



## Reseta Taylor

July 5, 1929 - January 9, 2021

“MRS. RESETA LEONIE TAYLOR, ALSO KNOWN AS MRS. RITA TAYLOR TRANSITIONED PEACEFULLY AT THE AGE OF 91 YEARS OLD ON JANUARY 9TH, 2021 IN ATLANTA, GA USA. SHE WAS BORN ON JULY 5TH, 1929 TO PARENTS VINCENT AND BERNICE SMITH. SHE WAS MARRIED TO CARLTON TAYLOR IN 1956. SHE WAS THE FIRST IN HER FAMILY TO GRADUATE FROM COLLEGE (MONEAGUE TEACHERS’ COLLEGE). SHE STARTED HER CAREER AS A TEACHER AT ALPHA PRIMARY AND OVER 30 YEARS LATER RETIRED AS THE ACTING PRINCIPAL. SHE WENT ON TO BE A TEACHER AND PARISH MANAGER FOR THE JAMAL FOUNDATION (ADULT LITERACY PROGRAM). SHE WAS AWARDED THE JAMAICAN PRIME MINISTER MEDAL OF APPRECIATION FOR SERVICE IN EDUCATION IN 2012. SHE WAS PREDECEASED BY HER SISTER DAHPNIE, HUSBAND CARLTON AND DAUGHTER MARLENE. SHE LEAVES BEHIND SIBLINGS, EVAL, CRUSOE, CHERYL, ZELLA AND LEMEL SMITH, CHILDREN SHELLY-ANN, CHARLTON, VERNON, RENALDO, MARCUS, MICHAEL AND ADOPTED DAUGHTERS VERONICA HARRISON AND TAMAULA SIMPSON, 34 GRAND AND 28 GREAT GRAND-CHILDREN.

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

JAN **24**. 12:00 PM (ET)

Gwinnett Chapel

914 Scenic Hwy.

Lawrenceville, GA 30045

(770) 338-5558

[info@levettfuneralhome.com](mailto:info@levettfuneralhome.com)

# Tribute Wall



“ Gregory B. Levett & Sons Funeral Homes & Crematory created a [Click Here For Live Stream in memory of Reseta Taylor](#)



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**Gregory B. Levett & Sons Funeral Homes & Crematory, Inc.** - January 23, 2021 at 05:24 PM



“ For some reason this week my memory went back to Mrs Rita Taylor, and a search on the Internet revealed that she her eternal transition this January past. She was my grade 4 teacher at Alpha Primary School in the early 1970s, who saw that I was bored and unchallenged and recommended that I should skipped grade 5 and go straight to grade 6, which I did. I have always remembered her as kind during what were hard times for me and my family. I was blessed to meet her as an adult when she was on the board of the Catholic Church's Sodality Credit Union and she kindly approved my home improvement loan. She was so proud to see me then and I believe she would be happy to see what I have become, working in a helping profession. I have never forgotten her kindness and am pleased that she had a large loving family and a long life. May her eternal rest only be peaceful. Dr Michelle A Levy, CPsychol in Kent, England. [janubian@lineone.net](mailto:janubian@lineone.net)

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**Dr Michelle Levy** - June 17, 2021 at 03:41 PM

EB

“ Rest in peace my dear Rita, it has been a lovely encounter.

Your cousin, Chris Brown

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**Enoch Brown** - January 24, 2021 at 01:51 PM

ST

“ My condolences to the Taylor family, RIP Ms. Taylor.

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**shirley tomlinson** - January 24, 2021 at 01:42 PM

SM

“ Rest in eternal peace, dear Mrs Taylor. You were one of my childhood angels at Alpha Primary, and had the biggest heart, warmest hugs, and kindest words of encouragement a child could want. Thank God for sending you to bless this Earth. Sleep the slumber of angels in God's arms. ❤️🌹

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**Sandra McKenzie** - January 24, 2021 at 11:57 AM

DC

Sip

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**David c** - January 24, 2021 at 01:04 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**Marcus Taylor** - January 24, 2021 at 09:30 AM

