

*Celebrating The Extraordinarily Blessed Life
of*

Geraldine Phillips Davis



Sunrise

September 26, 1925

Sunset

March 22, 2024

“May The Work I’ve Done Speak for Me”

Thursday, April 4, 2024

Beulahland Bible Church

2368 Gunn Road

Byron, Georgia

Executive Pastor, Greg Holt, Officiant

Senior Pastor, Dr., Carlos Kelly, Eulogist

~A Servant's Life Reflections~

“Well done my good and faithful servant. . .”

Matthew 25:23

~Her Beginnings~

In the splendor of Spring, during the noonday hour on Friday, March 22, 2024, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ in His infinite wisdom, quietly called His beloved daughter, Geraldine Phillips Davis, home to eternal rest. Although a native of Fitzgerald, Georgia, she lived most of her adult life in Miami, Florida until she returned to Warner Robins to live near her daughter, Andresa. She was born to the late Thomas, “Tom” and Amanda “Mandy” Madison Phillips, of Hawkinsville, Georgia, on September 26, 1925 in Fitzgerald, Georgia. She peacefully departed this life at The Church Home LifeSpring Rehabilitation and Healthcare Community, Fort Valley, Georgia.

Geraldine, affectionately called Gerri, was the ninth child of twelve children. She had eight brothers and three sisters, two of which passed at an early age. They lived in Fitzgerald, in a white framed house with an L-shaped front porch, on the west side of town. It was where all her cherished childhood memories were created. She enjoyed laughing, playing under the big pecan shade trees, attending Sunday and evening church services, listening to her mother read the Bible nightly as well as exciting events like neighbors gathering on the lawn to hear the radio broadcast of the famous Joe Louis vs. Sonny Liston Heavyweight Championship Boxing Fight.

~Her Life of Faith~

Geraldine became a Christian at an early age and joined Salem First Missionary Baptist Church in Fitzgerald, Georgia. Throughout her adult life, she faithfully served the Lord. She maintained membership at the Glendale Missionary Baptist Church, Miami, Florida and then at First Baptist Church, Garmon Street, Warner Robins, Georgia, where she served in their Caregivers Ministries. In her later years she was warmly welcomed as a member of Beulahland Bible Church, Byron, Georgia serving in the “Over Fifty Ministries”.

~Her Education~

Education was a quintessential joy in Geraldine's life. She began at Monitor Elementary-High School in Fitzgerald and developed a great love for school, especially writing. In the ninth grade she established Monitor High School's first newspaper, “The Wheel” and was its editor-in-chief until she graduated. Geraldine soared academically. She attended the prestigious Spelman College in Atlanta and graduated with a BA degree in 1949. Her literary talents flourished all the more writing articles for the college newspaper, the “Campus Mirror.” She was also a member of the Spelman Glee Club and at a Sunday concert in Sisters Chapel, she met a young man who was attending Morehouse College who sang in the Morehouse Glee Club. Unknowingly, her college experience would include becoming acquainted with, arguably, the most famous African American Civil Rights Leader of the United States, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

~The Learner Becomes The Teacher~

Geraldine returned to Fitzgerald following graduation from Spelman and eagerly accepted her first teaching position at her high school alma mater, Monitor High. The next course of events changed her life forever. As a new teacher, she attended a regional educational meeting and met, “The Love of Her Life,” the late Andrew Davis, also a teacher. They had a whirlwind courtship: within four months he proposed, and they married! They were blessed with two children, Andresa and Ricky (now deceased). Later, they moved to Andrew's hometown in Miami where his parents lived, after Ricky was born.

Geraldine flourished as the consummate educator after moving to Miami. She was offered the opportunity to begin a new career as a counselor for the Miami School System. Her dedication to others, especially to the youth flourished. She took pride in mentoring and counseling students to enroll in proper courses to successfully graduate from high school in preparation for college or gainful employment. Her own academic achievements also soared. She earned a master's degree from Barry University and became a Columnist and feature story writer for The Miami Times. She joined the Greater Miami Chapter of Continental Society, Inc. and enjoyed numerous public service projects which helped underprivileged children and youth.

