

**Celebration of Life for  
Geneva Bland Brown**



**Saturday, April 25, 2015  
4:30 P. M.**

**Simon G. Atkins Academic & Technology High School  
3605 Old Greensboro Road  
Winston-Salem, North Carolina**

**Reverend Dr. Bill J. Leonard, Eulogist**

# Obituary

Geneva Anita Bland Brown, innovative teacher, principal, administrator and former member of the Board of Education for the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County School System, passed away peacefully at home at age 84 on Thursday, March 26, 2015 following an extended illness. She was born April 18, 1930 in Goldsboro, North Carolina to the late Charles and Theresa Bland. She was a graduate of Dillard High School and active in the girls sports team, excelling in basketball and softball. She was baptized in and an active member of the First African Baptist Church in Goldsboro.

She is preceded in death by her husband of 44 years, Wendell Delworth Brown and two sisters, Rose Marks of Goldsboro and Billie Smith of Los Angeles, California.

She has been a resident of Winston-Salem for 63 years and worked in the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County School System since 1954. She received a bachelor's degree in Fine Arts and Master of Science Degree in Education at A&T State University. She received her certification in Elementary Education at Winston-Salem State University and certification in School Administration from UNC-Greensboro. She studied at UCLA with Dr. Maderline Hunter for six years prior to opening Moore Laboratory School in 1971, the first magnet school in Winston-Salem. Early in her career, she taught art and was the coach for girls' sports in Sampson, NC. She was a teacher at the Woodland Avenue/Brown Elementary School prior to becoming principal at Mebane Elementary School. She was chosen to open Moore Laboratory School, the school system's first open concept, non-graded multi-age grouping, year round school. She retired from Moore after 19 years and retired from the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County School System after serving at the central office for two years.

She was elected to the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Board of Education where she served for over 18 years. She served on numerous committees and board in Winston-Salem/Forsyth County and was awarded an honorary Doctor of Humanities Degree in 2004 from Wake Forest University. In addition to being Principal of the Year, she was recognized for her service on the NC Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. She was a member of First Baptist Church, Highland Avenue, since 1955, serving as a Sunday School and Bible Study Teacher, Trustee, Deaconess, and member of the Women's Service Council. She was a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. and was directory of the AKA Annual Golf Tournament for 10 years. An avid golfer with 14 trophies, she announced the top 30 golfers in the world at the Master's Tournament in Augusta, GA for three years.

She is survived by one daughter, Dr. Wynne R. E. Brown and her partner Kathleen Ann Werner of Clemmons; two grandsons, Jerry Cooper, II of Winston-Salem and Wendell Tyler Cooper of New York City; one sister, Harriet Bland Thomas of Pittsburgh; five nieces, Delores Green Knight of Goldsboro, NC, Trevonia Brown Gaither of Winston-Salem, NC, Brenda Robinson and Melanie Sudduth of Pittsburgh PA and Nina Christian of Richmond, VA; best friend, Peggy Tesh of Winston-Salem; other family, including numerous nephews, countless teachers, students and "her community."

## **Farewell Reflections**

***Trusting in God, we have prayed together for Geneva and now we come to the last farewell. There is sadness in parting, but we take comfort in the hope that one day we shall see her again and enjoy her love and friendship. Although this gathering will disperse in sorrow, the mercy of God will gather us together again in the joy of His kingdom.***

# Order of Service

Welcome and Scripture Reading

Reverend Dr. Darryl Aaron  
Pastor, First Baptist Church, Highland Avenue

Moore School Songs

Moore School Musicians

*"I Believe I Can Fly"*  
*"A Candle for Remembering"*

The Community

Mayor Allen Joines  
Mayor, Winston-Salem, NC

The Honorable Denise Hartsfield  
Forsyth County District Court Judge

Shirley Atkinson  
Graduate Faculty, University of North Carolina at Greensboro

Poetry Reading

*"The Dash"*

Viola Sharpe  
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc

**Geneva and Tiger Woods Video**

Dr. Donald Martin  
Professor, High Point University

Mr. Jaeson Pitt  
Teacher, Quality Education Academy

Dr. Kenneth Simington  
CAO, Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools

Scripture Reading

Reverend Dr. Darryl Aaron

Eulogy

**Geneva Brown: A Saintly Character**

Reverend Dr. Bill J. Leonard  
Professor, Wake Forest University

Song

*"My Way"*  
By: Brooke Benton

Acknowledgements

Dr. Wynne Brown

Benediction

Reverend Dr. Bill J. Leonard

Dear Christ, through your blessing, grace and guidance, through the power of the light that streams from you: I know you will make all my negative karma, destructive emotions, obscurations, and blockages be purified and removed.

May I know myself forgiven for all the harm I may have thought or done. May I feel your presence and die a good and peaceful death, and through the triumph of my death, may I be able to benefit all other beings, living or dead.

Adapted from [The Tibetan Book of Living and Dying](#)

## **Our Gratitude**

The family wishes to acknowledge the support of the community in the planning of the service and all acts of kindness shown to them during this time of bereavement.

## **Acknowledgements**

**Ushers– Women’s Service Council, First Baptist Church, Highland Avenue  
Former Moore School Teachers**

**Moore Magnet School Teachers with the Moore School Musicians**

**Ms. Shelley Noisette and Ms. Marcia Watkins**

**The Staff of the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County School System Central Office**

**Clark S. Brown and Sons Funeral Home-Carla Brown Rumph**

**First Baptist Church, Highland Avenue, Culinary Ministry**

**Simon G. Atkins Academic and Technology High School Staff**

**Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.**

The Geneva B. Brown Education Fund was established to provide training in resilience for the teachers in the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County School System.

Donations are tax deductible and can be sent to:

**The Original Medicine Institute/GBB Fund**

**P. O. Box 658**

**Clemmons, NC 27012.**

**[Gbbrownforteachers.com](http://Gbbrownforteachers.com)**