



## Joyce Keemer Peterson

November 18, 1934 - May 12, 2020

Dr. Joyce Keemer Peterson  
“A Dedicated Educator”

Joyce Keemer Peterson, the loving daughter of Dr. Edgar Keemer and Grace Keemer Hamilton, born November 18, 1934 in Tennessee, fell asleep in the arms of the Lord, May 12, 2020 after a decade long struggle with dementia.

Joyce, a proud graduate of Virginia Union University of Richmond, Virginia, met and married the love of her life, Rev. Dr. John Otis Peterson. This union was blessed with two wonderful children, John Otis Peterson, Jr. and Jewelette Peterson McDaniel. As an ardent Christian, she diligently served in the churches her husband pastored to include his 43-year pastorate of the Alfred Street Baptist Church where she was awarded the position of First Lady Emeritus by the Church.

Her love of science education led her to further study at Howard University and many other institutions of higher learning. She demonstrated this dedication to the students of Arlington County, Virginia as she sponsored award winning Science Fairs where students made up some of the nations' highest performing science students. Numerous awards for her achievements in science were lauded upon her as her dedication to education never

wavered. Her love of education can be evidenced in her funding of numerous college scholarships, and support of community efforts to assist the marginalized.

Two of her most prized accomplishments at Alfred Street Baptist Church is the founding of the Drama Ministry and the Handbell Choir. Through her support and guidance these ministries soared in popularity and are known for their excellence. These ministries are alive and well today at Alfred Street. When her health declined and she relocated to North Carolina, her love for handbell choirs, led her to sponsor a handbell choir there. Additionally, Joyce has been an avid patron of the National Museum of African American History and Culture.

Joyce is a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority and took pride in working and inaugurating public service projects. Her service in education is honored by an Alfred Street Delta Sigma Theta Scholarship Fund.

She is survived by her daughter, Jewelette McDaniel (Chris), son John O. Peterson, Jr.; grandchildren, Lauren Peterson, Jonathan McDaniel, Mathew McDaniel, Brian Peterson and John O. Peterson, III; niece Danielle Keemer Edmund (Patrick); 2 great grandchildren, 3 more nieces, 1 nephew, and many other cousins.

“God’s reputation in me is on display.” Joni Eareckson Tada

# Tribute Wall



“ *Pope Funeral Homes created a Webcast in memory of Joyce Keemer Peterson*



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**Pope Funeral Homes** - May 26, 2020 at 12:55 PM

RB

*Thanks for sharing the Home Going Service for Mrs. Joyce Keemer Peterson.*

*What a blessing for all who loved her to be able to say "Farewell!" in such a loving and accessible way! -- Reba N. Burruss-Barnes, Member - ALFRED STREET BAPTIST CHURCH - Secretary / Discipleship Group 21*

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**Reba N Burruss-Barnes** - May 26, 2020 at 02:14 PM

RG

*Dr. Joyce K. Peterson was indeed a beautiful First Lady. She loved and served the Lord's people faithfully. The beauty of her spirit will never be forgotten.*

*Rev. Dr. Faye S. Gunn & Fred J. Gunn*

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**Rev. Dr. Faye S. Gunn** - May 26, 2020 at 02:15 PM

KB

*Wonderful service for a wonderful woman. It's appropriate that Jackie sang a hymn.*

*Ken Bynum*

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**Kenneth D. Bynum** - May 26, 2020 at 04:38 PM

RR

*Thank you Mrs Joyce Peterson for your love , example, and gentle spirit that guided me on my Christian journey. RIP*

**Ronald Randolph** - May 27, 2020 at 12:12 AM

AW

*Mrs. Peterson was a good friend of mine when I ran into her shopping she always acknowledge me and shared pleasant greetings. She was a picture of JOY, LOVE, PEACE and HAPPINESS. Your Sister in Christ Alice, Justina and Quinton White*

**Alice Justina Quinton White** - June 23, 2020 at 03:43 PM



“ *Joyce Keemer Peterson*

January 28, 2023 at 02:13 PM



“ *Joyce Keemer Peterson*

January 28, 2023 at 10:26 AM

GG

“ *Mrs. Peterson was a truly dedicated servant of God. John and Jewelette, be assured that she is enjoying the fulfillment of the promise of eternal peace with Jesus. May you find encouragement in the Word to help you through this time.*