DC

*Sip*

David c - January 24, 2021 at 12:01 PM

SW

*Rest in paradise mrs Taylor. A blessed virtuous woman*

Sharon walters - January 24, 2021 at 03:27 PM

MO

*Just found out today that you died 💔. I hope you didn't suffer. You were my mentor and friend. Sleep in perfect peace.*

Marcia O'Brien - June 24, 2025 at 12:04 AM

RC

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Rita-Ashley Cunningham - January 24, 2021 at 12:58 AM

PP

*I will always remember your teaching mama.  
Paul Powell-wayne pearl*

Paul Powell - January 24, 2021 at 10:13 AM

ME

*I will forever love you grandma. -Mellika Leone Taylor*

mellika - January 24, 2021 at 11:28 AM



“ Tribute from The Board of Governors, Principal and Staff of Alpha Primary School

*“We ourselves feel that what we are doing is just a drop in the ocean. But the ocean would be less because of that missing drop.”* Mother Teresa

*The Board of Governors, Principal and Staff of Alpha Primary School pay homage to Mrs. Rita Taylor, who served from 1953, as a classroom teacher, to her retirement in 1988. She can be aptly described as an outstanding team member, who was always punctual, dedicated and hardworking. Her proficiency during her tenure led to numerous promotions as a teacher with Post of Special Responsibilities in 1971, where she later transitioned to Vice Principal, followed by her appointment as Acting Principal from 1985 1987.*

*As a leader, her Integrity, commitment and inspiration are hall marks of her character. Mrs. Taylor was one who gave attention to ensuring educational programs, supported by policies and procedures, made the desired impact. Despite her numerous capabilities, she will be remembered most for the strategic direction she provided as a leader, her optimistic view of the future and the examples set. Her acts of compassion coupled with her ability to see human potential and nurture individuals were her most commendable traits as a leader.*

*She was kind, loving and caring. She showed much interest in the well being of the team and provided comfort whenever there was a challenge. Staff relied on her as a confidante seeking advice and trusting her counsel, which she willingly gave. In fact, she served as*

*a matriarch who encouraged the members of staff to be good parents. We were like her children and at times she would playfully refer to us as “hey bwoy or hey gyal find yuh class”. The time spent working with her empowered us all to be a better version of ourselves.*

*In honor of her contribution to the Institution as a stalwart, one of the School Houses is*

*named Taylor. Even after retirement, she continued to support the institution attending*

*functions and sporting events. Her jovial spirit and her face always brightly lit with a smile*

*will forever be etched in our hearts.*

*Mrs. Rita Taylor affectionately called “Miss T” was a teacher, mother, mentor and a friend*

*to virtually everyone. She will be sorely missed. May her soul rest in peace.*

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**Marcus Taylor** - January 23, 2021 at 05:21 PM



Olivene  
Powell

“ *Aunty Rita was also dear to us all, over here in the UK and we, her nephews, Rex Roy Powell, Martin Powell and nieces, Yvonne Edwards, Pamela Powell and Olivene Powell (children of the late Daphne May Powell) as well as her great nephew Omar Delnevo and great nieces Ketishia Vaughan, Dominique Delnevo and Anna Karenina Delnevo join Reseta Taylor's family in mourning their loss.*

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**Olivene Powell** - January 23, 2021 at 03:33 PM

AT

“ *Andre, Marisa, Naliya and Havana Taylor purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Reseta Taylor.*



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**Andre, Marisa, Naliya and Havana Taylor** - January 23, 2021 at 09:32 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Reseta Taylor.*

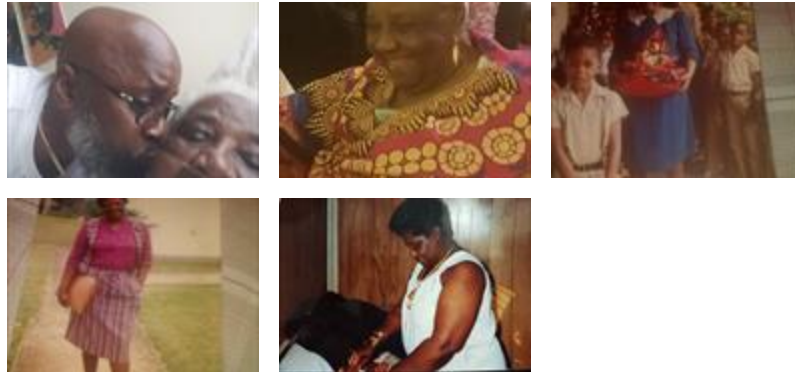


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January 23, 2021 at 04:38 AM

