



## Mrs. Edna Lester Boykin

November 4, 1925 - May 8, 2018

After gracing this earth and countless numbers of lives as a professor of English and Library Sciences at both Florida A&M University and Florida State University, Edna Laverne Lester-Boykin transitioned into life eternal on Tuesday, May 8, 2018, at 12:20 PM, at her niece's residence in Jacksonville, Florida. This determined, motivated and focused "rose" left this world with a beautiful smile on her face!

Upon her final flight, perhaps she was penned with these final words...  
"WELL DONE, Thou Good and Faithful Servant, WELL DONE!"

Mrs. Edna Laverne Lester-Boykin entered this earthly life on November 4, 1925, in Lowndes County Georgia, having been born to the now late Nepolian Lester and Rosa Lee Burgman-Lester. She moved to Tallahassee in 1964, having come from Atlanta, Georgia, and resided here until joining her niece in Jacksonville.

Shortly after the untimely death of her darling mother, Edna and her two sisters - Elsie and NapeNola – along with their infant brother, Herbert, were sent to Waycross, Georgia, to live with and be raised by loving relatives. With the love of God in their hearts, Cashier Lester and his wife Rosa, raised Edna Laverne and Elsie Reatha, as their own children, raising them with pride. Albert and Hester Lester raised brother, Herbert and her sister, NapeNola,

who were later joined in the family by Sarah. Uncle “Dock” and Uncle “Cashier” raised these children as their very own children, loving them and nurturing them with the LOVE and discipline that God calls us all to. Selah! Edna Laverne was a very smart, cute and articulate little girl. Even as a youngster she was independent, ambitious and determined.

Mrs. Boykin received a high school diploma from Dasher High School in Valdosta, Georgia. She then matriculated at Paine College in Augusta, Georgia, where she earned a B.A. degree in English Education. She later earned the M.S. in L.S. degree in School Librarianship from Atlanta University. She accomplished further studies in Educational Media and Technology and higher education at Florida State University.

Mrs. Boykin’s forty-five year career dates back to 1948 when she taught grades one through six in the Georgia Public School System. A chronology of her career experiences include: Coordinator/Instructor of the Library Science Program at Southern University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, 1955-1961; Assistant Professor of Library Science, Atlanta University, 1961-1963; Assistant Professor of Library Science at Florida A&M University, 1964-1966, 1972-1977; Director/Assistant Professor, Curriculum Laboratory, Florida A&M University, 1966-1972; Adjunct Professor of Library Information Science, Florida State University, 1975; Director, Title III Learning Resource Center, Florida A&M University, 1977-1982; and the Florida A&M University Writing Center, 1982-1994.

Additionally, Mrs. Boykin served on the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) evaluation teams, conducted media workshops and participated in conferences, school improvement projects and church activities. She is a long time affiliate of professional and civic organizations. After a diverse career Mrs. Boykin retired in 1995.

Mrs. Boykin has been recognized and awarded with commemorative certificates and plaques in appreciation and for her dedicated service to the University, the profession, the community and the Church. Among her honors are the Florida A&M University Teacher of the Year Award, 1989-1990; the Bethel Missionary Baptist Church Teacher Appreciation Tributes/Teacher of the Year 1990, and Retirement, 1995; Florida A&M Retirement Plaque, 1995; and the Paine College Golden Anniversary Certificate of Appreciation, 1998.

She is a member of several organization and Sororities, including Gamma Mu, Psi Chi, Alpha Beta Alpha, Phi Delta Kappa, NAACP, American Association of University Women, the Democratic Women's Club of Leon County, Tallahassee Urban League and the Le Moyne Art Foundation, as well as other numerous professional organizations and associations.

She moved to Tallahassee in 1964, having come from Atlanta, and had resided here until joining her niece in Jacksonville. After earning two Ph.D.'s, she retired after lengthy career in university education from Florida A.M. University in 1994.

Mrs. Boykin was a faithful member of Bethel Missionary Baptist Church under the leadership of Pastor R. B. Holmes, Jr. and Lady Gloria Price Holmes where she attended and served faithfully for many years until her health began to fail her. And even so, faithful members visited her routinely having bible studies and prayer with her in her home and serving her the Holy Communion, nurturing her spiritual health with true labors of LOVE...