Geraldine's educational commitment to helping students spanned throughout her entire adult life. She never stopped! During her later years she enjoyed countless hours visiting various classrooms discussing her book and topics related to racial reconciliation in many Houston County High Schools; Fort Valley State University; and Spelman College. She also supported the aspirations and dreams of extended youth within her own family. She saw Nykeah Cohen, a great niece, as a strong, determined, driven young woman who was destined for future greatness. Geraldine willingly made sure her fiduciary obligations wouldn't impede her career as the brilliant attorney she has become with many history making award winning recognitions dating back to her Maimi University Law School days in 2012.

~And The World Opened~

In between her educational pursuits and accomplishments, Geraldine traveled abroad during most of her years in Miami. She and Andrew became World Travelers visiting the countries of England, France, Italy, and various other destinations such as Westminster Abbey and Big Ben in London, England; the Eiffel Tower in Paris, France; the Canterbury Cathedral and Leeds Castle in England; and The Vatican in Rome, as well as Naples and the Island of Capri in Italy, plus many other destinations. Their love of travel and Geraldine's public service continued until Andrew became ill and passed away in 1998. She then moved to Warner Robins to be with her daughter.

After eight years of unwavering dedication and her commitment to someday write a book, at the age of 87 years, her first book, *In Spite of Color: From Plantations to the White House* was published in November 2012! It is a vivid, provocative, read about slavery and reconciliation from a positive perspective with a twist of humor that shows how friendship can transcend race, color and time. Her emphasis was on "how trust and friendship can transcend ethnic groups, language, color and racial barriers." Thereafter, a variety of book readings and signing opportunities opened for her from Atlanta to Miami; and she was even the featured guest on 41 NBC/WMGTV "Day Break" with Suzanne Lawler, in the Spring of 2013. Geraldine believed that writing the book as a first experience was, indeed, an act of God in her life. She often said she could not have written or published that book without the anointing of God and the support from a dedicated group of literary minded people like Kate Addison who was the typist and Joan Abram, the manuscript editor; Marsha Moore, the manuscript reviewer, and Michelle Hendricks was the researcher and led Geraldine to the publisher.

However, her most rewarding educational contribution is her Educational Legacy of annually awarding a One Thousand Dollar "The Ricky Davis Scholarship," established in honor of her son, to a local High School student accepted to college in the field of medicine.

~A Family Beloved~

Gerri was preceded in death by her parents Thomas and Amanda Madison-Phillips, her husband, Andrew Davis of Miami, Florida, and her two beloved children, Andresa McNair-Marsalis and Ricky Davis, plus her brothers: John, Carsie, Coleman, Robert "T.G.," Thomas, Matthew and most recently William. Her sisters – Eilen who died in infancy, Fannie, and Ida.

She leaves to cherish her memory grandchildren: Dr. Pamela McNair of Atlanta, Georgia; Dr. LaShonn McNair-Puente (Luis) of Miami, Florida; Alfred McNair of Orlando Florida; Atty. Jamie McNair-Benn (Shad) of Austin, Texas; and Dr. Jonathan McNair of Corpus Christi, Texas; great-grandchildren: Johneirio Bell, Jr., of Jackson, Mississippi; Quincy Freeman II and Loghann Puente-McNair both of Miami, Florida; Master Matthias McNair and Master Micah Benn both of Austin Texas; nephew, Anthony Phillips (Pam) of Yonkers, New York; devoted Nephew and wife, Dr. Derrick Phillips (Velma) of Macon, Georgia; two sisters-in-law, Bernice Phillips of Atlanta, Georgia; Elizabeth Phillips of Orange Park, Florida; special nieces: Geraldin Wilson (Mack) of Fitzgerald, Georgia; Karen Lucas (Bill) of Atlanta, Georgia; Patrice Williams of Ocilla, Georgia; Sharon Stevens (Casius) of Orlando, Florida, Bonnie Brown of Clovis, New Mexico, Fredia Morton (James) of Yukon, Oklahoma, Marchill Maxwell of Miami, Florida; a couple, Rev. Pat and Minister Michelle Hendricks, a "Special Cheerleader-Angel" of Warner Robins, Georgia; a truly devoted couple, Colonel (Ret.) Joe and Cynthia Harrison, a beloved "Daughter-of-the-Heart," of Alpharetta, Georgia; a cherished lifelong friend, Earlene Dotson of Miami, Florida. A host of relatives, other caring friends, and many literary colleagues.