MT

“ *6 files added to the tribute wall*



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**Michael Taylor** - January 22, 2021 at 07:42 PM

DA

*FROM..JEREMIAH...DAWN..FAITH. We are so very happy that We got a chance to know this beautiful lady. She became our new mommy through Marcus and Jeremiah's friendship...Mama Rita was kind in words and deeds. I stayed with her for a few days and mama Rita made every moment memorable...I wonder how she could be so kind and sweet to share so deeply without missing a beat. She remembers so so much.....The little time we shared with Mama Rita was....priceless.*

**Dawn** - January 23, 2021 at 01:45 PM

PA

*Walk good, mama Taylor. Thank you for a life well lived. Painter.*

**Painter** - January 24, 2021 at 12:05 PM

RC

“ 1 file added to the album Family Tree



**Rita-Ashley Cunningham** - January 22, 2021 at 06:54 PM



“ Tribute to my Mom Rita Taylor -1-24-2021

*Mama, Mama, what can I say except you will be dearly missed. Today while we mourn, we will also celebrate your life, without which this day would not be. I will share with you all some of the things our Mom did which has made us who we are today.*

*1. She was always pleasantly kind to all especially the least amongst us. She treated everyone with same kindness and respect. She would treat the man who cuts the yard the same way or even better than she would her colleagues and superior. So much that my brothers and I have ingrained in us this basic principle “we look up to no one nor do we look down on anyone”. The good book says the good you do today will come back to you tomorrow. By her example we have all seen and heard this manifest. The one example that stands out to me was her tale of driving home one evening from Kingston to Spanish Town and had to drive thru the heart of West Kingston behind KPH. On her way she got a flat and as she pulled over, she could see a group of young men sitting on the corner. When they saw her car stopped several of them immediately started to approach her car. She said to herself “Lawd me ago do now.” She however did not panic and as they approached, one of the young men shouted, “Mrs. Taylor, a yu dat”, to which she replied yes. He then said “Mrs. Taylor, A me” and told her his name and asked her if she remembers him. She did not, but tentatively said yes. (because she did not quite remember him by name, and he was a grown man by then). The young immediately told his colleague to get to changing her car tires. While she sat in the car, they changed the tire, all this time the young man recounted to her the many times he went to school not having any lunch money and she would always give him a meal from the canteen, never once making him feel less than, never once saying no. He went on and on about how much he was forever grateful for what she did for him as a child. His friends changed her tire and sent her on her way safely. My take on this is simply this, “What if she had been unkind to that young man when he was a child?”*

*Now do not get me wrong her kindness did not mean weakness. We*

*her children can attest to that. Long before the word "Terrorist" was an everyday word, that was her nickname. She had to be one, in order to keep two girls and five boys, plus several adopted sisters and brothers who grew up with us, on the straight and narrow. This she did "greatly", and we are all thankful for it, as this helped to mold us into the Men and Women we are today.*

*2. She always said, "birds of a feather flock together". Growing up and constantly hearing this my response was "I am my own man Mom". But she would just keep on saying it. We always said she was extremely good at playing these mind games with us. This saying stuck with me all these years as you can see. What it did instill in us, was to always be wary of the type of friends we kept and more importantly being a leader and not a follower. To this day she never told me what her intention was when she said this to us. Was it to keep us from bad company or was it to plant in our minds the need to be independent thinkers? Mind Games and it did work.*

*3. She taught us the discipline of punctuality and hard work by her example every day. We always ironed our school uniform and cleaned our shoes from the night before. She would be up at 4:am every morning. We had to be up by 4:30am and there was always a hot breakfast on the table. We had to bath, get dressed and eat by 4:50 am and be at the bus stop by 4:55 to catch the 5:00am bus to take us to school. Every year we got the award for no tardy and perfect attendance.*