**Georgia & Deborah Green** - June 24, 2020 at 11:50 PM

MM

“ *Jewelette, John and family,  
Your loving mother was so very kind to us when we joined Alfred Street Baptist Church in 1976. She warmly welcomed us with opened arms to the church. We are very grateful for the impact she had on our lives. We thoroughly enjoyed the plays she directed which made us laugh and promoted living Christ-like . Her expansion of the music ministry with handbells introduced us to another way to praise God. Her love and devotion for your father and you , their children, set an example for us a young family to emulate. We thank God for His loving servant, your mother! May she Rest In Peace !!! 🕯*  
*Much ❤️,*  
*Isaiah and Mercedes Morrison*

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**Mercedes S Morrison** - May 26, 2020 at 05:03 PM

LB

“ *Lori Burke lit a candle in memory of Joyce Keemer Peterson*



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**Lori Burke** - May 26, 2020 at 03:21 PM

DW

“ Thank you, Dr. Joyce, for recruiting and then dafting me as your handbell choir director for a period of ten years in the early eighties. All the choir members and I thought you were the worldwide champion ringer of the G6 bell. Most importantly, thanks for your motivational "pillow talks" with Pastor Peterson when we needed to purchase expensive things such as additional octaves of bells and chimes. You were the best! Our family sends love to Jewelette, John, and their families.

*Reginald Winstead*

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**Doris Winstead** - May 26, 2020 at 02:47 PM

LB

“ Loretta Britten lit a candle in memory of Joyce Keemer Peterson



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**Loretta Britten** - May 26, 2020 at 02:30 PM

YM

“ Youner McLeod lit a candle in memory of Joyce Keemer Peterson



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**Youner McLeod** - May 26, 2020 at 02:27 PM

YM

*Joyce, Terry and I will miss you so much. May u rest in peace in the arms of the Lord. Love to John and Jewelette  
Youner, Terry, and Ureka*

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**Youner McLeod** - May 26, 2020 at 02:30 PM

WD

“ *Such a beautiful woman of God and such a kind heart. We truly are blessed to have had the pleasure of sharing a part of this journey with Mrs. Peterson.*

*We know she will be greatly missed.*

*Praying for peace and comfort for the entire family.*

*Walter and Donna Wright*



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**Walter and Donna** - May 26, 2020 at 02:14 PM



“ *Thank you Lord for the life of Mrs. Peterson. She was so encouraging and strong and raised two beautiful people. I wish I could hug you John and Jewelette! Love you!*

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**Kisha Lester** - May 26, 2020 at 02:10 PM

MF

“ *Marquel Smith Forbes lit a candle in memory of Joyce Keemer Peterson*



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**Marquel Smith Forbes** - May 26, 2020 at 02:09 PM

MP

“ *Mark Prioleau lit a candle in memory of Joyce Keemer Peterson*



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**Mark Prioleau** - May 26, 2020 at 02:05 PM

MP

*Lynda and I are forever grateful to God for blessing us through Mrs. Peterson. We extend our deepest condolences to Jewelette and John and pray that God's peace and Love will be with you.*

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**Mark Prioleau** - May 26, 2020 at 02:07 PM

MB

“ *Mrs Peterson will always remain in our thoughts an prayers. What a "Firs Lady!"*



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**Mary Brown** - May 26, 2020 at 01:43 PM

TC

“ *Thelma Carter lit a candle in memory of Joyce Keemer Peterson*



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**Thelma Carter** - May 26, 2020 at 01:37 PM

TC

“ Condolences, John and Jewelette, in the loss of your beautiful Mother. May She Rest In Peace. 🙏

Love,  
Cousin Thelma Britton Carter

Thelma Carter - May 26, 2020 at 01:36 PM

RP

“ Rev. Keith A. And Joan M. Perkins lit a candle in memory of Joyce Keemer Peterson



Rev. Keith A. and Joan M. Perkins - May 26, 2020 at 01:30 PM

RP

“ Rev. Keith A. And Joan M. Perkins lit a candle in memory of Joyce Keemer Peterson