~ Order of Service ~

Processional

Mr. Ray Jackson
Director of Worship and Creative Arts
Beulahland Bible Church

Musical Selection

Beulahland Bible Church Choir

Scripture

Minister Rosa Smith
Beulahland Bible Church

The Old Testament *Psalm 23*
The New Testament *Romans 8:28-29*

Prayer of Consolation

Executive Pastor Greg Holt
Beulahland Bible Church

Musical Selection

"Grateful"

Mr. Ray Jackson
and Beulahland Bible Church

Expressions of Tribute

CMSgt. USAF (Ret.), Frank Grant

Christian Friend
Warner Robins, GA

Mr. Fred Wilson

Houston Co. School Board, Ret.
Warner Robins, GA

Ms. Crystal Pennymon

The Writers' Voice
Macon, GA

Musical Selection

"The Goodness of God"

Ms. Sonya Jenkins, Soloist
Warner Robins, GA

The Moment of Meditation

The Eulogy

Benediction/Recessional

Silent Reading of the Obituary
Senior Pastor, Dr., Carlos Kelly
Senior Pastor, Dr., Carlos Kelly

~THE INTERMENT~

Parkway Memorial Gardens
720 Carl Vinson Parkway
Warner Robins, Georgia 31093

~REPAST~

THE FARM HOUSE
McCullough Funeral Home
417 S Houston Lake Road
Warner Robins, Georgia 31088

~Treasuring Sweet Memories~

Gerri, self-described as “a sickly child,” was quite the adult contrary! She was an extraordinarily strong phenomenal lady, to all who had the privileged to know and love her during various seasons of her life. Whether as: sister, auntie, mother, wife, “grand-mommy,” colleague, special friend or confidant; she was a kind, pleasant, remarkable lady of faith, fortitude, grace, and intelligence! She excelled as a champion of youth and education. Gerri was divinely blessed with longevity of life! We will treasure the sweet memories of her life and always love her!

Gerri absolutely loved the Lord and lived by the motto: “May the work I’ve done, speak for me. May the life I’ve lived, speak for me.” Her works and life have spoken resoundingly and clearly for her over these years! She was known throughout the region in Miami, and in Warner Robins, for her generous and loving service to her churches, her community, her family, but ultimately to God!



