cherish those precious memories that you shared and created with her, and May All of Gods promises comfort your hearts. Acts 24:15, Revelation 21:4, John 6:40*

The Hodge Family - September 04, 2018 at 12:00 AM