Rev. Keith A. and Joan M. Perkins - May 26, 2020 at 01:25 PM

CC

“ Love you momma Peterson. I am so glad God saw fit for you to come into our lives. So happy Jewelette is my Sister in Law and you are family. I will miss you my theater buddy. I cherish the memories and laughter. God keep you until we meet again. Love, love, love you. ❤️🙏❤️  
—Crystal Clark and family



Crystal Clark - May 26, 2020 at 09:19 AM

CJ

“ Catherine Jan Jones lit a candle in memory of Joyce Keemer Peterson



Catherine Jan Jones - May 25, 2020 at 05:53 PM

MP

“ I will miss you. You were a wonderful First Lady at Alfred Street Baptist Church. Margarett Peterson



margarette peterson - May 25, 2020 at 11:05 AM

VR

“ Valerie Randall lit a candle in memory of Joyce Keemer Peterson



valerie randall - May 24, 2020 at 12:32 PM

LK

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Lois Kebe - May 23, 2020 at 01:58 PM



*Beautiful tribute, Lois. From Jim Bender*

**Jim Bender** - May 26, 2020 at 10:58 AM

AJ

*In memory of a beautiful First Lady. Thank you for your journey.*

**Anginetta Jordan** - May 26, 2020 at 01:21 PM

LK

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



**Lois Kebe** - May 23, 2020 at 01:57 PM

GA

“ *I light this candle in remembrance of the well lived life of First Lady Joyce Peterson.*



**Gilbretta Ashton-Jones** - May 23, 2020 at 09:00 AM

TW

“ *Sorry For Your Loss  
Jesus Christ Loves Me  
We Love You*



**Thomas Widgeon** - May 23, 2020 at 07:05 AM

CJ

“ You have my heartfelt condolences.  
Mrs. Peterson was very special to me and  
I enjoyed her being my First Lady.

*Minister Christina Jones*



**Christina Jones** - May 22, 2020 at 08:38 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



**Pope Funeral Homes** - May 22, 2020 at 08:45 AM

GA

*Rest in Heavenly Peace. You will forever be remembered for your  
kindness and for being a wonderful First Lady.*

**Gilbretta Ashton-Jones** - May 22, 2020 at 09:03 AM

NH

*Mrs. Peterson was truly a remarkable woman. She taught at Gunston  
Jr. High and will always be remembered as a great and caring teacher,  
first lady and person.*

**Natalie Hughes** - May 24, 2020 at 03:20 AM

SM

*Jewelette and John, I have often commented at the fact that God loved  
you both so much he gave you Drs. John and Joyce Peterson as  
parents. Thank you for sharing both of them with us. You and your  
families are in my prayers.*

**Sue Montgomery** - May 25, 2020 at 01:50 PM

JL

*My heartfelt sympathy to Jewelette, John and members of the Peterson family. Mrs. Peterson was truly a jewel and will be remembered by all of us who loved her.*

**Jacqueline H. Lewis** - May 25, 2020 at 08:23 PM

CJ

*Rest. I know you will be doing drama. Thank you for your sweet spirit.*

**Catherine Jan Jones** - May 26, 2020 at 12:57 PM

WR

*My late husband -Alfred Roscoe, and Joyce Keemer were college friends at Virginia Union University. Former First Lady Joyce & Pastor John Peterson together inspired my late husband and I to join the Alfred Street Baptist Church as a place to grow our faith in God and for nurturing our family in the Christian faith. We are grateful for their witness and inspiration for Jesus Christ. Joyce was a stellar advocate of Virginia Union University and for higher educational pursuits of ASBC members. My late husband and I were pleased in working with First Lady Joyce and Rev. John Peterson on the foundational levels of the HBCU festivals ventures. A great lady has joined the angels with the Lord. To God be the glory. God bless their family here still on earth.  
- Dr. Wilma J. Roscoe*

**Wilma Roscoe** - May 26, 2020 at 02:06 PM

BR

*Our sympathies to John and Jewelette and families. We are so glad you were in our lives - if even for a short time. We're so sorry we didn't know in time to attend the funeral and share that time with you. God Bless you all.*

*With love from Rev. Bert Ransom and Louise Ransom*

**Bert and Louise Ransom** - May 29, 2020 at 09:56 AM