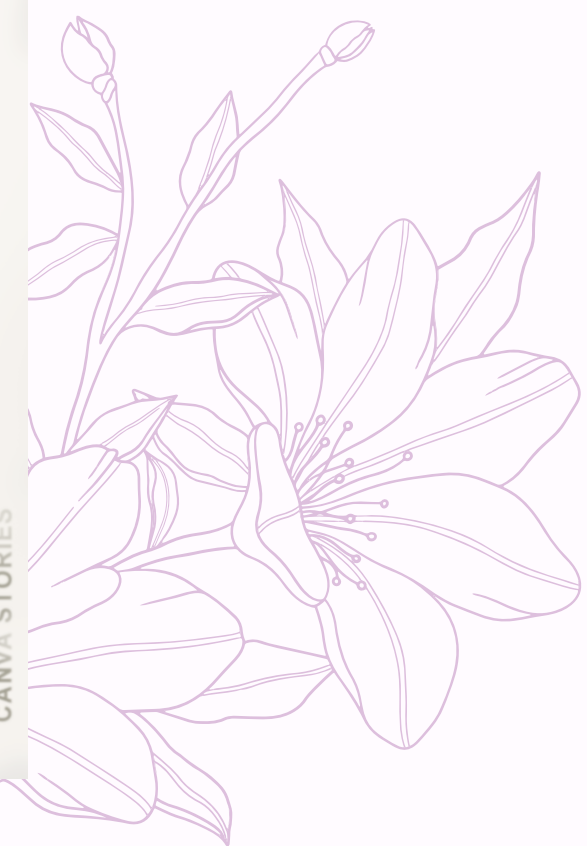
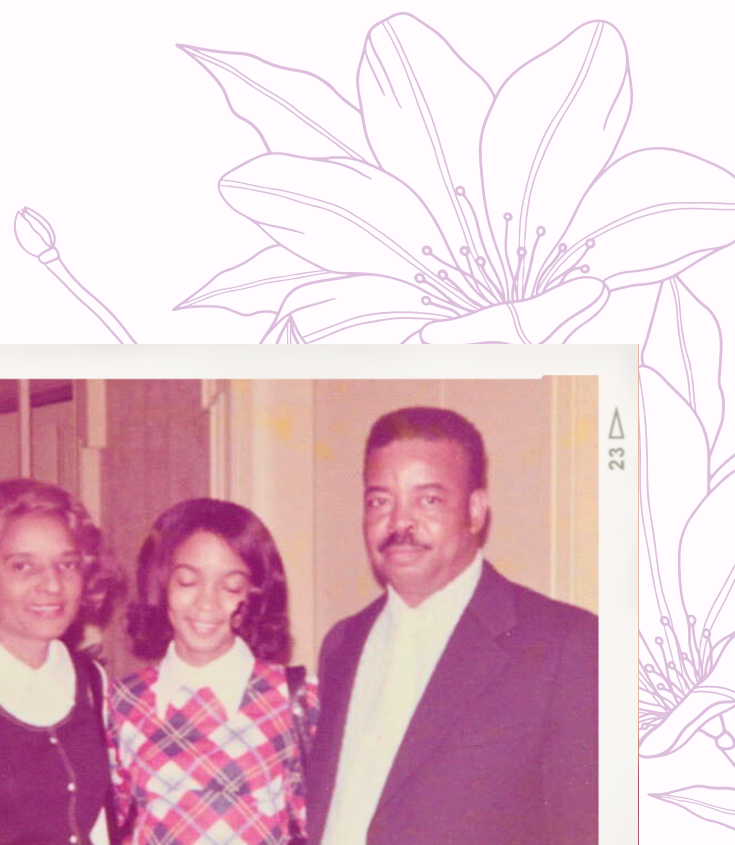
Daughter & Sister



