



MARY FRANCES EDWARDS

September 17, 1945 - November 29, 2025

DeKalb County Mourns the Loss and Celebrates the Life of Mrs. Frances Edwards, A visionary Education Leader and Community Champion

Service to be held:

Saturday, December 6, 2025 at 1:00

Baha'i Unity Center

2370 Wesley Chapel Road,

Decatur, GA.30035

The DeKalb County community is honoring the life and legacy of Mrs. Frances Edwards, a pioneering education leader whose passion, vision, and unwavering commitment transformed DeKalb County Schools and strengthened families across the region.

Edwards' journey of service began long before her election to the DeKalb County Board of Education in 1990. For more than 15 years, she was a tireless school volunteer and PTA president, working to unite parents and tackle challenges facing South DeKalb families. Her grassroots advocacy laid the foundation for a life defined by leadership, service and impact.

On the Board of Education, Mrs. Edwards made history. She served as vice-chair from 1991 to 1993 and, in 1994, became the first African-American

woman-to chair the board, a groundbreaking achievement that opened doors for future leaders. Her colleagues' trust and admiration were evident when she was re-elected chair in 2003, a testament to her enduring influence.

Beyond the boardroom, Mrs. Edwards championed education through civic engagement, lending her voice to organizations such as the NAACP and the Chamber of Commerce Education Committee. Her advocacy focused on creating strong schools, empowering families and ensuring every child had an opportunity to succeed.

Mrs. Edwards will be remembered not only for her historic achievement but for her deep belief in the power of community and her ability to see value in every person she met. Her life's work leaves an indelible mark on DeKalb County and beyond.

Thank you so much,
Philandrea

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

DEC 6. 1:00 PM (ET)

Bahá'í Unity Center
2370 Wesley Chapel Road
Decatur, GA 30035-2801

Tribute Wall

CW

“ *Frances was our wonderful neighbor for many years. She was a woman of great compassion and love of family, education and community. Frances will be forever remembered for her kindness and dedication. It is an honor to have known her.*
Carolyn and Sinclair Wright 🙏🏻

Carolyn Wright - January 14 at 06:35 PM

FC

“ *Mrs. Edwards will always be remembered for her love, commitment and dedication to her family and to others. Her servant Leadership and love will definitely be missed by many.*
The Callaway's.

Frankie Callaway - December 04, 2025 at 11:07 AM

NW

“ *Mrs. Edwards was truly a lady of distinction, excellence and a dedicated servant leader in the community. Her efforts brought about so many positive outcomes for many children and their families. She will be missed. Sending kind thoughts and loving prayers for her family and friends during this time of bereavement.*

Nikki Wilson - December 04, 2025 at 08:46 AM

GA

“ I have Frances Edwards for more that twenty-five years, she was always a positive influence in my life and in the community. She deeply cared about the children in the greater community and wanted all children to be successful. Mrs. Edwards will be truly missed. I pray for Harold and the family.



Gregory A. Adams - December 02, 2025 at 06:30 PM