



## Lucy Belle Wright "Cookie" McElroy

July 13, 1948 - October 7, 2019

Lucy Belle Wright McElroy, fondly known to most as “Cookie,” was born on July 13, 1948, in Baltimore, Maryland. She departed this earth on October 7, 2019, following a battle with pancreatic cancer.

Cookie was the only child born to the late Norman D. and Lucy Belle Wright of Queen Anne’s County, Maryland. A graduate of Kennard High School, Class of 1966, she didn’t stray too far from home to continue her higher education at Maryland State, now known as the University of Maryland, Eastern Shore (UMES). In college, Cookie was a majorette in the Maryland State marching band. That is where she met the drum major, Orlando “Crane” McElroy, who would become the love of her life. Cookie and Crane loved hanging out on campus with friends, going to school dances, traveling on band trips, and making weekend visits to see Cookie’s parents.

After graduating from college, Cookie worked for Hamilton National Bank in Chattanooga, Tennessee, before moving back to Centreville, Maryland, in 1976. It was then that she took over the home economics department at Queen Anne’s County High School, and her love for teaching blossomed. She enjoyed teaching classes in cooking, restaurant management, sewing, clothing, childcare, gym and various other subjects. By the time of her retirement in 2016, Cookie had taught at all educational levels—elementary, middle and high school—and had worked for the Queen Anne’s County Public

School system for 39 years.

Never one to let the grass grow under her feet, Cookie was always on the move, volunteering and helping others—and doing so with a smile on her face. She held several positions with the Mercer-Ayers-Wright Missionary Society of Bethel in Centreville, performing mission work throughout the community and lending a helping hand to those in need. Cookie's continuous and unwavering involvement in the Bethel A.M.E. Church in Centreville truly brought her great joy. She served on the Kitchen Committee, in the Prayer Circle, and in the Missionary Society; and was also a Trustee, Usher and Communion Stewardess. As secretary for the Lucretia Kennard Homemakers Club, she helped with various projects and sewing initiatives. Cookie also volunteered as a judge for the Queen Anne's County 4-H Fair, and took pleasure in volunteering for the home arts department.

Whenever Cookie found a spare moment, she loved providing for others and offering her time or services. She was quick to sew a dress or hem a pair of pants for adults and children alike, and almost never let anyone leave her house empty-handed. She had no qualms about politely forcing anyone to take an extra plate of food or a dessert she just whipped up.

Cookie's pride and joy were her grandchildren—she loved visits from them and spending time with them. Weekends, holidays and trips to Mom Mom's house were filled with love, laughter, music, cooking and watching her beloved Baltimore Ravens play.

Cookie was preceded in death by her mother and father, Norman D. and Lucy Belle Wright. Left to cherish her memory are her husband, Orlando "Crane" McElroy of Church Hill, MD; son, Tracy Lee McElroy and daughter-in-law, Deborah Paulus McElroy, of Blacksburg, VA; daughter Niki McElroy Grant, and son-in-law, Dr. Toren Grant of Laurel, MD; daughter Tammy McElroy

McNish, and son-in-law, Kenrick McNish, of Charlotte, NC; six grandchildren —Ashley, Meghan, Camryn, Vincent, Avery and Davis; uncle, George “Buck” Pritchett of Annapolis, MD; a host of cousins, relatives and close friends; and three grand-pets, Ansley, Migo and Meadow.

# Tribute Wall

LP

“ To the family: what a great friend that left way too soon. We had many good times together helping at the County fair. A lot of laughs. When I saw her, she would always have a hug. Our prayers and blessings are with you all at this time. She was a great person who was loved by many. God bless you all at this time. Blessings, Lynda and Gene Palmatary

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**Lynda H. Palmatary** - November 03, 2019 at 02:08 PM

EA

“ Memories of our friend will ALWAYS be of joy, love & kindness. I, Ernestine, worked with her @ QACHS. She loved her students, teaching & colleagues. But MOST of all she LOVED her family, church, community & friends. Her smiles, hugs & sweet loving spirit will always be remembered & cherished. We pray for your comfort in knowing Cookie's memories will always be with each of you. Love Ernestine and Tommy Adams

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**Ernestine and Tommy Adams** - October 13, 2019 at 07:59 PM

PC

“ I met Lucy while working at Centreville Middle School. She was always so upbeat and we shared many laughs together. My heart goes out to her family and friends. This wonderful lady will truly be missed! Lucy, may your star always shine brightly!