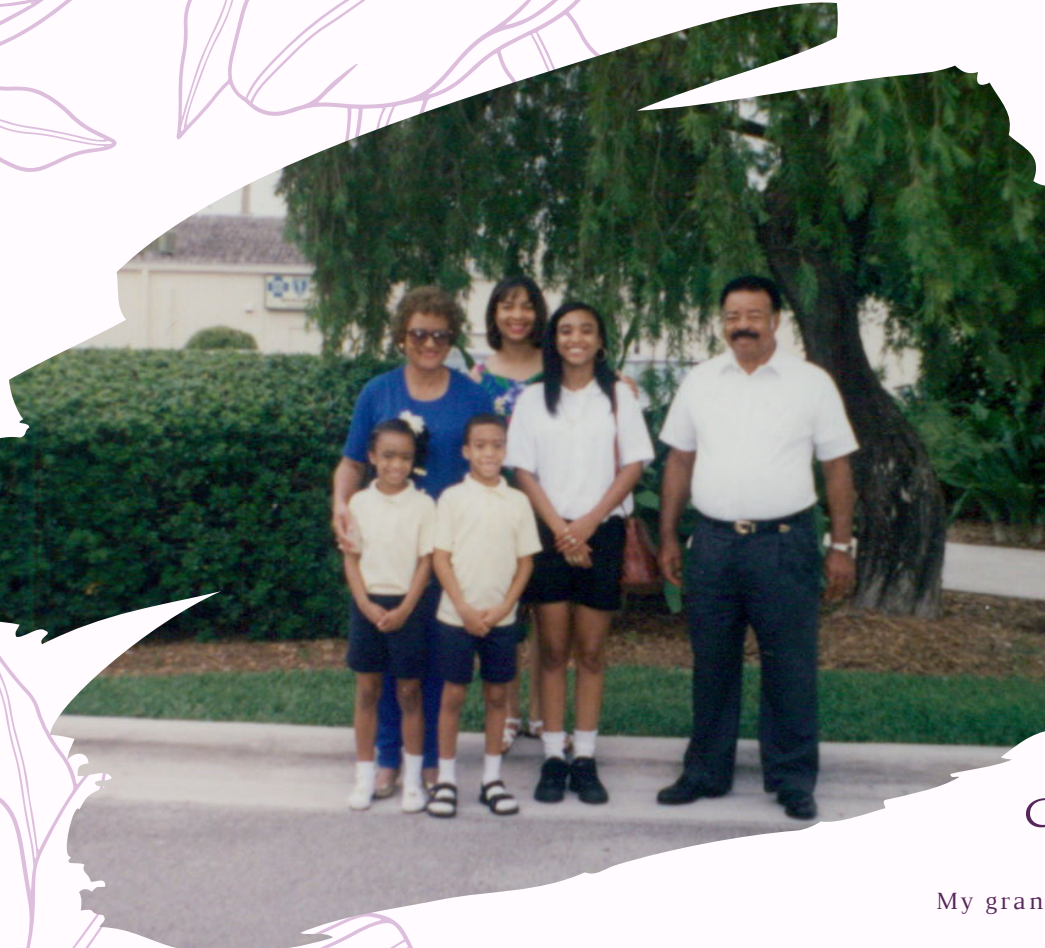


Wife & Mother





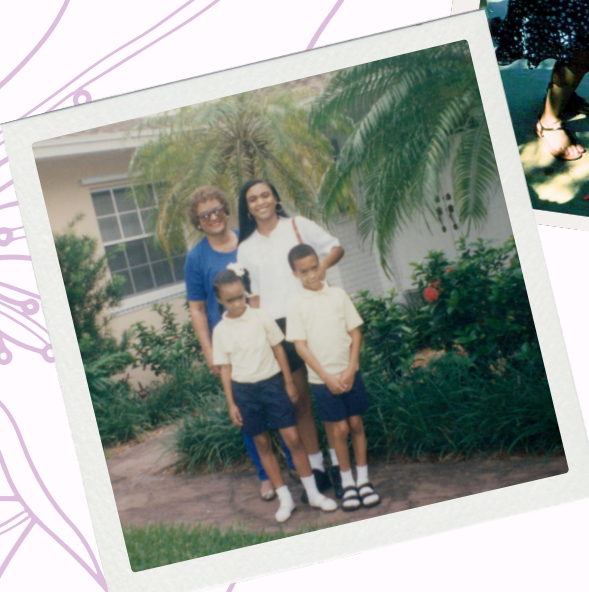
Grandmother & Aunt



My Grandmommy

My grandmommy was like a tree in the forest,
She always stood tall.
Like a rose in a flower bed, the best of them all.
Like a star in the sky, she always shined bright.
Like the words in a bible, they tell you what's right.
Like an angel in heaven, always happy not blue.
I stuck to my grandmommy like paper and glue.
My grandmommy loved me dearly and we loved her too.

Just smile everybody she's looking down on you.
She will suffer no more cause now she's in a better place.
God called her home so now she must run His race.
I miss her dearly and I wish she was here.
Just pray everybody and God will dry your tears.



World Traveler





23

CANVA STORIES



23

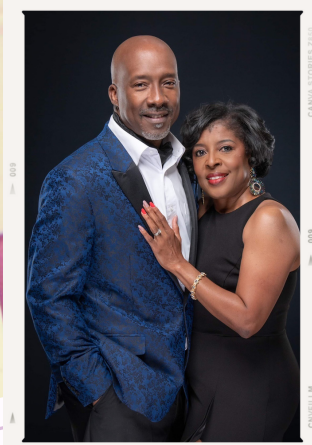


Friend

"Sweet friendships refresh the soul and awaken our hearts with joy, for good friends are like the anointing oil that yields the fragrant incense of God's presence."

PROVERBS 27:9





“My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.”

Activist

A Letter to CNN

This is my personal opinion about America.

Historically, Americans are a compassionate people. We have come to the rescue of people around the world who have fallen victim to natural disasters. This year, we are digging Haitians from under the rubbles of a nation destroyed by a catastrophic earthquake. We're sending them everything they need to survive as expeditiously as we can; and hopefully, we will continue to help them in long-term recovery. It's a privilege and an honor to rescue people who are suffering and in dire need of the basic necessities of life.

