

A Celebration of Life
for
Mrs. Madeline Spruill Graves



Sunrise

July 6, 1924

Sunset

July 11, 2008

Thursday, July 17, 2008
Four O'clock in the afternoon

Reverend Mary J. Turner, Pastor & Officiant

Corinth A. M. E. Zion Church

491 Martin Luther King, Jr., Boulevard

Siler City, North Carolina 27344

Rev. Dr. Lawrence A. Miller, Presiding Elder

Durham District

~Order of Service~

The Prelude

The Processional *Soft Music*

The Selection *Corinth AME Zion Church Choir*
"Blessed Assurance"

The Scriptural Readings

Old Testament *Rev. Arnold Headen*

New Testament *Rev. Gennell Wilkerson*

The Prayer of Comfort *Rev. Barry Gray*
First Missionary Baptist Church
Siler City, NC

The Selection *Corinth AME Zion Church Choir*
"Great is Thy Faithfulness"

The Acknowledgments/Resolution *Mrs. Alphaia Cheek*

The Remarks (3minutes please) *Mr. Charles Turner, Mayor*
Siler City, NC

Mr. Perry Harrison
Former Superintendent
Chatham County Schools
Pittsboro, NC

The Solo *Elder Samuel B. Obie*
Holy Trinity UHC
Siler City, NC

The Family Tribute *Rev. Winston M. Hill, III*
Presiding Elder-AME Church
Philadelphia District

Rev. Stacey Frazier
Friendship Baptist Church
Winston-Salem, NC

The Lord's Prayer *Mrs. Charmayne Frazier-Owens*

The Eulogy *Rev. Mary J. Turner, Pastor*
Corinth AME Zion Church
Siler City, NC

Special Thanks *Dr. Alan C. Graves*

The Recessional *Corinth AME Zion Church Choir*
"When We All Get to Heaven"

~Reflections of Life~

"I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course. I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness which the Lord the righteous judge shall give me at that day."

II Timothy 4:7

Our God, omnipotent and omniscient in all His splendor extended His loving arms of comfort on Friday evening, July 11, 2008 and welcomed Sister Madeline Spruill Graves, a faithful servant into an angelic eternal life of peace, joy and security in that majestic mansion that has been fully prepared for her by Jesus the Christ.

Madeline, a woman of Christian virtue, kindness, commitment, tremendous courage, and inspirational leadership was born on July 6, 1924 to Lonnie and Lillie Spruill. She graduated from Creswell High School in Creswell, NC and furthered her post-secondary education at Elizabeth City State University and North Carolina A & T State University. She received her early religious foundation at St. Mark A. M. E. Zion Church in Creswell, NC. When she moved to Siler City in 1957, she became a member of Corinth A. M. E. Zion Church where she was a faithful and devoted member for 51 years. She knew Christ at an early age and grew strong in her faith as an adult providing a living witness to God's glory and inspiring others with her testimony of faith.

She was a strong believer in education and exemplified that vigor and commitment as a beginning teacher in Aurora, NC. In Siler City she taught math at Chatham High School which later became Chatham Middle School. She taught sixth graders for more than 30 years and coached the high school and middle school girls' basketball team. In 1985 she was appointed principal of Chatham Middle School. She was the first black female principal in Chatham County Schools. She retired as a principal in 1986 after 38 years of dedicated service to education and the community. Upon retirement, she continued the legacy of helping others by tutoring students in her home after school.

She inspired many young people to enter the educational profession. Many of the students whose lives she touched returned to become educators under her guidance. Her philosophy, "Whatever you do, do it well" is reflected in the numerous honors and awards she received through civic and educational organizations.

She was many things to many people in her lifetime—a daughter, sister, wife, mother, grandmother, aunt and friend. She proudly shared how she cared as the matriarch of her brothers and sisters when her mother died at a young age. Most importantly, she was the love of her husband's life having been married for 58 years before his death—a lifetime in itself to most people. June and Madge's was a love story unlike any ever to be told and that love story certainly does not end here.

Madeline's love for God, family and community were always first in her life. Because of the life she lived and the way in which she chose to live it, all that knew her have wonderful memories.

She has served as a class leader, missionary president, member of the Life Member Council, secretary of the Usher Board, Ministry of Kindness Steward, Lay Council member, Sunday School teacher of the L. R. Williams Memorial Class and District Supply Captain of the Durham District A.M.E. Zion Church.

Fraternally, she has served as Past Matron of the Friendship Chapter # 521 O. E. S., a member of the Golden Circle and the Daughters of Isis. Civic organizations include the Ladies Auxiliary Moffitt-Poole Post # 277, life member of the NAACP, Hospital Auxiliary, Retired Teachers Association, Siler City Centennial Committee, Western Chatham Community Center, and the Les Petites Dames Social Club.