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**Pam Colmus-McGee** - October 13, 2019 at 05:00 PM

DP

“ *Cookie and I were classmates. It was such a joy to see her and work with her at our 50th class reunion. I had not seen Cookie since we graduated (KHS -1966) and she was the same lovely person I remembered. REST EASY! You will remain in our hearts. Prayers of comfort for the family. Dorothy Hynson Parham*

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**Dorothy Parham** - October 12, 2019 at 12:48 PM

LR

“ *Wishing you peace to bring comfort, courage to face the days ahead and loving memories to forever hold in your hearts.*

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**Love, Mike, Gina, Preston and Robin** - October 11, 2019 at 08:30 PM

DM

“ *Our Condolences,. Donald, Vivian and Melanie McClyment*

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**Donald McClyment** - October 11, 2019 at 07:27 PM

DW

“ *Ms. Cookie was a wonderful lady!! Very kind and dear! She could make people laugh and had a heart of gold. I worked with her at Centreville Elem for many years. Rest In Peace sweet lady!!! You will be missed.*

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**Danielle Wilson** - October 11, 2019 at 07:20 PM

TF

“ *Please accept our most heartfelt sympathies for your loss... Our thoughts are with you and your family during this difficult time.*

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**The Doherty Family** - October 11, 2019 at 06:27 PM

IR

“ Known to my family as "Ms. Cookie"!She was someone who no matter where we seen her we didn't depart without a good laugh. She would take no time at all sharing her words of wisdom and if my husband Charles didn't agree with her, off they would go into one of their debate sessions. She was one of my Mom's seamstresses for years. Ms. Cookie loved to have a good time. I recall her attending a birthday party that was hosted by my family and one of the activities was for the adults to hula hoop. Ms. Cookie not only showed off her hooping skills, she was still going when everyone else had stopped or was still trying to get started. I had the opportunity at times to be with her as she taught the students in the summer BSEP program in Church Hill. She had no problem getting the students attention because you were not going to waste your time or hers. I know my family will truly miss Ms. Cookie. Dear McElroy Family, You have our deepest sympathy. Iris Carter and family

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**Iris** - October 11, 2019 at 12:50 PM

RD

“ we will always cherish your memory and the good times..

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**Roy Douglas** - October 11, 2019 at 09:47 AM

WL

“ Lucy was was wonderful loving lady that my wife and I were honored to call a friend She always had a smile and a hug and a willingness to help. I was lucky enough to teach her beautiful daughters and trade silly remarks with Orlando. We will miss our friend but she left a wonderful legacy

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**William f Lampman** - October 10, 2019 at 06:59 PM

BL

“ Cookie came from a beautiful family that I was privileged to know and love. She always had a smile and hug for me and all of her friends. A wonderful lady who loved children and was loved by all that knew her. Helen and I send our deepest sympathies to a wonderful lady and especially a friend. Bill & Helen Lampman

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**Bill & Helen Lampman** - October 10, 2019 at 06:58 PM

LS

“ Cookie has always been in my thoughts. She was always kind and helpful to everyone. My heart goes out to Tracy, Tammy and Nicki.

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**Lois Shaw** - October 10, 2019 at 06:35 PM

TS

“ Crane and family....we are so sorry for your loss of a great lady. Cookie had a contagious smile and a sweet spirit and she will be missed. We are lifting you all up in prayers for peace and comfort. Take care of yourself. God Bless you all Love ya Billy and Terri Schelhouse

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**Terri Schelhouse** - October 10, 2019 at 02:42 PM

TW

“ Mrs. McElroy was my favorite teacher of All Times. She always seemed to make US students feel special. I remember her always greeting the students with a smile and always willing to listen. Mrs. McElroy didn't just teach my siblings and I; she also taught my nieces and nephews as well and each of them have always said something positive about her. She will be greatly missed.

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**Tina West** - October 10, 2019 at 09:01 AM

AB

“ *Cookie is an amazing lady with a heart of gold!! If you knew her, she touched your heart!! Rest in peace beautiful soul!!!!*  
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**Amy Bauer** - October 08, 2019 at 08:46 PM

SF

“ *One of the sweetest teachers ever. Almost always had a smile and a sweet voice for us students. Rest easy\u2764\u2764\u2764\u2764*

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**Sandy Fish** - October 08, 2019 at 01:48 PM

SM

“ *I met Cookie in late 1967 or early 1968 when I lived in Washington, DC. We became very close (like sisters) almost instantly when learning our birthdates were only 7 days apart...we visited often until I moved from the area in 1970. We continued to keep in touch and she visited me last in October 2015. My heartfelt condolences goes out to Crane, Tracy, Nickie, Tammy and all the rest of the family and friends. A strong pillar of the community will be truly missed. Until we meet again... Love you Cookie... Rest in Heavenly Peace. Sakeenah Mubashshir a.k.a Barbara Kinnebrew*

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**Sakeenah Mubashshir** - October 07, 2019 at 06:49 PM