



Sudie Belle Gatling

January 19, 1937 - January 5, 2023

Obituary for Sudie Belle Gatling

Beloved Wife, Mother, and Grandmother, Sudie Belle Gatling, 85, was born in the township of White Oak, NC, on January 19, 1937, to Charlie and Albertha Gadson. On Thursday, January 5th, 2023, Sudie transitioned from her earthly bonds to join her heavenly Father.

Sudie Gatling was the sixth child of eleven sisters and brothers. She was raised in a clapboard house and toiled on her father's farm, waking up in the morning before the rooster sounded his alarm. Sudie worked late into the night and would finish her chores by the moon's light. School was a respite where Sudie experienced much success. She walked miles there and back because education is what Sudie loved best. She had fond memories of the Christmas season with her siblings because there was much laughter. Sudie enjoyed preparing cakes and pies and other sweet food. She also remembered stoking the old stove with wood. Sudie enjoyed

reading whenever she could rather than pulling weeds as her daddy thought she should.

Sudie studied one year at Washington D.C. Teachers' College, and later attended Elizabeth City State Teachers College, where she met the love of her life, James Alfred Gatling. She graduated from college in 1960 with a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education. After college, Sudie came to Maryland to work for the Worcester County School System at the African American, Stephen Long Elementary school. James followed her to Maryland, and they were married in July of 1961. Sudie later moved on to Pocomoke Middle School where she worked for 30 years before retiring. Sudie completed her Masters Equivalency through courses taken in Towson University, Salisbury State University, and the University of Maryland.

Sudie's home was always open to friends and family alike. She was known for her beautiful gardens filled with fruits, vegetables, and flowers. Sudie loved learning and took to the challenge of acquiring new skills. She taught herself painting, upholstery, refinishing furniture, canning, quilting, and wine making among other skills. Sudie and James' favorite pastime was exploring the Worcester County area to find places of interest and locating little fishing and crabbing villages on the water that were now deserted. As they discovered the beauty of the

area, it was then that they knew that the Eastern Shore was their place to call home.

During college, Sudie joined the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Delta Theta Chapter in 1957.

Their mission of "Service to All Mankind" was present throughout all of Sudie's endeavors.

Sudie volunteered in the community and was known for making quilts; care packages for the needy; entertaining at nursing homes and senior daycare centers; and volunteering in the Read

Across America in schools. She made quilts for the homeless and taught other women how to

make quilted sleeping bags for the homeless at the Peninsula Delta Women's Conference. She

also volunteered her time for the Worcester County G.O.L.D (Giving Other Lives Dignity) Inc.

Sudie was a member of the Mt. Zion United Methodist Church, where she sang in the choir and

served as President and Treasurer of the United Methodists Women's Organization, was a

member of the Church Board of Pastor Parish Relations, past Secretary of the membership

committee, member of the Capital Campaign Committee, and the Church Council Board, acted

as worship leader, kept records, and made accurate summaries for the Peninsula Delaware

Conference. She was a member of the Maryland and Worcester County Retired Teachers

Association where she served as president for two terms and chair of the

Necrology and
Hospitality Committees.

Sudie was the director and driving force behind the Sturgis One School Museum, often making it come to life by dressing as a school teacher from that era and giving tours. Sudie and James worked for 17 years to bring the museum from concept to reality. Sudie worked diligently publishing newsletters, developing community relationships, and contacting benefactors to raise funds to support the museum. She worked constantly researching information on the museum and its former teachers and students. Sudie also spent her time collecting and preserving artifacts and organizing programs for the museum such as Black History and Women's History programs in 2006. She participated in the Annual Arts and Technology Cultural Heritage Festival. She was awarded the Lower Eastern Shore Heritage Council 2012 Legacy Award for her 17+ years of work to restore, refurbish, and maintain the museum. Sudie was the recipient of many accolades including the Maryland Senior Citizen Hall of Fame in 2001, the Tourism Person of the Year Award in 2008, and the Lower Shore Heritage Council's Heritage Interpreter Award.