My question is – why can't we help our own people? You don't have to shoot a man to kill him. We are burying people under the rubble of unfair laws and practices in this country. When you rob a man of his job, his home, his health insurance, his ability to support his family and educate his children, you rob him of his hope, his dreams, and his dignity. He's a dead man. The number of men and women in America today who are psychologically dead is phenomenal. It's time for us to dig our people out from under the rubble of neglect and depravation.

They are throwing dead bodies into pits in Haiti. Ironically, we are throwing our own people into the pit of hopelessness and despair. When we vote NO to legislation that is designed to help our people, we are burying Americans alive. Tell me why? Why? Why?

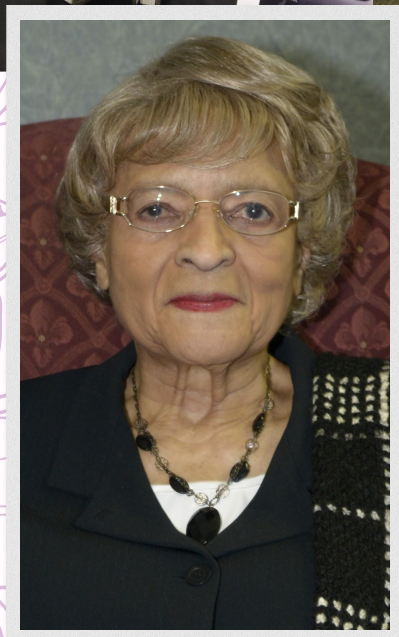
Geraldine P. Davis

“Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute.”

Author & Editorilaist

Write therefore the things that you have seen, those that are and those that are to take place after this.

REVELATION 1:19



In Spite of Color

From Plantations to the White House
GERALDINE PHILLIPS-DAVIS

"Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: Write in a book all the words that I have spoken to you. For behold, days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will restore the fortunes of my people, Israel and Judah, says the Lord, and I will bring them back to the land that I gave to their fathers, and they shall take possession of it."

JEREMIAH 30: 2-3

A True Labor of Love!!!

In Spite of Color: From Plantations to the White House

by MRS. GERALDINE PHILLIPS-DAVIS

OVERVIEW

I have never seen or been in anyone's midst that undertook a task that they believed was worth doing no matter how long it took to complete the job! It was a true pilgrimage that clearly shows that the race doesn't go to the swift, but to the one that endures.

Mrs. Davis said she did not want to write a book about hate, but rather friendship! I can truly say that she did.

BROTHER JACKIE JAMES

Brother James wanted us to know that he never finishes books when he begins reading them. However, he wanted us to know that Mrs. Davis' book was the first one that he has ever finished. More importantly, Jackie wanted us to know once he started reading, he was not able to put the book down until he finished!!

WHY MRS. DAVIS WROTE THE BOOK

Simply put...Mrs. Davis said she was anointed by God!

HOW LONG DID IT TAKE HER TO WRITE THE BOOK?

Can you believe eight (8) years! Mrs. Davis said this was due to various things that occurred in her life. She said after her daughter's death, she did not write for a year.

After 1,000 handwritten pages, Mrs. Davis' book was complete! You see...Mrs. Davis said she could not type. Mrs. Davis related to us that she has a dear friend (out-of-state) that she would send her handwritten notes to, and she would return the typed pages for her to review. Through the Grace of God, they remained together for the entire 8 years!

WHAT WAS INVOLVED IN HER RESEARCH AND WHERE WAS IT DONE?

(Mrs. Marie Porter, who had been on the same journey for 13 years, wanted to know.) Mrs. Davis said she used the Warner Robins library spending many hours gathering information. There were trips to Charleston, South Carolina to travel the roads that slaves (enslaved people) walked....an opportunity to talk with descendants of slaves (enslaved people)!

WHAT ROLE DID HER CHURCH FAMILY PLAY IN THE BOOK?

