



Mrs. Martha Lillian Grady Dalton

November 9, 1920 - February 5, 2018

Mrs. Martha Lillian Grady Dalton, age 97, departed this life on Monday, February 5, 2018.

Martha was born to the Rev. Thomas Alvis Grady and Dovie Bass Grady on November 9, 1920. She was the oldest of five children. Three of her siblings preceded Martha in death, Alvis Grady, Gladys Knox and Mildred Betts.

Martha was married to George Franklin Dalton of Statesville for 53 years, until the time of his death. They were both proud to have celebrated their 50th Anniversary in a Rededication Service, followed by a trip to the Holy Land in 1993. Of that union, two daughters were born, Martha Francine Dalton and Coral Lynn Dalton, who died in 2007.

Martha was educated in the Durham County School System, graduating from Hillside High School, which was then located in the old Whitted building by Hillside Park. Martha attended North Carolina College, and pledged Alpha Chi

Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., in 1939. She was a member of the second group to be initiated into Alpha Chi Chapter. She later became a Golden Eagle, celebrating fifty years as a graduate of her esteemed institution. She was a Diamond member (75 years) of the sorority. She continued her education when she received her graduate degree from Columbia University in NYC in 1949, with a Masters in Home Economics.

After the birth of her daughter Francine, Martha worked in Shelby, N.C. as a home economics instructor. She then held various positions in Statesville, N.C., including bookkeeper at the historically Black Credit Union in Iredell County, and as an assistant at the health department until she enrolled at UNC Chapel Hill in 1965. There, she became certified in elementary education and library science. She taught briefly at Fayetteville Street Elementary School in Durham, N.C., and later served as a media specialist in the Iredell County Schools.

Martha was always very committed to community service and volunteerism. She volunteered as a Girl Scout Leader, Director of The Baptist Training Union in Statesville and while at Mt. Zion Christian Church in Durham, she was a deaconess and very involved with the outreach ministries. She also was active in the Durham Flower Club, coordinator for the Crop Walk, one of the leaders of the Tuesday Bible Study (acting as a local taxi driver for many of its members) and census taker. In later years, after she stopped driving, she sent birthday and sympathy cards to church members, family and friends. Many of her special family and friends received phone calls on the first of each month, wishing them a "Happy Beginning of the Month."

As a follower of Jesus Christ, Martha's life was quite active in the church. As she shared with many, she was baptized by her father, the Rev. T.A. Grady at age sixteen. She attended First Baptist Church in Statesville, N.C. Upon her return to Durham in the 80's to care for her mother, she joined Mt. Zion Baptist Church (later Mt. Zion Christian Church) and later returned to Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church, the place of her baptism by her father. Mrs. Dalton was active until her death.

Surviving relatives include her daughter, Francine Dalton Davis; sister, Hazel Grady Weeks, Mildred G. Betts; grandchildren, Kenya Francine Davis and Melba Umoja Davis; nieces, Lauren Green, Jennifer and Jacqueline Betts, Renee Mitchell and Sonja Neely; nephews, Alvis and Daniel Grady, William, John and Derek Betts, Jimmy Weeks, John Woods and Adrian Neely; sisters in law, Laura Grady and Margaret Neely, and a host of other family and friends.

Cemetery Details

Markham Memorial Gardens

4826 Trenton Rd
Chapel Hill, NC 27517
(919) 489-9128

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 8. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church
2200 S Alston Ave
Durham, NC 27707
(919) 596-2131
<http://www.embcofdurham.com>

Service

FEB 8. 1:00 PM (ET)

Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church
2200 S Alston Ave
Durham, NC 27707
(919) 596-2131
<http://www.embcofdurham.com>

Tribute Wall



“ *Mrs. Martha Lillian Grady Dalton*

October 05, 2023 at 11:31 AM



“ *Edward Reid lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Martha Lillian Grady Dalton*



Edward Reid - February 12, 2018 at 11:23 AM



To the family of Mrs. Martha Grady Dalton, we extend our condolences. She was a friend/sister to my mother, Mrs. Julia Reid. My God comfort you all during this period.

Edward Reid - February 12, 2018 at 11:26 AM



“ *To the family of "Aunt Martha", my condolences are sent to you all during this time of bereavement. May God keep you all in His care and grant you the peace and comfort that is needed at this time and in the days ahead. Please excuse the lateness of my condolence but I just found out about " Aunt Martha's" passing.*



Floretta L Walls - February 08, 2018 at 05:13 PM

CT

“ In 1965, Mrs. Dalton and her sister invited me live with them for a year. I was a student at NC Central University. I was late enrolling to attend the school. I was accepted but had to live off campus. So I lived with you, your mother, your aunt, Mrs. Gladys, and a classmate, Beverly. The generosity will always be appreciated. Praying that God sustain the family during their bereavement. Love you all.

Claudia Davidson Tatum

Claudia Tatum - February 08, 2018 at 12:51 PM

VW

“ *Francine and Family,*
We were so sorry to hear of the passing of your mother. Mrs. Dalton was a wonderful kind person. We enjoyed seeing her at some of the Morningside Alumni Reunions. We are so grateful for the pictures and information about Morningside that she shared with us. You have our deepest sympathy.

Morningside Alumni Association
Vivian Brawley Williams

Vivian Brawley Williams - February 07, 2018 at 02:01 PM

SP

“ *Francine, Kenya, Melba & Family: I pray that the many memories of Martha's life with all of her family and friends will overcome any sadness you may experience. The thought of knowing that Martha is in the presence of our Savior is a good comfort to me. If we live and believe as she believed in Jesus Christ - we shall see her again! Praise the Lord! Love, Susan, Tony, John and Morgan Parker*

Susan S. Parker - February 07, 2018 at 12:57 PM