Sudie was appointed to the Worcester County Board of Economic Development. She was an

active member of the Pocomoke Fair Committee. With the Fair, Sudie worked with food preservation and farm produce. In 2000, she served as a judge and for the first time since the Fair had been revived, Sudie set up a prize winning exhibit in the Fair at Hagerstown, Md.

Sudie received many recognitions and accommodations for service within the community. She was a Gem Tea Honoree in 2011, Worcester County Commission for Women. She also formed an outreach singing group whose mission was to serve the nursing homes and senior day care centers which resulted in a Certificate of Appreciation from Brick Haven Adult Medical Day Care Center.

Sudie was preceded in death by her husband, James Gatling; parents, Charles and Albertha Gadson; siblings Charles, Rudolph, and Doug Gadson. Sudie is survived by her two children, James Jr. and spouse Vicki, Ryan and spouse Petra-Jane; six grandchildren Amber, Jamal, Maya, Kinsey, Della, and Nathan; siblings Mary, Edith, Joyce, Margaret, Dasretta, Evelyn, and James.

Sudie was a loving, thoughtful, creative, and giving person. She believed in service to God, family, and community and that we should conduct ourselves with excellence and order in all

endeavors.

Instead of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the Worcester County Retired School Personnel Association (WCRSPA) Scholarship Fund. Each year a deserving graduate/applicant from Stephen Decatur High School, Snow Hill High School, and Pocomoke High School receives a WCRSPA Scholarship. Checks should be made payable to WCRSPA

Sudie Gatling had a passion for education. For years she led the fund raisers for the Worcester County Retired School Personnel Association Scholarship Fund. Each year a deserving graduate/applicant from Stephen Decatur High School, Snow Hill High School, and Pocomoke High School receives a \$1000 scholarship. We are asking that you consider donations to the Scholarship Fund in lieu of flowers. See the picture below for instructions on how to donate

Cemetery Details

Eastern Shore Veterans Cemetery

6827 East New Market Ellwood Road
Hurlock, MD 21643

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 28. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Bennie Smith Life Celebration Center
901 West Isabella Street
Salisbury, MD 21801

Funeral Service

JAN 28. 3:00 PM (ET)

Bennie Smith Life Celebration Center
901 West Isabella Street
Salisbury, MD 21801

Tribute Wall



“ *Bennie Smith Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Sudie Belle Gatling*



Bennie Smith Funeral Home - January 28, 2023 at 03:38 PM

BL

“ *I thank Sudie and her husband for taking care of my daughter Nicole while at UMES. They held her a lovely graduation party in their pear garden. We also took turns hosting the Rhodes-Kinsey family reunions. At her wedding James teased her for not telling him about her beaux*

Rest in peace cousin Barbara Andrews Lewis.

BARBARA Jean LEWIS - January 28, 2023 at 10:53 PM



“ *Condolences to the Freeman Family on the loss of your loved one, Sudie Garling. Sending prayers of comfort.*

Alice Kibler - January 28, 2023 at 03:15 PM

CR

“ *May God Bless you Jimmy and Ryan during this time. Aunt Sudie was the BEST godmother ever! She was my second mother! God BLESS you and your family! Love Carol.*

Carol Ray - January 28, 2023 at 09:52 AM

MW

“ Sincerest condolences to Jim, Ryan and all of her family and friends. Prayers up for peace and comfort on her loss. Much love, hugs, and the Lord Jesus’ blessings to the Gatling and extended family. - Mitch, Willetta, Elliott and Evan Wheeler, Lake Villa, Illinois

Mitchell Wheeler - January 28, 2023 at 09:39 AM

MT

“ Deepest sympathy to the family, Mrs. Barnes, Marty, Kyle and Tre. May God's love and comfort be with you knowing others share your loss. God bless you.
Mamie Teagle



Mamie Teagle - January 28, 2023 at 08:12 AM

TC

“ She was my 4th grade teacher and was the BEST teacher ever.