Mrs. Davis told us that there was no way she could have done this by herself. She said, "No one ever accomplishes anything without the help and kindness of others.". There are numerous "thanks" to others laced throughout the book. You would be totally surprised by the things others did and the lengths her friends, both inside First Baptist and outside, did to assist her. In other words, they believed in her quest, her gift, and the knowledge God gave her!

WHAT IS THE SIGNIFICANCE TO US?

We should pursue our dreams no matter what they are, and we should disregard the negative looks and responses we might get.

A COMPARISON TO MRS. ROSA PARKS

Mrs. Davis sat down to write and research her book so that we might stand up to accomplish what we really want to do and to realize that there is "true" friendship among us regardless of the color of our skin! Mrs. Geraldine Phillips-Davis didn't complain...she just did it!

Well Done, Well Done, Well Done, Mrs. Geraldine Phillips-Davis!

Speech written and presented by Tommy Brown on February 5, 2013.



Philanthropist

“And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.”

HEBREWS 13:16



“Let your life reflect the faith you have in God. Fear nothing and pray about everything. Be strong, trust God's word, and trust the process.”

GERMANY KENT



Happy 90th Birthday Mrs. Davis! Thank you
for your beautiful & kind spirit. You are
Such a gorgeous person, inside and out.
Also, thank you again for your generosity
in providing a scholarship for our daughter,
Thomeka. Love you, Thomas & Janice Nelson
May God Continue to bless you.



“The secret of happiness:
Find something more
important than you are and
dedicate your life to it.”

DANIEL C. DENNETT



Gerri's most significant Educational Legacy was awarding the annual
"The Ricky Davis Scholarship" worth \$1000 to a local high school student entering
college to study medicine in honor of her son.

I loved visiting you in Miami in my youth. I was always in awe of your class and grace. You are also a great historian. Love you always - You'll never know

You are the most inspirational, most incredible, most Captivating 90 year old I have ever known. Continue to have joy, peace and health that come with a life well lived.
Rosette

You are the most inspirational, most incredible, most Captivating 90 year old I have ever known. Continue to have joy, peace and health that come with a life well lived.
Rosette

Happy Birthday to one of the most selfless persons we know. Your integrity and generosity is to be admired and your life is to be celebrated. May God bless you with many, many, more!
Columbus & Diane Brown

FOR GERRI

Aunt Gerrie,
I loved visiting you in Miami in my youth. I was always in awe of your class and grace. You are also a great historian. Love you always - You'll never know

Note of Expression "90" years young!

PLEASE WRITE YOUR WORDS OF EXPRESSIONS FOR GERRI. PLEASE BRING CARD WITH YOU.

Sister DAVIS, I Bless the Lord for your life which ARE FULL of achievement and prosperity. Thank you for your generosity and the people of God. I pray on this day your heart will be filled with joy and lots of love! Love you and be blessed
Your P&W Partner, Susanto Anubun

Mrs. Davis We thank God for sending you our way. The outings and talks we have had is a blessing to us and our family. Love you
Wilbert & Doris Bibbs

Mr. Davis, thanks for the love & wisdom that you give to Michelle & me! May God continue to bless you!!

Minister & Mrs. PAT Hendricks

From: Deacon & Mrs. Ernest (Marsha) Moore
Note of Expression

PLEASE WRITE YOUR WORDS OF EXPRESSIONS FOR GERRI. PLEASE BRING CARD WITH YOU.

Mrs. Davis,
you exhibit so many wonderful qualities to be admired and embraced. I found you to be one

who loves Jesus; a preserver of wonderful memories from each decade of life, a painter of vivid pictures with words, a forward thinker, and one who wants the very best for humanity... especially the youth and young adults here and elsewhere.
It is so special to hear how you still relish your principles instilled by your parents.
Thanks for your philanthropic spirit along with your delightful sense of humor.
Have a blessed year.

