



Joyce M Dedeaux

February 28, 1945 - April 18, 2024

On February 28, 1945, I was born to the late Mose and Cortelyou (Fomby) Scott in Birmingham, Alabama. They fondly named me “Joyce Marie.” I was the tenth child in a loving family of five boys and four other girls. I am sure that my mother must have said, “This is it; I am finished!” Always treated like the baby of the family, most of the time, I had my way, especially with my father. You see, I was a “Daddy’s Girl,” and I could do no wrong.

On the same day of graduating from Hooper City High School, in Sayreton, Alabama in 1962, I went to stay with family in Chicago to keep me from getting in trouble, and I lived in Chicago from 1962-1979 when I moved to Decatur, Georgia.

In high school, I was extremely popular with the teachers and with my classmates. You see, all ten of the children in my family attended and graduated from the same school, so the school staff and students knew me very well. Everyone often referred to me as the little sister of one of my siblings. Eventually they learned that I had a name of my own - Joyce. Highly active in my school where I won or placed in oratorical contests, spelling bees, and social science fairs, I was also a majorette and a member of the following clubs: Drama, Red Cross, Debate, and Choir for four years.

Committed to broadening my education, I received my bachelor’s degree from

Chicago Teachers College in 1965 and my master's degree from Chicago State University in 1973. I also earned other credits in the field of education beyond my masters, equivalent to a specialist degree in Georgia. While in school, I pledged Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority.

Starting my first year of teaching in 1966, I met William Dedeaux in January 1966. In June 1966, we were engaged and on August 14, 1966, we were married. He really swept me off my feet. It truly was love at first sight. Three years later, on May 2, 1969, we had our first and only child, (William) Derek Dedeaux. William and I celebrated thirty- nine (39) years together before Will made his transition on March 16, 2006.

After moving to Georgia, I was hired by DeKalb County School System in various positions prior to being employed at Henderson Mill Elementary School in 1983 where I taught sixth and seventh grades. A year later, I became Media Specialist (librarian) and in May 2003, I retired from Henderson Mill Elementary School.

During my professional career, I was honored to receive awards from many organizations for my dedicated and faithful service. I was Teacher-of-the-Month and Media-Specialist-of-the-Year. I was also recognized nationally by Who's Who in America and Outstanding Young Women of America. I received certificates and honors from Junior League of DeKalb County, Inc., DeKalb County School System Board of Technology, Georgia Council of Media Organizations, Boys and Girls Club of America (Youth-of-the-Year Program), and I received the Community Excellence Award. I also guided students to win reading bowls and various educational fairs from DeKalb Schools, Progressive National Baptist Conventions, and Mount Hermon Association. Additionally, I was a member of several professional organizations including Lifetime member of Georgia Association of Education, the National

Geographic Society, the Southern Association of Supervision (SACS) that visited Walton County Schools, Association of Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD), and Georgia Library Media Association (GLMA).

An advocate for reaching out to help others, especially young people, I always tried to achieve my passion of improving the lives of others through my work and membership in various organizations including NACCP, UNICEF, and other civic groups.

After reading about me, my life, my accolades, you know much information about me, but the most important aspect of my life that I want you to remember is that I am a child of GOD. My relationship with God has priority over all my earthly involvement. I was baptized at an early age. My religious experience has been rich and rewarding. My membership at First Baptist Church has been an assessment of and a testament to my religious growth. I have been an active participant and a devout believer in the missions of First Baptist Church, and I have held many positions in the choir, from the office of president to the office of treasurer. Recently I served as president of Toast Masters International and president of the Christian Board of Christian Education.

I heard my God say, "Well done my good and faithful servant. You have fought a good fight. You have kept the faith. Come join me in your eternal home."

I believe I will truly be missed for my dependable spirit, my winning smile, and my unconditional love.

Living to cherish my memories are my loving Son: William Derek Dedeaux; Brother: Edward Scott; Sister-in-law: Margie Scott; Best Friends Forever: Donna (Herbert) Hill, Patricia Harris, Annie P. Williams, Catherine H. Turk, Dorothy Henson, Jackie Morris; Favorite Caregiver: Ebony Barnes; Night Caregiver: Celeste Jones; a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and other loved ones.

WORDS OF APPRECIATION

The family of Joyce Marie Scott Dedeaux expresses sincere thanks and gratitude for the numerous kind gestures and many acts of support provided during this challenging time. Any and everything you said or did is appreciated. Joyce will be remembered for her kind smile, infectious sense of humor, and love of family, church, and friends. May the Lord continue to bless you.

Cemetery Details

Hillandale Memorial Gardens

6201 Hillandale Dr.
Lithonia, Ga 30058

Previous Events

Funeral Service

MAY 9. 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM (ET)

First Baptist Church Gresham
2394 Gresham Road South East
Atlanta, GA 30316-3700

Tribute Wall

DM

“ My name is Daniel and I met Mrs. Joyce because she had reached out to my company to get her roof replaced due to a storm that damaged her home. I only very recently found out about her passing after reaching out to Ebony (her care giver) and I have been thinking a lot about Mrs Joyce and what a trooper she was throughout the process of having her roof replaced. There were several hiccups and inconveniences presented to her and instead of getting upset, she focused on how best to resolve the issues and move forward quickly. We had a few non-work related conversations as well and she was a very intelligent and accomplished person. I am sure her family and friends thought very highly of her. While I was very sad to hear of her passing, I know she was dealing with a lot of pain so at least she is resting peacefully now. You don't run into people like Mrs. Joyce everyday so I am glad I got to meet and get to know her a bit, even if it was a short time, she did make an impact on me.

