

Evelyn's Love Remains

Evelyn walked this earthly life
With gentle hands and a giving heart.
She carried kindness everywhere she went,
And made others feel they mattered.

Her smile brought comfort,
Her words brought peace,
And her presence felt like home
To all who knew and loved her.

She loved deeply and without condition,
Always placing others before herself.
With a spirit full of grace and empathy,
She lifted burdens she never spoke about
And gave strength through quiet love.

For eighty-five years,
She poured warmth into her family,
Into friendships, into every life she touched.
She taught us patience, compassion, dignity,
And the power of simply being kind.

Though our hearts are heavy now,
We thank God for the gift of Evelyn-
For her laughter, her wisdom,
Her prayers, her embrace,
And the love that will never leave us.

We will find her in cherished memories,
In family gatherings,
In songs of faith,
In gentle moments of peace,
And in every act of love we give to others.

Though she now rests beyond our sight,
Her beautiful spirit still surrounds us.
And forever, Evelyn's love remains.

Pallbearers

Deacons and Trustees of Red Hill Baptist Church

Floral Bearers

Deaconesses of Red Hill Baptist Church

Acknowledgement


We, the family of Mrs. Evelyn Naomi Camilla Eichelberter Dowdy, would like to thank and extend our heartfelt gratitude for all the love that has been shown during our time of bereavement. For the many expressions of kindness, visits, phone calls, cards, food, prayers, and comforting words, we say "Thank You."

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-

In
*Loving
Memory*
of

**Mrs. Evelyn Naomi Camilla
Eichelberger Dowdy**



Monday, May 11, 2026

11:00 a.m.

Red Hill Baptist Church

**720 Congaree Church Road
Gadsden, South Carolina**

**Reverend Donnie C. Chambers
-Pastor-**

Obituary

Evelyn Naomi Camilla Eichelberger Dowdy was born on Sunday, December 29, 1940, at Good Samaritan Waverly Hospital in Columbia, South Carolina, and raised in Irmo, where she spent her formative years. She was the beloved daughter of the late Reverend (Major) Lewis Ezekiel Eichelberger and Rubye Noah Eichelberger.

Evelyn was an exceptional student who attended the former Richlex High School in Irmo, South Carolina, graduating in 1957. Enrolled in school a year early by her mother, she excelled academically throughout her early years. She went on to attend Benedict College, earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Education and becoming a proud member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Encouraged by her parents, she continued her studies at Indiana University, where she received a Master of Science degree in Business Education in 1963.

Following her graduation, Evelyn began her teaching career at O'Fallon Technical High School in St. Louis, Missouri. After one year, she relocated to St. Petersburg, Florida, where she taught for four years. During her time there, she also instructed Business Education courses at St. Petersburg Junior College and worked with one of the first Job Corps programs for women. Evelyn treasured her years in Florida, where she built a rich social life and lasting friendships.

During a visit home to Irmo from Florida, Evelyn's future love story was quietly set in motion by her lifelong friend, Mrs. Gertrude Beatty Dowdy, her husband Ernest Dowdy, and Gertrude's mother, Mrs. Eunice Beatty.

While at church one Friday afternoon, Mrs. Eunice saw Evelyn and learned she was home visiting. She shared the news with her daughter, feeling it was the perfect opportunity for her to meet Allen Dowdy.

Through this close family connection, arrangements were made for Evelyn to meet Allen the very next day, which was no small task, as he was a hard worker and had to be convinced to step away from work to meet her.

What began as a simple introduction soon blossomed into a deep and enduring love. Evelyn and Allen were married in 1969 and shared 56 devoted years together, building their life in Gadsden, South Carolina. Their union was blessed with two daughters, who remained the joy and pride of their lives.

Evelyn continued her career in education at Midlands Technical College in Columbia, South Carolina, for five years before becoming a guidance counselor at Hopkins Junior High School in Hopkins, South Carolina, where she profoundly impacted the lives of many students through her kindness, empathy, wisdom, and humor. She also worked as a licensed agent with National Life Group.

A devoted member of Red Hill Baptist Church in Gadsden, Evelyn served faithfully as past president of the Missionary Society, past superintendent of Sunday School, and pianist. She also shared her musical gifts by teaching piano lessons to many students throughout the Lower Richland community. She was widely known as an exceptional cook, known for her warm hospitality, and a beacon of light who shared her radiant smile, generosity, and joyful spirit with others.

Evelyn was preceded in death by her loving brother, Lewis E. Eichelberger, Jr.

She is lovingly remembered by her devoted husband, Deacon Allen Dowdy; her two daughters, Dr. Allyson Dowdy Rudolph (Dr. Gerald Rudolph) and Allene Naomi Dowdy, both of Columbia, South Carolina; and her four beloved grandchildren, Bryan Rudolph, Naomi Rudolph, Noah Rudolph, and Rubye Rudolph, all of Columbia, South Carolina.

She is also survived by her niece, Kimberly Eichelberger of New Carrollton, Maryland; first cousins, Col. James N. Martin of Alexandria, Virginia, and Herbert L. Eichelberger of Atlanta, Georgia; a special cousin, Janice Eichelberger Harris of Columbia, South Carolina; brothers-in-law Ernest Dowdy (Gertrude) of Columbia, South Carolina, Dr. David Dowdy of Charlotte, North Carolina, and Donald Dowdy (Cora) of Mount Vernon, New York; sisters-in-law Roberta Dowdy Ward of Columbia, South Carolina, Ojetta Dowdy Robinson of Charlotte, North Carolina, and Elaine Dowdy Melvin (James) of Columbia, South Carolina; along with a host of extended family and dear friends.

Evelyn's legacy of love, faith, service, and excellence will live on in all who knew and loved her.

Memories



A Service of Remembrance

Processional.....Dr. Marquita Daniels

Opening Hymn.....Red Hill Baptist Church Choir
"We're Marching to Zion"

Scripture Readings.....Dr. Gerald Rudolph
Old Testament – Psalm 46
New Testament – John 14: 1-7

Prayer.....Reverend Dr. Henrietta Adams

Selection.....Red Hill Baptist Church Choir
"Total Praise"

Remarks.....Reverend Dr. Henrietta Adams, Friend
Deaconess Ernestine Reese, Friend/Church
Dr. David Dowdy, Brother-In-Law
Colonel James N. Martin, First Cousin
Dr. Allyson D. Rudolph, Eldest Daughter

Musical Selection.....Ms. Angeline Butler

Words of Comfort.....Pastor Donnie C. Chambers

Recessional

Postlude



Committal, Benediction, and Interment

2:00 p.m.
Fort Jackson National Cemetery
4170 Percival Road
Columbia, South Carolina