*4. She taught us the responsibility to family. All of us had two years in high school, (for me it was 4th and 5th form), when we had to get home and prepare dinner for the entire family without exception. I remember telling my school and neighborhood friends, I have got to. Sunday was*

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**Marcus Taylor** - January 22, 2021 at 06:38 PM



“On behalf of my brothers Crusoe and Lemel, and sisters Sheryl and Zilla, I would like to thank everyone in attendance today, gathered to memorialize our sister Ms Lee. To her siblings she was Ms Lee, but she was affectionately called by different names by her friends and family.

*My name is Binz, or Uncle Binz. I am Ms Lee’s eldest brother, and it warms my heart to see so many people tuning in on this live stream to celebrate her life. My sister loved her family, and I think a befitting way to memorialize her embrace, is for us to use this occasion as a springboard to reach out and stay in touch with each other going forward. We are a large and diverse family, and because a lot of us do not know each other, and it would be a living memento to her life, were we to make the attempt needed to remove the barriers that separate us.*

*Our sister, in keeping with her profession as a teacher, was a reasoned and talkative person. It is not unusual for her to engage you in an hour-long conversation over the phone, and then call you back later the same day and continue for another hour. No matter how quiet someone was, she could bring them into a conversation. She had an icebreaker for every situation, and God knows, I wish I could have a four (4) hour chat with her now. How often we take the simple pleasantries we share for granted. But she was not just a good talker, she had an incredible intellect that served her well. Her accomplishments included being awarded The Jamaica Prime Minister’s Medal of Appreciation for Service in Education, where she was recognized for 36 years of service retiring as the Acting Principal of Alpha Primary School, as well as her contribution to early childhood education and adult literacy. She was the first in our family to graduate from college and was the only one in her class to pass the college entry exam. Yes, the only one. She also gave me my first shot at a college life by allowing me to stay with her family when I moved from the country to start college in Kingston. I recall accompanying her that first day she drove her brand new black and blue Ford Escort to Alpha. That was 43 years ago. We left Spanish Town about six (6) in the morning, and the drive into Kingston was unusually pleasant, the road was almost empty as it was still dark.*

*We arrived at Alpha as night was turning into day and entered the campus without incident. We approached the gateway into the school, a gateway with two concrete columns on either side. "Mi Sista," I said, yuh si di column dem? "Yes mi brodah," she replied, but, alas, BOOM!! She crashed the brand-new car in the column. As the kids started to gather around I could hear the chatter..."look, a Ms Taylor, yes look, a Ms Taylor," they kept saying. I felt so bad for her. Sigh!! You see, no one knew she could drive, not to mention that she owned a car. That was the first car ever in our family. The black and blue escort. I remember the incident like it was yesterday. She and I have always shared a mutual respect for each other. One of the things I admired most about her was that she always looked out for lonely or awkward people to include in our conversations. She had this uncanny ability to remember details about people that gave so much credence to our conversations, a characteristic that spoke to our shared humanity. She was able to touch people with her kindness and compassion in whatever capacity she found herself. Her own experience of hardship, and our humble beginning informed her sense of purpose. She understood that to be kind and loving to one another was the greatest wisdom. But now, she is no longer with us:*

*Our Dear Sister*

*Together on life's journey we have travelled*

*Sharing all the joys of life and keeping each other company*

*Sharing lots of happy times and sometimes sharing tears*

*Always leaning on each other, together through the years*

*And no matter where life led us dear sister, know this to be true,*

*It has been a joy to travel down the road of li*

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**Marcus Taylor** - January 22, 2021 at 06:37 PM



“ TRIBUTE TO MRS. RESETA ‘RITA’ TAYLOR

*July 6, 1929 to January 9, 2021*

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

*I met Mrs. Rita Taylor more than forty years ago when I went to work at Alpha Primary School as a young pre-trained teacher. The hospitable treatment which she extended to Mrs. Rosemarie Vernon (now deceased) and I was incomparable. Mrs. Vernon who was to be her assistant was unable to take up the position due to a serious motor vehicle accident but was able to do so eight weeks later due to the influence of Mrs. Taylor on administration at the time. It was this initial kind gesture which was to be extended into a lifelong friendship.*

