

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.*

In Loving Memory of

Dr. Beryl Iris Brooks-Goines



Friday, February 6, 2026

11:00 a.m.

Leevy's Funeral Home Chapel

1831 Taylor Street

Columbia, South Carolina

Reverend Quinton Chavis, Officiating

CONTACT US:

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803-771-7799

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803-776-6922

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I. S. Leevy Johnson
-Owner-

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Chris Leevy Johnson
-Managing Director-

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Obituary

Dr. Beryl Iris Brooks-Goines was a woman of remarkable determination and who had high standards for herself and others. She transitioned out of this life on Sunday, February 1, 2026, in Columbia, SC, at the age of 79. Beryl was the first in her family to have the opportunity to pursue higher education and has passed this legacy of achievement on to her children and grandchildren.

Beryl was the daughter of the late Hortense (Norris) Smith and Clarence Smith and was born and raised in Summit, NJ. An excellent student, Beryl graduated from Glassboro State College (now Rowan College) in 1968 with a degree in education. A lifelong learner, Beryl earned a master's degree in special education and a doctorate in education from the University of South Carolina.

Beryl was a committed educator driven by a desire to help people achieve their potential. Her roles included teaching elementary school, serving as an elementary school principal and leading as the Assistant Superintendent of Kershaw County schools and Director of Human Resources for the Richland One school district. She was a consummate professional who was passionate about creating supportive and effective learning environments for all students.

In her free time, you would rarely see Beryl without something in her hands. She loved to create beautiful things, and our homes are full of embroidered pillowcases, knitted scarves and hats, customized crocheted blankets, and lovingly made quilts and clothing. She also enjoyed reading historical fiction and could often be found in a comfortable chair with a book.

In retirement, she pursued a passion for travel and enjoyed regular visits with her granddaughters. With her husband and family, she visited almost 50 states and more than 40 countries. She took Spanish classes and continued her commitment to service as a regular food pantry volunteer at Christian Assistance Bridge.

Beryl's legacy of learning and creativity will be carried forward by those who had the privilege of knowing her. She will be greatly missed and forever remembered.

In addition to her parents, Beryl was preceded in death by her son, Joseph Daniel "Jody" Brooks. She is survived by her husband Willie Goines and her daughters Heidi Brooks, Wendi Lester and Avora Goines, sons-in-law Javit Drake and Jacob Lester. Her grandchildren, who were the lights of her life, are Jocelyn and Jozi Lester of Calgary, Canada, and Gabriella and Daniella Drake of Boston, Massachusetts. She also leaves behind a cherished cat, Little Boy.

Order of Service

Prelude

Processional

Opening Hymn.....Elder Anthony Stubbs

Old and New Testaments.....Reverend Quinton Chavis

Prayer.....Deacon Fletcher Goines, Jr.

Musical Selection.....Elder Anthony Stubbs

Remarks.....Dr. Aretha Pigford

Musical Selection.....Elder Anthony Stubbs

Words of Comfort.....Reverend Quinton Chavis

Committal

Closing Prayer

Benediction

Recessional

Postlude



Acknowledgement

We, the family of Dr. Beryl Iris Brooks-Goines, wish to express our heartfelt gratitude for your condolences and sympathy during this difficult time.