



## Barbara Tilford

September 15, 1934 - December 12, 2022

She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue. Proverbs 31:26

Barbara Louise Stigall was born to Wilma Stevenson and Sidney Stigall in Seminole, Oklahoma on September 15, 1934. As a youth she was an award-winning orator and academician. A graduate of L'ouverture High School, Langston University, and St. Mary's College, Mrs. Tilford earned degrees in Education and worked as a teacher for over 20 years until her retirement. She was primarily employed by the Contra Costa School District at Riverview Elementary School, where she earned the title of Teacher of the Year on multiple occasions and taught Drama to hundreds of eager scholars during her tenure. While residing in Concord, California, she was an active member of the Black Families Association, St. Paul A.M.E. church in Berkeley, and Delta Sigma Theta (Vallejo alumnae chapter).

Though the recipient of many awards, honors and accolades, she was a loyal servant to God, first and foremost. She loved the church and loved sharing the love and warmth of our savior, Jesus Christ. Barbara Tilford was an active member of three AME churches in adulthood: St. John AME church in St. Louis, Missouri; St. Paul AME church in Berkeley, California; and New Bethel AME church in Lithonia, Georgia. As an active participant in those houses of worship, she established a youth drama department, hosted an annual Chili

Supper, worked in the YPD, and attended weekly Prayer meetings. In addition, she was often called upon to lend her voice to various celebrations, programs, and performances.

Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her:

Many women have done excellently, but you surpass them all.'

Proverbs 31:28–29

Barbara Louise Tilford was a caring wife, mother, grandmother, sister, and friend. She was predeceased by her beloved husband, Baxter LaVonne Tilford, and is survived by four children (Patrice, Vonetta, Terri, and Baxter Jr.); five grandchildren (Camille, Evonna, Erika, Shanelle, and Baxter Ken); and a host of relatives and close friends who mourn with the immediate family. Interment will be in McAlester, Oklahoma.

Barbara Tilford remains, simply, our mother; we were blessed to have been loved by her. Her strength, perseverance, and compassion molded our lives.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN **26**. 12:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

South DeKalb Chapel  
4347 Flat Shoals Pkwy.  
Decatur, GA 30034  
(404) 241-5656  
info@levettfuneralhome.com

## Celebration of Life

JAN **27**. 11:00 AM (ET)

New Bethel AME Church  
8350 Rockbridge Rd.  
Lithonia, GA 30058

# Tribute Wall

SM

“*Patrice, Vonetta, Terri, and Baxter: I discovered that your Mother passed away in 2022 by searching online to try to find her and reconnect. We last visited when we had lunch together in 1999 before she moved to Georgia. I was so saddened to find out that she had passed away. It will be the 2-year anniversary of her passing in a month. I was reminded again yesterday how much I appreciated knowing your parents (and think of them every June 12, which I recall as their wedding anniversary) and how enjoyable it as to attend your Mom's annual fashion show for Delta Sigma Theta. Yesterday we were at a Celebration of Life for Norma Griffin and I reminisced about how the very first fundraiser for me (1977) in my first campaign for County Supervisor was co-hosted by the Black Families Association and Ada (YWCA CEO) and James Cole. Small world. Although belated, I sincerely want to express my condolences and let you know that your Mom was a dear friend and I treasure the memories of being with her. May God continue to comfort you with loving memories of your parents. Sunne Wright McPeak (Former Contra Costa County Supervisor).*

---

**Sunne Wright McPeak** - November 11, 2024 at 07:53 AM