

## Pallbearers

Family and Friends

## Floral Bearers

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## Acknowledgement

We, the family of Mrs. Evelyn McDonald, wishes to express their heartfelt gratitude to CenterWell Primary Senior Care and Agape Hospice Care for the compassionate care, love, and support they provided Evelyn during her final days. In addition to all of the family members who assisted with her home care, special recognition is given to her granddaughter, **Shari Townsend**, who resided in the home and lovingly devoted herself to Evelyn's care. Your dedication and kindness will never be forgotten.

We also extend our heartfelt appreciation to Leevy's Funeral Home for their professional and caring support, and to all of our beloved family and friends who have stood beside us with love, faith, and generosity. Your prayers, visits, calls, messages, and comforting words have been a tremendous source of strength and encouragement.

May God bless each of you for your thoughtfulness and care.



A Celebration of Life  
In Loving Memory  
of  
Mrs. Evelyn Syleaker Lawhorn  
Taylor McDonald



Monday, September 22, 2025  
12:00 Noon

Zion Canaan Baptist Church  
7820 Farrow Road  
Columbia, South Carolina

Reverend Eugene Miller  
-Pastor-

**CONTACT US:**  
Taylor Street Chapel  
803-771-7799  
Lower Richland Chapel  
803-776-6922  
WWW.LEEVY.COM

Services Entrusted To:

**Leevy's**

Chris Leevy Johnson  
-Managing Director-

SIGN THE ONLINE REGISTRY:



Leverette A. Williams, II  
-General Manager-

# Reflections of the Life of Mrs. Evelyn Syleaker Lawhorn Taylor McDonald

Mrs. Evelyn Syleaker Lawhorn Taylor McDonald was born on June 22, 1936, and raised by her loving parents, Rosa and Henry Lawhorn, on “the hill” near the State Park Community. After a lengthy illness, she answered God's call on Wednesday, September 17, 2025.

Evelyn's early education took place in the public schools of Richland County, South Carolina. She attended Anna Boyd Elementary, Bethel Elementary, and Booker T. Washington High School before graduating from C. A. Johnson High School. Later, she went on to earn a bachelor's degree in business from Allen University.

Her professional journey began as a teacher in Tabor City, North Carolina, before she returned to Columbia, South Carolina, where she worked as Dean Green's secretary at Allen University. However, her true passion for children and education led her back to the classroom, where she dedicated over 30 years of her life. Evelyn taught at a number of elementary schools, including Geiger Elementary in Fairfield County, Lyon Street Elementary, Bradley Elementary, and Greenview Elementary in Richland County. She retired after a fulfilling career within Richland School District One.

At an early age, Evelyn joined Zion Canaan Baptist Church, where she was baptized and began serving as a young musician. Later in life, she moved her membership to Gill Creek Baptist Church. Following the passing of her beloved husband, she returned to Zion Canaan, where she continued her faithful service until her health declined.

In addition to her dedication to education, Evelyn was an avid musician. She began playing the piano at a young age, and by 13, she was already serving as a musician at Zion Canaan Baptist Church. Her musical journey took her to several churches, including: White Oak Baptist Church, Gill Creek Baptist Church, Mount Zion Baptist Church, Mount Pilgrim Baptist Church, and Peaceful Baptist Church. Evelyn was also passionate about sharing her musical talents and taught piano lessons to many in Fairfield County.

Outside of her professional life, Evelyn had several hobbies she enjoyed deeply. One of her greatest passions was playing the card game, Bridge. She was a founding member of the Les Amies Bridge Club, a close-knit group of professional women who met monthly to play and socialize. Evelyn's slow eating habits became a running joke within the group, as she would always have to fix her plate early so she could finish eating in time to start the game. Evelyn was also an accomplished seamstress and enjoyed teaching others the art of sewing.

Evelyn was a devoted and loving wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, aunt, and Christian. She poured love and care into every role she held, always putting family first and offering unwavering support. Her gentle spirit, quiet strength, and calm demeanor left a lasting impression on everyone who knew her. Even in moments of frustration or anger, Evelyn remained soft-spoken and composed — her voice never raised, and her words always thoughtful. Her grace and humility were hallmarks of her character.

Evelyn's first marriage to English Taylor brought two children, Valerie Ronetta and Evans Lawhorn. She later married, David McDonald, and from this union came two more children, Davida Valora and Terri-Lynn LaShai.

Evelyn was preceded in death by: her parents, Rosa and Henry Lawhorn; her husband, David McDonald; her son, Evans Taylor; her grandson, English Hardison; her brother, Robert Murray; and her sister, Katherine Murray Boyd.

Her legacy lives on in the hearts of her daughters, Valerie Logan, Davida (Ivoryington) Manning, and Terri McDonald, all of Columbia, South Carolina. Evelyn is also survived by her grandchildren, Kira (Antonio) Robertson, Shari Townsend, Jibril Jefferson, Marlon Mack, Te'Mia Mack, and Brandon Mack; as well as her great-grandchildren, Kayla Robertson, Arin Robertson, Arianna Townsend, and Lyrrick Curry.

She often said she was the oldest living member of her family, a statement that reflects the rich, loving connections she maintained throughout her life. Her memories are cherished by nieces, a nephew, cousins, and many other family members and friends.

## When Tomorrow Starts Without Me

When tomorrow starts without me, and I'm not here to see,  
If the sun should rise and find your eyes, filled with tears for me.

I wish so much you wouldn't cry the way you did today,  
while thinking of the many things we didn't get to say.

I know how much you love me, as much as I love you,  
and each time you think of me, I know you'll miss me too.

When tomorrow starts without me, please try to understand  
That an angel came and called my name and took me by the hand.

The angel said my place was ready in heaven far above  
And that I'd have to leave behind all those I dearly love.

But when I walked through Heaven's gate, I felt so much at home  
When God looked down and smiled at me from His great golden throne.

He said, “This is eternity and all I've promised you.”  
Today my life on earth is past, but here it starts anew.

I promise no tomorrow but today will always last  
And since each day's the same day, there's no longing for the past.

So when tomorrow starts without me, don't think we're far apart,  
For every time, you think of me, I'm right there in your heart.

# Memories



# Order of Service

Prelude.....“You Are My Strength”..... Mrs. Chiquita Thompson-Noble  
 Processional  
 Viewing.....Funeral Directors  
 Opening Hymn.....“How Great Thou Art”.....Mrs. Chiquita Thompson-Noble  
 Scripture ..... Reverend Eugene T. Miller  
     Old Testament – Psalm 23  
     New Testament – Romans 14: 8  
 Prayer of Comfort..... Reverend Eugene Miller  
 Musical Selection.....“Amazing Grace” ..... Mr. Guy Johnson- Saxophonist  
 Poem ..... Ms. Ariana Townsend  
 Remarks.....(Please limit to 3 minutes).....Mrs. Esther Ruth Sims  
     Mrs. Ezelma Watkins  
     Mrs. Delores Gillard  
     Ms. Ralaysia Boyd  
 Selection.....“Jesus Is Love” .....Mr. Johnnie McDuffie, Jr.  
 Words of Comfort ..... Reverend Arthur W. Goforth, III  
 Committal and Benediction  
 Selection..... “Going Up Yonder” ..... The Good Samaritan Singers  
 Postlude



# Memories



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