



## Olivia Bernice Blackwell

January 22, 1937 - March 19, 2021

Olivia Bernice Tyler was born on Friday, January 22, 1937, to Walter Harrison Tyler and Nellie Jones Tyler, in Harrington, Delaware. She departed this life on Friday, March 19, 2021, at the Westminster Village at Dover, in Dover, Delaware.

Olivia was raised in a very strong Christian home. She was educated in the Capital School District and matriculated to Delaware State College, now Delaware State University, Dover, Delaware, graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree in Health and Physical Education.

Olivia married Alphonso Blackwell, Sr., and from that union, three children were born: YoLanda, Alphonso, Jr., and Shawn. The family made their home in Bridgeville, Delaware.

Olivia was employed for over 40 years as a Physical Education Teacher at Colwyck Junior High School in New Castle County and William Henry High School in Dover, Delaware, and served as a volunteer at the Senior Center in Laurel, Delaware. She said that she retired to be a “volunteer”.

She was a faithful member of Mt. Calvary United Methodist Church, where she loved to worship. She held many positions in the church and conference levels. She also had a passion for writing plays and skits for special holidays

and sang with several choirs, including the Atmosphere of Praise Choir. She was a Lay Servant and the Lay Leader of Mt. Calvary, at the time of her passing.

Olivia was initiated in 1958, into the Epsilon Alpha Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., and in 1988, was a charter member of the Sussex County Alumnae Chapter.

Her matter-of-fact demeanor, coupled with her one-of-a-kind personality, evolved into a very humble spirit and lovingkindness for everyone. Her words of inspiration were, "Stay in love with God". Olivia lived an impressive life of service, as a true Servant of God. If you think she had done it, rest-assured, she probably had. She didn't live to be able to submit a resume' to God of her earthly accomplishments, she lived to "live again". You never saw Olivia without donning one of her many hats. She wore them well.

Olivia was preceded in death by her parents and husband, as well as, sisters, Florence Tyler, Earlean Benson and Ann Tyler; three brothers, Leo Tyler, Allen Tyler and Raymond Tyler; and her mother-in-law, Nellie B. Rich.

Olivia leaves to cherish her memory, her three children; siblings, Pauline Williams-Tyler, Vicky Polk, Geraldine Smith and Hazel Quarles; seven grandchildren; seven great grandchildren and expecting the first great-great grandchild, very soon. Olivia also leaves to mourn her loss, sisters-in-law, Teresa Rich Palmer and Dorothy Tyler, and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, church family and sorority sisters.

# Tribute Wall

KH

“ *Good timber does not grow with ease..The stronger the wind...the stronger the trees.*

**Kartrena Harris** - April 04, 2021 at 12:12 PM

KH

“ *Our life story is in our pages...The pages thru our words..our words thru the deeds we do. Mother Blackwell represented a life well lived. Character dignity, honor. I did not have the pleasure of knowing her but got to see her work thru her son, Alphonso. God honored her with progeny, fullness of life and her legacy of giving back. She now dwells with Him in glory! I pray for your continuing strength & that of your family in this difficult season and I bless God that she poured her strength ... into all you & all she knew. Kartrena Harris...Acquaintance*

**Kartrena Harris** - April 04, 2021 at 12:03 PM

GH

“ *Sending my condolences to the family. Olivia joined our family several years back, along with my Aunt Doris, for Easter and Christmas dinners. She was a beautiful person and felt like a member of the family.*

**Gregory Handy** - March 31, 2021 at 04:00 PM

JC

“ *Always looked forward to seeing her in church. Always wore such lovely hats. Condolences to the family.*

**Judy Marshall Cook** - March 25, 2021 at 09:07 PM

MS

“ I am going to miss my friend so much. Hanging out with her was a lesson in life everyday. Family, life will never be the same since she has left our midst. But she is at rest, no longer suffering. I thank God for placing her in my life to give me a living picture of what an angel on earth looks like. Rest In Peace until we meet again, I pray the family will be comforted by God\u2019s grace, mercy and peace through this difficult time. Prayers and Love Ginger Speight

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**Mary Virginia Speight** - March 23, 2021 at 12:43 PM