Teresa Chavis - January 28, 2023 at 12:40 AM

DT

“ I 1st met Mrs. Gatling as my 4th grade teacher at Stephen Long Elementary School. Her stature demanded your respect. The next time I came in contact with Mrs. Gatling was as a co-worker at Pocomoke Middle School. We developed a relationship that was So Beautiful!! To truly know her was to love her!! Kind, intelligent, inspiring and encouraging!! We'd stay after school and do our Science experiments together so we'd be ready for our kids!! We work on Olympics of the Mind and won a State Championship!! Picasso's, Baby's First steps! So much work wss put into that !! This time around she learned from me and I from her. We'd go out to dinner, almost weekly!! Backyard Family reunions, gardening and so many times just chatting. Oh how I will miss her! My Friend and Sorority Sister.



Deborah W Taylor - January 27, 2023 at 10:04 PM

JM

“ Mrs. Gatling will always be a beautifully kind person. She taught me 4th grade at Pocomoke Middle School and I will always love her. When I use to see her in WalMart I would always stop and chat with her at Mr Gatling. I am so thankful for the memories. She made the world a brighter place. Thank you God for sharing such a wonderful person with us. God Bless you Mrs Gatling.

Jeff Matthews - January 27, 2023 at 04:46 PM

JR

“ I'll never forget the kindness she shared with me as a new, mid-year, transfer student in her fourth grade class. She was a remarkable lady.

Janet Richardson - January 27, 2023 at 04:11 PM

SB

“ Susie was a remarkable person...both she & her husband, Jim, will be greatly missed for their dedication & contributions to our community !!

Sonny Bloxom - January 27, 2023 at 03:47 PM

HS

“ SUDIE was one of Worcester's Retired Personnel. She was a Maryland Hall of Fame recipient. She planned Necrology programs for or deceased members She was a passionate supporter of the one room school house. We will miss her joyful personality. The association has made a donation in her name to the Worcester Education Foundation at the Community

Helen Schoffstall - January 26, 2023 at 10:59 PM

HW

“ So sorry to hear of the passing of our beloved Sudie Belle. I met Sudie Belle many years ago at several family reunions that I attended with her sister and my dear friend, Dasretta (Das) Sapp. I remember the deep conversations that Sudie Belle and I had during those occasions. She will be missed. Rest in peace, Soror. Hope N. Walton

Hope N. Walton - January 26, 2023 at 03:13 PM

CS

“ Mrs. Gatling was one of the finest ladies and most genuine Christian I've ever met in my life. Heaven has gained another Angel.
Cheryl Stutsman



Cheryl Stutsman - January 25, 2023 at 09:26 AM

AK

“ Aaron E. Kane lit a candle in memory of
Sudie Belle Gatling



Aaron E. Kane - January 24, 2023 at 08:45 PM

CD

“ Crystal Dennis lit a candle in memory of
Sudie Belle Gatling



Crystal Dennis - January 24, 2023 at 12:26 PM

JL

“ Janice K. Boettger and Tracy Kane Lofty
purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of
Sudie Belle Gatling.



Janice K. Boettger and Tracy Kane Lofty - January 23, 2023 at
05:04 PM

JL

“ Janice K. Boettger And Tracy Kane Lofty lit a
candle in memory of Sudie Belle Gatling



Janice K. Boettger and Tracy Kane Lofty - January 23, 2023 at 04:55 PM

FF

“ *Frances Fitchett lit a candle in memory of Sudie Belle Gatling*



Frances Fitchett - January 23, 2023 at 03:07 PM

VC

“ *Veronica D Crawley lit a candle in memory of Sudie Belle Gatling*



Veronica D Crawley - January 21, 2023 at 11:06 AM

FT

“ *Faith Tull-Church lit a candle in memory of Sudie Belle Gatling*



Faith Tull-Church - January 20, 2023 at 08:30 AM

BJ

“ *Sudie has been my college classmate and dear friend since 1956. I will forever cherish our friendship, love, and memories that we shared.*



Barbara W. Jackson - January 19, 2023 at 03:55 PM



“ *Barbara W. Jackson lit a candle in memory of
Sudie Belle Gatling* ”



Barbara W. Jackson - January 19, 2023 at 03:50 PM



“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album* ”



Bennie Smith Funeral Home - January 17, 2023 at 02:43 PM