



## Mrs. L Williamson-Davis

January 31, 1942 - April 15, 2011

### JUSTYNE LAYVONNE WILLIAMSON-DAVIS

#### Her Life...Her Legacy

"I realize that we can't just take from life without giving something back. I don't have an enormous sum of money. I guess that's why I believe so strongly in the Scripture, 'and now abide faith, hope and love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.' I try to give as much love as I can by giving all that I can in service and love. After that, I just thank God for all His many blessings."

Justyne L. Williamson-Davis

"My Theme and My Philosophy for Life" (excerpt)

#### In the beginning...

Justyne L. Williamson-Davis was born on January 31, 1942 to Napoleon Bishop and Blanche Williamson in Kewanee, Missouri. She was raised by her grandmother, Minnie, whom she was very fond of. Around the age of 10, she was reared by her aunt and uncle, Dorothy and Lipscomb Staples, who contributed greatly to her education. It was in their home where LaVern, their daughter, and Justyne became like sisters and lived most of their lives together.

#### Observer...

From an early age, Justyne showed many signs of intelligence. She was gifted in everything she put her mind to. She had a love for reading books, poetry, history and science. She made her first television debut in a city-wide Spelling Bee where she was awarded second runner-up. It was in the seventh grade while assisting little kids as a patrol girl where Justyne began to envision what her future career would later become.

#### Pioneer...

Justyne attended five different grade schools in three different cities and graduated from Cole School in St. Louis. She went on to attend Soldan High School in St. Louis where she graduated with honors in June of 1959. Immediately following high school, Justyne attended the University of Missouri, in Columbia where the population of African-American students numbered only 40. She received a Bachelor of Science in Education on June 9, 1964. Her dream for teaching became a reality when she began teaching in St. Louis Public Schools, concluding at Walbridge Elementary School where she retired after 40 years in public education. Justyne continued her studies at Webster's College, where she completed her Master of Arts in Teaching on December 22, 1976.

#### Devoted...

On April 29, 1967, Justyne married her beloved Philip L. Davis. From a young age she desired to someday become a proud mother. Her prayers were answered on September 11, 1971, when God blessed both her and Philip with a baby girl. They named her Phylis Janine Williamson Davis. On May 4, 2002, Philip and Justyne celebrated their thirty-fifth wedding anniversary. On July 29, 2002, Philip went home to be with the Lord.

#### Believer...

Learning from her grandmother that one can't get very far in life without God, Justyne soon came to know the Lord for her own self. She was a faithful long-

time member of Third Presbyterian Church (formerly the Third United Presbyterian Church) under the leadership of the late Minister Arthur B. McFadden. Justyne was an active member of the choir, Twosomes Club, and a Sunday School teacher, to name a few.

Ambitious...

In August of 1981, Justyne joined the IOTA Phi Lambda Sorority. She became president of the Alpha Zeta Chapter in 1998. She was also a member of the Order of the Eastern Star's Pride of the West Chapter #99, where she was a Past Worthy Matron (non-active). Her loyalty to her sorority brought with it numerous accolades. She will be most remembered by her faithful commitment in all she did. Her achievements include a vast number of citations, proclamations and awards from numerous organizations such as the NAACP and the IOTA Phi Lambda Sorority, as well as highly esteemed honors including the Essence Teacher of the Year Award in 1986, Dr. Fredda Witherspoon Distinguished Service Award in 1989, the George Washington Carver Award for Teaching Science from the Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, and the University of Missouri's Curators Award, to name a few....

Motivator...

Justyne was well known for mentoring the young and old with her God-given gift of teaching and inspiration. Not only was she a motivated educator, she was determined to touch as many lives possible, giving back all she was blessed to have. Her upbringing of putting God first in all things was portrayed in her selflessness and generosity.

Footprint...

Justyne went home to be with the Lord on April 15, 2011 at Barnes Jewish Hospital in St. Louis, MO. She is survived by her beloved daughter Phylis Janine Davis, her one and only grandchild Jaylen Lawrence Davis, her Aunt Dorothy Staples and kindred-like sister LaVern Lenoir, her brother-in-law

Sonny Davis, a host of relatives from Chicago, St. Louis, Detroit, etc., including aunts, uncles and cousins. She will also be missed by the IOTA Phi Lambda Sorority, colleagues, students, caregivers, friends, extended family and loved ones.

Trailblazer...

If one had to define Justyne's life and legacy they would lovingly declare her as a dedicated wife, mother, grandmother and friend: the one whom you could count on through thick and thin; as an educator, mentor, historian, motivator, visionary, legend; as straight forward, persistent, opinionated; as a faithful, compassionate, Christ-like, overcomer: good and faithful servant of God.

# Tribute Wall

JB

“*Mrs. Davis will be missed. We will always remember her strength, love, and desires for each of us to do better, be better, and love more. Please know that the Balls Family is praying for you and wish you God's peace & blessings. Love, The Balls Family - James, Joyce, Jimmy (Kara), and Joy (Bernard)*

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**Joy Balls-Berry** - March 29, 2013 at 02:21 PM

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“*Justyne continues to live and love in my heart. She was the very FIRST face of Iota for me. That face...that smile...that heart will live with me always. Thank you, Davis Family, for sharing her for soooooo long with soooooo many.*

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**Flossie Henderson** - March 29, 2013 at 02:21 PM