*Mrs. Taylor wore many hats. In her varied roles which included school administrator, classroom teacher, writer, friend, mother and counsellor she remained humble and uncomplicated. She was an extraordinary teacher who was compassionate, diligent, approachable, always wearing a winsome smile and tried to give the best advice when requested. She was a friend and confidant. You could discuss any issue with her knowing that it would remain with her. She was an exemplary mentor for young teachers.*

*Even after retirement from Alpha she continued to work. In addition to teaching an adult literacy class she was the parish manager for the Jamaica Foundation for Lifelong Learning (JFLL) in Kingston and St. Andrew. During this period, she was also a volunteer fund-raising officer for the foundation. Up to five years ago she was the lead teacher at the Meadowbrook Citizens’ Evening College on the compound of the Meadowbrook High school. She did not just give these adult*

*students guidance academically but also extended it to their family life as she was a trained counselor. It is interesting to note that she was even a radio counselor. In 2013 Mrs. Taylor received the Prime Minister’s award for outstanding service in education.*

*Kindness is one of her major traits. She had a kind and caring personality and was always looking out for others. Whatever one requested, so long as it was in her powers, she would provide it.*

*This quality was constantly extended to her colleagues, students, neighbors and friends. As small as her pension was, she would give willingly from it. Many JFLL students who had difficulty with bus fare were assisted regularly by her.*

*This legacy of love, compassion, family, cooperation and neighborliness is still present at the school today and Mrs. Taylor is one of the main persons responsible. These collective expressions represent just a fraction of what we want to share. We are thankful for the plethora of treasured memories we have of her. They are what helped to shape myself and many of my colleagues into the rounded persons we have become. Walk good my friend. Rest well. We love you.*

*From: Phyllis Messam – Anderson and the other colleagues who worked with Mrs. Rita Taylor.*

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**Marcus Taylor** - January 22, 2021 at 06:35 PM



“ 48 files added to the album Memories Album



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**Marcus Taylor** - January 22, 2021 at 06:24 PM



“ 41 files added to the album Memories Album



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Marcus Taylor - January 22, 2021 at 06:24 PM



“ 19 files added to the album Memories Album

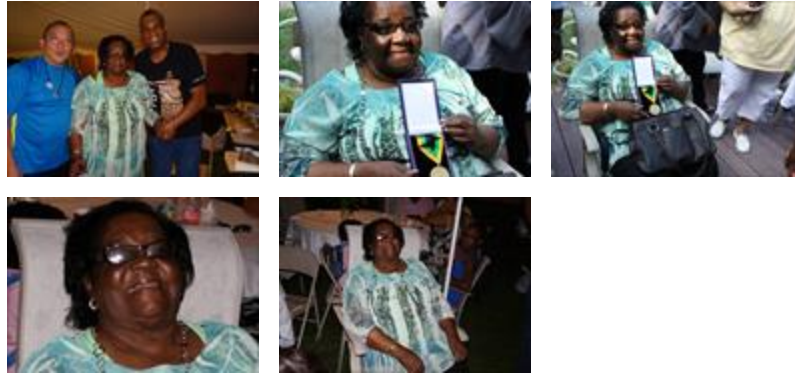


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Marcus Taylor - January 22, 2021 at 06:13 PM



“ 19 files added to the tribute wall



Marcus Taylor - January 22, 2021 at 06:11 PM

EF

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with the family. Continue to rely on God and know that he hears your prayers, because he cares for you. Truly sorry for your loss.

Evans family - January 22, 2021 at 04:45 AM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Reseta Taylor.



January 21, 2021 at 07:25 PM

TT

“ *Tabb & Tabb-Lee, Cindy, Larry, Kate, Beth, Theresa purchased the Basket of Memories for the family of Reseta Taylor.*



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**Tabb & Tabb-Lee, Cindy, Larry, Kate, Beth, Theresa** - January 20, 2021 at 07:06 PM