"Mamma Davis, you are a phenomenal woman; a lady woman of class & style! Greg & I are so thankful that God allowed our paths to cross. Our lives are tremendously blessed because you're in it! We love you so very much! Greg & Judy Jackson

In Loving Memory

I'm Free

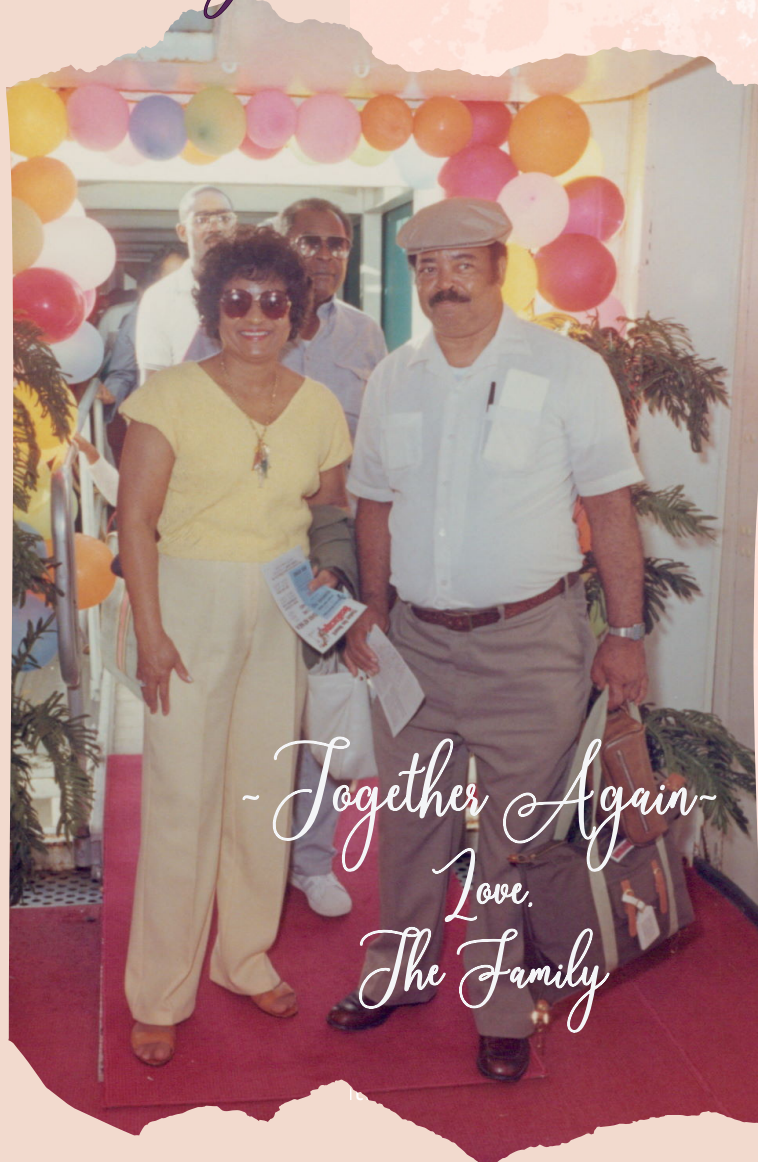
Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free;
I'm following the path God laid for me.
I took His hand when I heard Him call;
I turned my back and left it all.

I could not stay another day,
To laugh, to love, to work, or play.
Tasks left undone must stay that way;
I found that place at the close of day.

If my parting has left a void,
Then fill it with remembered joy.
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss;
Oh yes, these things, I too, will miss.

Be not burdened with times of sorrow;
I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow.
My life's been full, I savored much;
Good friends, good times, a loved one's touch.

Perhaps my time seemed all too brief;
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief
Lift up your heart and share with me;
God wanted me now, He set me FREE!



*- Together Again -
Love.
The Family*

“With Sincere Appreciation”

The Phillips Davis-McNair Family would like to express sincere appreciation for the many acts of kindness evidenced by your expressions of love, deeds, and prayers.

“Special Gratitude”

To Caregivers: Mrs. Sarah Duhart and Ms. Simone Tally
They tenderly and tirelessly went beyond providing professional support and cared for our beloved Gerri “like family” and always with comforting hands of Christian Spirit.

“Sincere Thank You”

To The Church Home LifeSpring Community, Fort Valley, Georgia; Heartland Hospice Care, Macon, Georgia; and caring physicians of the Warner Robins-Macon, Georgia medical community.

McCULLOUGH
FUNERAL HOME

Warner Robins, Georgia
mcculloughfh.com
478.953.1478