A great encourager, she had a remarkable memory for faces and people that she had met. She never met a stranger and was quite a humorous and fun loving individual who could relate to all ages.

Lovingly and faithfully she leaves to cherish her memory a son and daughter—in-law, Dr. Alan Craig Graves (Christina) Lanham, MD; grandchildren, Erika, Alysha and Brianna Graves, Lanham, MD; Alexis Cara Gordon, Bowie, MD; Larrie "Scottie" Jones, Norfolk, VA; Troy Johnson, Waterbury, CT; Monica Jones, Hartford, CT; Edward R. Milliken, Jr., Raleigh, NC; four devoted sisters and brothers-in-law, Martha Harris (Leroy), Darby, PA; Harriet Hill (McKinley); Constance Owens, Fayetteville, NC; Francis Meadows (Helburn), Greensboro, NC; a daughter-in-law, Veronica Jones, Hartford, CT; godchildren, George Edwards, Jr., Miami, FL; Janet Edwards, Washington, DC; a childhood best friend, Ethel Stevens (Et), Wilson, NC, goddaughter, Ella Milliken, Siler City, NC and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, relatives and friends.

The loved ones who predeceased her but whose precious memories will never be forgotten are her devoted husband, Alexander Graves, Jr., two sons, Larrie Jones & Alexander Graves, III; brothers, Robert, Earl, Lonnie, Roy, and Carl Spruill; grandson, Antoine Gordon and godchild, Edmound Ryan Milliken.



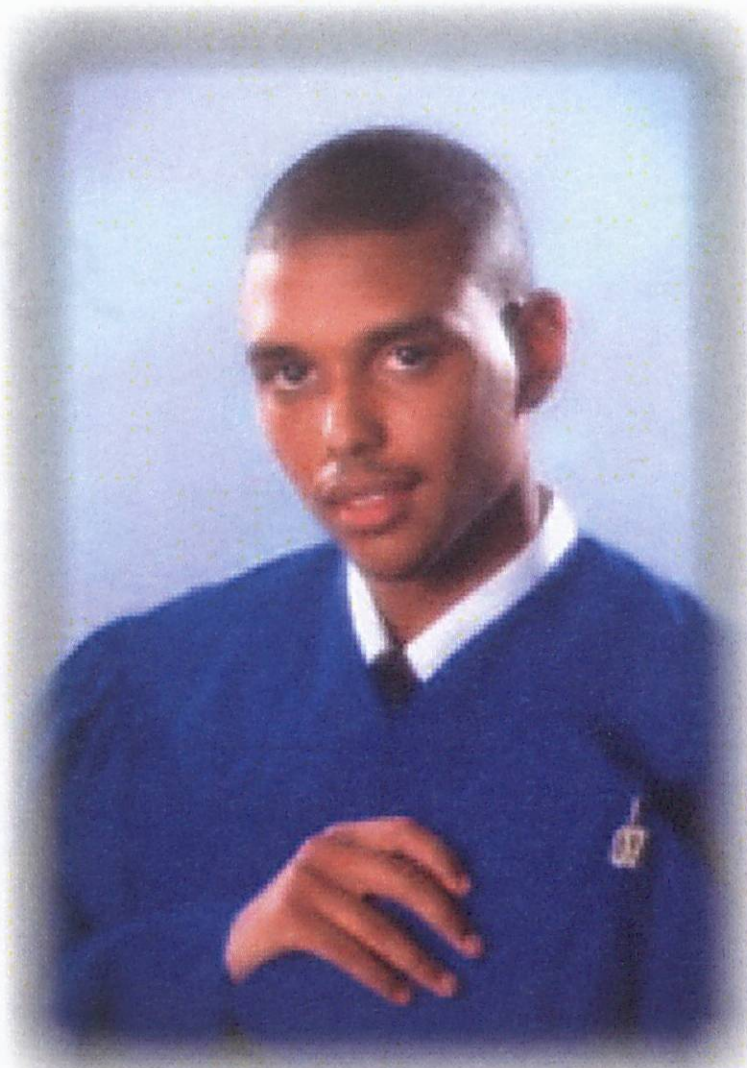
~Reflections of Life~



Mr. A. (Bunky) Graves, III



Mr. A. Graves



Mr. Antoine Gordon



AN ANGEL HERE ON EARTH



*On this day we are here to say
Goodbye to the leader of our clan
It was easy to see that she would be
Outstanding in all her demands*

*She chose to teach the children to reach
For the highest star
Through education and love they soared above
Normal expectations by far*



*Her goals were high and she couldn't deny
Her inquisitive thirst
Because of this she lead the list
As a Black Female Principal, She was the first*

