



Mattie Woods

January 22, 1947 - June 19, 2017

Mattie Woods was born January 22, 1947 in Preston, Maryland, the tenth of eleven children of the late Mrs. Jessie Turner Woods and the late Rev. John W. Woods, Sr. Mattie peacefully departed this life to be with the Lord on Monday, June 19, 2017 at the Pinnacle Health Community General Osteopathic Hospital in Harrisburg, PA after a valiant battle with multiple sclerosis. Mattie and her twin sister Hattie were the second set of twins in this close, loving, Christian family. She was 70 years old.

Mattie grew up with her family in Caroline County Maryland. She graduated from Lockerman High School in Denton, MD as Honorarian in her Class of 1965. She continued her formal education at Maryland State College (now the University of Maryland Eastern Shore) in Princess Anne for one year before transferring to Virginia State University in Petersburg, VA, where in 1970 she received her BS degree in Library Science with a minor in French. She received her Master of Science degree in Library Science with a specialty in Communications/Computer based data in 1979 from Clarion University in Pennsylvania.

In her youth Mattie accepted Christ as her Savior and was baptized at Harmony Missionary Baptist Church (then located in Preston, MD) under the pastorate of her grandfather, the late Rev. D. R. Turner. She was an active participant in church, whether serving in Sunday School, singing on the

church choir, participating in various church pageanties, or giving impromptu inspirational addresses. She and her twin sister Hattie often sang duets at church gatherings, beginning as young as pre-school age singing such songs as “Jesus is Mine” and “Yes, Jesus Loves Me.” When she relocated to Harrisburg, PA she united with Goodwin Memorial Baptist Church, where she faithfully attended until her health began to fail her. Daily she listened to devotional passages and/or religious programs. She found great inspiration in them, with one of her favorite passages being: Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. (John 14:1).

Mattie enjoyed life, learning, and being of service to others. She had a very pleasant personality, beautiful smile, a flair for fashionable dress, and a positive outlook on life. She was an avid reader. In her professional career, she was a librarian. She served as Head Librarian at John Harris High School of the Harrisburg School District from 1970-1972. Beginning in 1972 she was Circulation Services Librarian for the McCormick Library at Harrisburg Area Community College in PA. After 32 years of service, she retired as professor of Information Science and French. Once when asked why she decided on a library career, she replied, “I feel that a career in Library Science offers me humanistic fulfillment, needed variety, cultural and intellectual stimulation, and unlimited flexibility.”

Among her professional affiliations was membership in the American Library Association, the Pennsylvania Library Association, Beta Phi Mu International Library Science Honor Society, the American Association of University Professors, and the Pennsylvania Black Conference on Higher Education. Included among her honors and special recognitions are biographical listings in the International Who’s Who in Education (1980) and Outstanding Contributions to Education.

In the community Mattie continued active involvements. She was an advisory

committee member for Hemlock Girl Scout Troops in G-9 Service Unit (Harrisburg area) and recipient of the certificate of merit for her work with Troop No. 809 of Girl Scouts of America. She was a member of the NAACP, an advisory committee member for Community Service Group in Harrisburg; a member of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., the Harrisburg Alumnae Chapter, where she served as chapter president 1997-1999.

Mattie, often with her twin sister Hattie, delighted in traveling, listening to music, engaging in creative activities, and attending theatrical performances with season tickets to Hershey Theatre. They traveled across continental USA to nearly every state and to many of the historic landmarks and tourist attractions such as Niagara Falls, Yellowstone National Park, the Grand Canyons, the Alamo, Rushmore, to name a few. Mattie traveled to Hawaii and Puerto Rico, visiting aspects of non-mainland USA, as well as to places outside of the country such as Canada, Mexico, England, Germany, France, Austria, Venezuela, and cruising the Caribbean Islands. She also enjoyed watching and participating in sports, cooking, and engaging in civic activities.

Mattie's diagnosis of MS came in her later years. As the disease progressed, she never complained, but with a smile would respond, "I'm doing OK." She found comfort in the scripture: And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. (Revelation 21:4)

Those preceding her in death are her parents Rev. and Mrs. John W Woods, Sr. of Preston, Maryland; her brother Benjamin Woods and her sister-in-law Shirley Carter Woods, both of Montgomery, Alabama.