Mourning her departure but cherishing precious memories are her sisters-in-law, Lottie Lester (late Herbert), Valdosta, GA; Sarah Walker (late Willie Q), Tallahassee; and Ida Boykin (late Alvin); nephews - Solister Lester, Sr. (Rosa), Herbert Lester, Sr. (Myrna); Darrell Lester (Kimberly); nieces - Fadia Lester-

McGhee (Carlos); Donna Lester-Head (Alfred), and Jacqueline Lester; a host of many great-nieces, great-nephews, many friends and other loved ones.

Also surviving is a special lifelong friend, Deacon John Hale; and very special caregivers, Aretha Jones and Cheryl Hackley.

In addition to her parents, she also joins her husband, Dr. Leander Lionel Boykin in Heaven.

Those gentlemen serving as active pallbearers include: Herbert Lester, Carlos McGhee, Raymond Doe, Darrell Lester, Christopher Upkins and Willie Lester. Honorary pallbearers are Alfred Head, Harry Jones, John Lester, Christopher Lester, Scott Lester and Benjamin Lester. Nieces, other relatives and friends will serve as flower attendants.

The family of the late Professor Edna Laverne Lester-Boykin wishes to acknowledge with deep appreciation your prayers and acts of kindness and sympathy shown during this very special and sacred time.

May Almighty God bless you with favor, unity, prosperity, good health and LOVE!

# Cemetery Details

## Tallahassee Memory Gardens

4037 North Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32303  
(850) 562-1518  
<https://www.abbeyfh.com/>

# Previous Events

## Visitation

**MAY 18.** 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Abbey Funeral Home  
4037 North Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32303  
(850) 562-1518  
[abbeyfh@comcast.net](mailto:abbeyfh@comcast.net)

## Service

**MAY 19.** 11:00 AM (ET)

Abbey Funeral Home  
4037 North Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32303  
(850) 562-1518  
[abbeyfh@comcast.net](mailto:abbeyfh@comcast.net)

# Tribute Wall



“ *Abbey Funeral Home and Tallahassee Memory Gardens created a Tribute Video in memory of Mrs. Edna Lester Boykin*



**Abbey Funeral Home and Tallahassee Memory Gardens** - May 19, 2018 at 11:21 AM

CH

*This is Cheryl Ms. B was truly a priceless Jewel .*

**cheryl** - June 26, 2018 at 06:58 PM

CH

*May God bless*

**cheryl** - June 26, 2018 at 06:59 PM

DG

“ *I was a library science student of Mrs. Boykin at Florida A & M University, 1971-72. She was a model of academic scholar and efficiency, and encouraged these and other professional characteristics in her students. With pride and great respect I read her obituary. May her family, friends and caretakers accept my offer of sympathy and blessings for a healthy and happy future.*

*Diane Johnson Gates  
Falls Church, VA  
21 May 2018*

**Diane Gates** - May 21, 2018 at 05:32 PM

NC

“ I will always remember her help and kindness to me when I decided to study school media at FAMU. We had crossed paths earlier when she ordered study boxes for her students from the Jr. Museum. It was my pleasure and good luck to meet her again and to learn in her class, and also to participate in one of her husband's classes. Thanks to teachers like her, I went on to be in a school media center for 16 years.

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**Nancye Clark** - May 19, 2018 at 10:47 AM



“ 1 file added to the album *Life Tributes*



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**Abbey Funeral Home and Tallahassee Memory Gardens** - May 18, 2018 at 01:29 PM

BH

“ I lived next door to Ms. Boykin for the past nine years.  
One day I saw her gardening and decided to walk over and  
introduce myself.  
That day forward a friendship was built.  
I would visit her twice weekly to check on her, see if she needed  
anything, watch T.V. and talk. Although, there wasn't much watching  
T.V. for she enjoyed talking.  
Talking hours at a time about her husband, days at FAMU and the  
majority her family who she loved dearly.  
Over time she became a second mom to me.  
Last year when my mom passed, it left a void space in my heart,  
Ms. Boykin there to fill that void. Now once again, a VOID is left in  
my heart.  
This time, I'm able to fill it with the remember of Joy and Laughter  
Ms. Boykin brought to my life.

*Ms. Boykin (Mom #2) you will be truly miss and always have a place  
in my heart.*

*Bobbie Hill*

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**Bobbie Hill** - May 18, 2018 at 11:23 AM



“ 72 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



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**Abbey Funeral Home and Tallahassee Memory Gardens - May 17, 2018 at 04:30 PM**



“ *Paine National Alumni Assoc. lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Edna Lester Boykin*



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**Paine National Alumni Assoc. - May 17, 2018 at 12:17 PM**