*She managed her life through happiness and strife
Losing Bunky and then June
She filled her world with Craig and the girls
Knowing she would see the others soon*



*We offer with care that GOD chose to share
Our Madge for the Spruill Family Tree
We Remember the days she used her cunning ways
To read poetry while we worked tirelessly*

*It won't be difficult for Us in HIM we trust
To value our Madge's worth
She passed GOD'S test and we have been Blessed
to share "An Angel Here On Earth"*

*In Loving Memory of Our Mother and Mother In-Law, GrandMother,
Sister, Aunt, Cousin and Friend:*

*MADELINE ELIZABETH SPRUILL GRAVES
The Spruill Family*



by: Lonnie C. Spruill

*In Loving Memory
of
MADELENE SPRUILL GRAVES*



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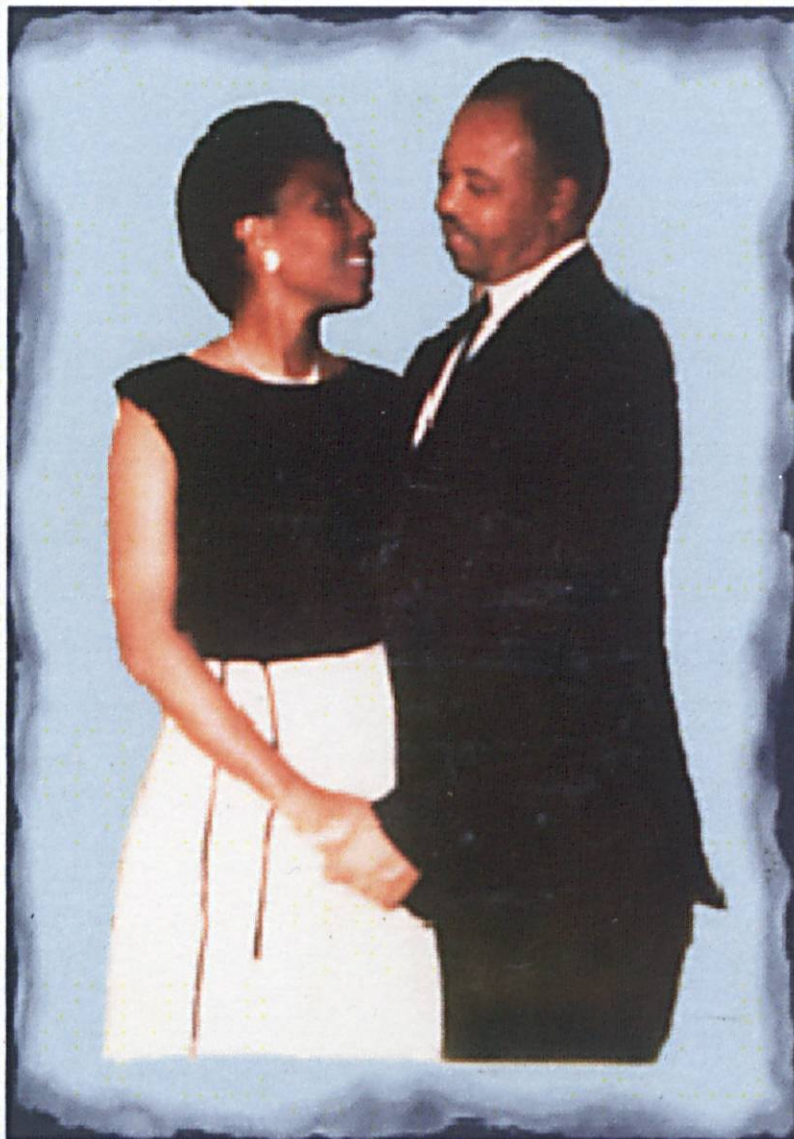
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*In Loving Memory of Our Mother ,
Mother In-Law, GrandMother,
Sister, Aunt, Cousin and Friend:
MADELINE E. SPRUILL GRAVES*

*The Spruill Family
by: Lonnie C. Spruill*

Casket Bearers
Light of the World Lodge #711

Floral Bearers
Friendship Chapter #521 O. E. S.



Together Again

With Gratitude

The Graves - Spruill Family wishes to express sincere thanks and gratitude for celebrating with us the life of our mother (Madeline E. Spruill Graves), grandmother, teacher, neighbor and friend. We are grateful for you and all of your expressions of love, acts of kindness and compassion that have been shown to our family during this difficult time. We pray that God will continue to bless you and may His Divine favor rest upon each of you.

*Love,
The Family*



Services Entrusted to
Farrar Funeral Service
718 Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard
Siler City, NC
(919)742-3134
~Interment Corinth AME Zion Church Cemetery~

