



## Mrs. Gladys Howard Davis

June 7, 1921 - July 10, 2021

On July 10, 2021, God called his angel Gladys Howard Davis from labor to rest with 100 years of service. She was born on June 7, 1921 to the late Ezekiel Howard and Elizabeth “Winnie” Pollard Howard. She grew up in the City of Alexandria, Virginia along with her nine other siblings.

Gladys attended Parker Gray Elementary School. She graduated from the old Park-Gray High School, and continued her education at Tuskegee Institution, The National Institute of Practical Nurses in Washington, D.C. and Temple Business School.

Gladys began her working career in 1947 with Alexandria Library working at the then segregated Robert Robinson Branch Library (now the Black History Resource Center), until it closed in 1960. She was then assigned on the local Book Mobile followed by decades of service at the Kate Waller Barrett “Queen Street” Library. In 2000, Gladys transferred to Charles E. Beatley, Jr. Central Library where she worked in the Children’s Department until she retired in April of 2008.

On February 13, 2007, Mayor William D. Euille and Alexandria City Council presented Gladys with a proclamation for her 60 years of service with the Alexandria Library. The proclamation acknowledges the years of service Gladys provided to the Alexandria Library, the community, as well as her

service to the Ebenezer Baptist Church in Alexandria, VA.

In 2013, for Black History Month, Alexandria Library honored Gladys for her 60 years of service to the library, in which she witnessed much transformation during her tenure. During an interview with Rose Dawson, Alexandria Library Director, Gladys shared her experiences as a lifelong resident, growing up in Alexandria and the many historical events that occurred during the period of segregation. Gladys enjoyed sharing her memories of historical events pertaining to the library, in particular the Alexandria Library sit-in of 1939, acknowledging her personal connection with the men involved with the sit-in including the organizer Samuel W. Tucker.

In addition to her library career, she worked thirty years as an educational secretary for the Alexandria City Public Schools, retiring in June 1987.

As a lifelong member of Ebenezer Baptist Church in Alexandria, Gladys served as Treasure and was a member of the Senior Choir.

Her Husband, the late Robert E. Davis, preceded Gladys in death. Her siblings Hampton Howard, Hazel Howard, Margaret Poindexter, Zenetta Crockett, Mary H. Penn, Marion Howard Smith, Clifton Howard, and Evelyn Hopkins also preceded her in death.

She leaves to cherish her memory, one Sister, Christine Howard, stepdaughter Hilda Davis, numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and a host of other family members and friends.

# Previous Events

## **A MASK MUST BE WORN to enter the Church**

JUL 29. 10:00 AM (ET)

Harvest Assembly Baptist Church  
8012 Fordson RD  
Alexandria, VA

## **Visitation**

JUL 29. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Harvest Assembly Baptist Church  
8012 Fordson RD  
Alexandria, VA

## **Memorial Service**

JUL 29. 11:00 AM (ET)

Harvest Assembly Baptist Church  
8012 Fordson RD  
Alexandria, VA

# Tribute Wall



“ Surely, Mrs. Davis was one of the earthly Guardian Angels looking out for the young children from Charles Houston Elementary School who ventured across the street into the Robert Robinson Library. Not only did she guard our bodies but she guarded our minds, by making sure there were books available to us to explore and heighten our intellect and new stories to heighten our imaginations. Thank you, Mrs. Davis, for your untiring spirit and your long-time service to the children and specifically the African American children of Alexandria, Virginia. We are forever grateful to you. May your Spirit now soar high in the realm of heavenly Angels and look down on us and keep us safe.

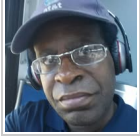


Love,

*Cheryl Lewis Hawkins  
and the Lewis Family of Alexandria, VA*

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**Cheryl Hawkins** - July 28, 2021 at 10:41 PM



“ One of many fond memories I have of my Aunt Gladys was that of aspiring me to read not just the sports and comic section of the newspaper when visiting the library but the front page, local section, the financial articles and so forth. I didn't quite understand the why behind this idea when I was younger but today I'm a more rounded and knowledgeable person because of this simple suggestion. When I used to visit her at the Envoy of Alexandria nursing home she would still ask me did I still read a lot. I would reply “yes”. My choice of reading though was the Holy Bible and she would light up that smile of hers and the visit would become a church service and prayer meeting. Aunt Gladys thank you for those precious moments and I'll see you again when I too am called by the Master (God) to come home.

Your loving nephew,

Donald Green

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**Donny Green** - July 27, 2021 at 12:18 AM

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My fondest memories were working with my Aunt Gladys at the library learning the library congress order of books and her telling me hard work never killed anyone and I was 12 years old at this time

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**Sandra Penn** - August 20, 2021 at 12:55 PM