She leaves to cherish her memory six sisters: Hattie Woods of Harrisburg, Pa,

Alice Watkins of Atlantic City, NJ, Ezola Webb of Preston, MD, Cozy (Newlin) Street of Smyrna, DE, Jessie Woods of Dover, DE, and Willie Woods of Easton, MD; three brothers, Maurice (Lynda) Woods of Cleveland, OH, Rev. Alfred (Bertie) Woods of Front Royal, VA, and John (Linda) Woods, Jr. of Chesapeake, VA; nieces, Vernell J. Watkins of Atlantic City, NJ, Rhonda Scott-Dingwall of Washington, DC, Misty Brown of Raleigh, NC, and Sherri (Jeffrey) Spratt of Gahanna, OH; Nephews, Darnell Watkins of Atlantic City, NJ, Anthony Woods and Donald Woods of Cleveland, OH, Steven Woods of Alexandria, VA.; a god-son, Jason Hutchins in NC; a host of cousins [including Robert (Clara) Turner and Martha Dickerson, all of Federalsburg, MD and Nazelle Jefferson of Jackson, MS, grand nieces and nephews, and other relatives and friends.

Lovingly submitted,
The Family

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

Tribute Wall

GR

“ My dear wife and I would like to extend our condolences for the loss of your loved one. At difficult times like this we realise how precious and fragile life can be. As your family and friends comfort one another, my wife and I pray that you will also be comforted by the sure hope the Bible gives us for all those who have died. Jesus promised that one day he would bring back to life all those who have died (John 5:28, 29). What a glorious day that will be. All that God asks of us is that we simply do His will, not our own and be blessed (1 John 2:17, Proverbs 3:5, 6). Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you.

George & Chris Ragusa - June 27, 2017 at 12:00 AM

JG

“ To friends and family of Mattie: I am deeply sorry for your loss. Mattie and I were colleagues on the staff of HACC, and I remember well her smile and laugh, and always willingness to help students and staff. She, like many others, I have lost touch with since my retirement, and unfortunately, Mattie like others who help develop HACC into an outstanding college, will never get the honor or recognition that they deserved. Jon Gardner, Sr. Professor, Student Services, HACC

Jon W Gardner - June 26, 2017 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 - June 25, 2017 at 12:00 AM

FG

“ My heartfelt condolences for the loss of your beloved, Mattie. Please know that Jehovah God and his son Jesus Christ is aware of your pain and they care for you. (2 Corinthians 1:3,4) . I pray that you are able to find comfort in God's promise of paradise where there will be no more pain and sorrow (Revelation 21:4,5) and the many wonderful memories of your loved ones becoming a reality in the future resurrection in paradise. (Acts 24:15). Please accept my sincere condolences.

Frederick Green - June 24, 2017 at 12:00 AM

DS

“ Please accept my deepest sympathy in the loss of your loved one. Death is an enemy to us all, but the bible gives us hope of the resurrection where those who have died will be brought back to life. (Acts 24:15) The bible also tells us that Almighty God will soon remove death, sickness and pain. Please look forward to that time. Until then may your entire family be comforted and blessed.

Doretha Sampson - June 24, 2017 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.

Mattie Jones - June 23, 2017 at 12:00 AM

GS

“ To The Family of Mattie Woods:

I would like to send your family my sincere condolences. God's word written for our instruction and comfort is a source of encouragement when we lose a loved one in death.

Death is an enemy according to God's words found at 1 Corinthians 15:26. It reads " And the last enemy, death, is to be brought to nothing". What a grand blessing from Jehovah. In many Bible translations we find God's name at Psalms 83:18.

Jehovah provides hope that can give us comfort. At John 5:28,29 all families on earth can look forward to the fulfillment of seeing our loved ones when they are resurrected back to paradise on earth. At Psalms 37:29 we read that the righteous will possess the earth, And they will live forever on it. What a grand time it will be.

All families on earth have the opportunity to witness Jesus call to wake our loved ones up to live again not as life is today with sickness and death. Life when sickness and death will be no more. (Revelation 21:3,4).

Sorrowfully Submitted,

Grace Stripling - June 23, 2017 at 12:00 AM