Daniel Misenhelter - July 20, 2024 at 10:49 AM



“ Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Joyce M Dedeaux.



May 08, 2024 at 07:13 PM

EB

“ I was Mrs Joyce caregiver for a year and we had some great times together I enjoyed taking care of her she is my honey bun I'm really gonna miss her I'm glad I was able to give her a Birthday Party in her room with all her friends and family she was very excited about that.... She was an Awesome Woman my condolence to Derrick and the rest of her Family members.



Ebony - May 08, 2024 at 01:28 PM

NR

Sorry 🙏 for your loss

Nartosha C Reeves - November 04, 2024 at 11:46 PM

NR

Sorry 🙏 for your loss

Nartosha C Reeves - November 04, 2024 at 11:46 PM

MT

“ I met Joyce as a library media specialist for DeKalb School System. She inspired me to get involved, do more, and reach higher. She was our Library Media Specialist of the Year in 1995. She worked on the Helen Ruffin Reading Bowl Steering committee and was a dynamic leader. She was instrumental in it's creation and growth in DeKalb and all over the state. She read books and wrote questions every year for the competitions including 2023 for 2024. This was the first year she did not attend the DeKalb bowl as a volunteer since it's start in 1999. Joyce, we are already missing you. Derek, she was a friend, mother and sister to so many of us in school, the church, and the community. And lovingly she stayed here and worked right up to her last days. I thank God for placing her in my life. Mary Etta Thomas

Mary Etta Thomas - May 08, 2024 at 01:01 PM

WP

“ To The Family Of Joyce Dedeaux. God Bless And Keep You. You Are In Our Prayers.Hold On Stay Strong God Will Take Care Of ? You

William And Elizabeth Pealer - May 08, 2024 at 12:45 PM

BF

“ Barbara, Robin Powell & Family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Joyce M Dedeaux.



Barbara, Robin Powell & Family - April 29, 2024 at 08:35 PM

RC

“ My deepest sympathy and condolences to you my friend Derek and your family. Sending love and hugs💕🙏

Rhonda

Rhonda Cobb - April 24, 2024 at 10:42 AM

TP

“ Ms. Dedeaux is my surrogate mother. She shaped me into who I am today. She taught the kids at 2394 Gresham Rd. First Baptist Church to speak clearly, boldly and with confidence and conviction. We couldn't dare use a microphone or read anything on paper. She cared for each of us as though we were her own children. She was stern but loving. She spoke her mind without apologies. I always pushed her to lead songs in the choir when I was the Music Director at church. She had a raspy tenor voice and I loved to hear her sing.

I've known her all of my life and I'm going to miss her dearly.

I love Ms. Dedeaux! May she rest in peace until we meet again ❤️☐



Tracye Powell - April 22, 2024 at 07:31 PM

IT

Joyce Dedeaux was one of the first members at First Baptist to reach out to my family and me when we joined First Baptist. I served under her very capable leadership on The Board of Christian Education for many years. She knew how to inspire young people, as well as her adult colleagues, to give their best in service. She was instrumental in bringing Toastmasters to the church and served in it untiringly. I thank her for being my choir partner and keeping me “on key” all those years. I salute your dedicated work and love you dearly. Rest in peace, Joyce! I'll see you on the other side.💕🙏💕

Inez Thomas - April 23, 2024 at 01:31 PM

DW

“Joyce was a 2nd Mom to me in every sense of the word. Have such fond memories of the house on Emerald and then our summer visits to Atlanta and Kelly Lake Drive, and of course all the family reunions that our family joined. Rest in peace, your living was and is a blessing to me and my life.
Darrell Winston Hill
Chicago, Illinois

DWHill - April 22, 2024 at 02:01 PM

GG

The Columbia High Class of 87, send our sincerest condolences to our classmate Derrick. We love you and we're praying for you brother.

genine greene - April 22, 2024 at 06:53 PM



I first met Joyce when I transferred to HMES and she became my mentor and later a dear friend. I cherished our conversations about our children, trips to concerts, on cruises and countries abroad. Enjoyed our ceramic classes that we did I order tp relax from a tedious teaching day. Joyce, will miss the “giggles” you shared when we found things that tickled us. Dear friend you will be missed but it gives me peace that you are resting without pain with your Lord.

Pat Slaton - April 25, 2024 at 12:17 PM

TS

Rest in peace Joyce. Met you through my best friend Janice Howell, who preceded you in death. Loved the house on Emerald Ave.

Teresa McCray Seals - April 26, 2024 at 02:34 PM

SH

I have the pleasure of meeting you but I met your Son, he carry a spirit much like yours. 🙏🙏

Shirley Harris - April 27, 2024 at 12:50 AM

DJ

Darnell Johnson

I didn't know her as long as others, but 3 and a half year has really been a Joy. Being the person that took care of her yard was more than that. We always had a conversation about how good God was I will miss those moments.

To William and the family although you loved her God Love her more.



Darnell Johnson - April 30, 2024 at 06:15 AM

VJ

May God be pleased with her service on this earth 🙏

She planted a seed that continues to shine her light.

Praying for Peace and Understanding Brother Derek

Veree Freeman Jr. - May 03, 2024 at 08:26 AM

MW

There are people who make an impact in your life and the lives of those around you. Joyce Dedeaux at Henderson Mill Elementary School was one of those people. She loved our family, and we loved her.

Mary Kay Woodworth - May 09, 2024 at 07:02 AM