

Celebrating the Life of
Gwendolyn King Butler

ORDER OF SERVICE

Musical Prelude
Mr. Leonard Tyson

Processional led by Rev. Dr. John Wesley Bass
and Pulpit Guests

Last Glance and Final Sealing

Selection Mr. Leonard Tyson

Prayer Rev. Dr. John Wesley Bass or *Appointee*

Scripture
Old Testament Rev. Gloria Wynds
Campbell Chapel A.M.E. Church
New Testament Evangelist Carolyn Watson Sapp
Breath Of Life

Reflections ~ two minutes
Mr. Samuel Merritt | Mrs. Brenda Tyson | Ms. Deidra Barthell

Selection Ms. Tomeka Moran Whitehead

Eulogy Rev. Dr. John Wesley Bass
Presiding Elder A.M.E. District

**Acknowledgements and
Presentation of the
Family Bible** Barnum Staff

RECESSIONAL

*Please turn all cell phones and electronic devices off
or to silent mode during the service. Thank you.*

A LOVE SO SWEET
*A million times we've needed you.
A million times we've cried.
If love could have saved you,
you never would have died.
If all the world was ours to give,
we would give it, yes, and more.
Just to see you coming up the steps
and walking through the door.
To hear your voice, to see your smile,
to sit and talk with you a while,
to be with you in the same old way—
that would be our fondest day.
A heart of gold stopped beating.
Two smiling eyes close to rest.
God broke our hearts to prove to us,
He only takes the best.*

Gwendolyn
KING BUTLER

December 4, 1932 June 16, 2023

Earthly Place of Rest

Eastview Cemetery
802 Ashby Street, Americus, Georgia 31709

Pallbearers
Mr. Lamarcus Wiggins, Jr. **Mr. Michael King**
Mr. Keon Wiggins **Mr. Cortez Tyson**
Mr. Omarian Tyson **Mr. Brandon Cochran**

Flower Attendants
Friends of the Family

Acknowledgements

The Family acknowledges with grateful appreciation all acts of kindness rendered them during the passing of their loved one. The many telephone calls, prayers, flowers, floral arrangements, cards of condolence and other sympathetic gestures are deeply appreciated. May God bless and keep each of you.

THE FAMILY

FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS ENTRUSTED TO:
Barnum Funeral Home, Inc.
217 Ashby Street, Americus, Georgia 31709
Telephone: (229) 924-2958 | Fax: (229) 924-2957
Information Line: (229) 928-2955
www.barnumfuneralhome.com
Email: barnumfuneralhome@gmail.com

Escort Courtesy:
Americus Police Department Sumter County Sheriff's Office

CELEBRATION OF LIFE FOR
SUNRISE: DECEMBER 4, 1932

Gwendolyn
KING BUTLER

SUNSET: JUNE 16, 2023

**"MRS.
BUTLER"**



Home Going Service
Saturday, June 24, 2023 | 11:00 a.m.
Allen Chapel A.M.E. Church
132 Bumphead Road, Americus, Georgia 31719
Pastor ~ Rev. Jermaine Harris
Officiant | Rev. Dr. John Wesley Bass
Presiding Elder A.M.E. District

An Exceptional Life for An Exceptional Woman

Gwendolyn King Butler

OBITUARY

Mrs. Gwendolyn King Butler was born December 4, 1932, to David and Florence King in Valdosta, Georgia. At three months old, she lost her mother to illness, leaving her with two families to nourish and protect her, an exceptional beginning. With her father, brother and sister in Valdosta and Ethel and William Randolph Burleigh who brought her home to Americus, GA, Gwendolyn flourished and became one of the most influential and respected members of the Americus-Sumter County community as an educator, businesswoman, advocate for children and to those who needed her the most and became affectionately known as "Mrs. Butler".

Education and learning were very important to "Mrs. Butler". She attended McCoy Hill Elementary School in Americus, GA and later attended and graduated from Dasher High School in Valdosta, GA in 1947. She then attended Spelman, College in Atlanta, GA, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in 1952 and then earned her Master of Science degree in 1975 from Georgia Southwestern State University, Americus, GA. As an educator "Mrs. Butler", taught biology at A. S. High Staley and Americus High School until her retirement. In addition, "Mrs. Butler" was the President of the Americus Girls Club, Founder of the Boys & Girls Club of Americus— a "safe place" for Americus youth with positive and purposeful programming.

"Mrs. Butler" was a dedicated and devoted member of Campbell Chapel A.M.E. Church of Americus, GA, both financially and spiritually. She was a member of the Cathedral Choir and when needed, accompanied the choir on the piano and/or organ. "Mrs. Butler" was a Willing Worker Organization, served as the Christian Educator Director, as a Steward and Trustee, a Children's Sunday School Teacher, and as a member of the Childers Brantley Missionary Society. In addition, "Mrs. Butler" was on the Renovation Committee for Campbell Chapel A.M.E. Church.

"Mrs. Butler" lived life with purpose. She was a member of the City Federation of Colored Women, The Maronites Club and several organizations that enjoyed her willingness to work and welcomed her determined spirit. "Mrs. Butler" was recognized by the City of Americus and Sumter County for her dedication and accomplishments. However, her favorite pastimes were fishing, working in her gardens, reading, and she was an exceptional cook.

As Matriarch of the Wiggins, Mahone, and Wilson families, "Mrs. Butler" loved her children and grandchildren, whom she cherished and nourished to make sure they were ready to continue the legacy of love of Ms. Gwendolyn King Butler.

"Mrs. Butler" is preceded in death by a dear brother, Dr. Calvin E. King; a sister, Ms. Louise K. Carter; and a stepmother, Ms. Barbara King.

She leaves to cherish her memory: Mr. Chambliss R. Wiggins, Atlanta GA; Mr. William R. Mahone and Mr. Craig R. (Krista) Wilson, both of Albany, GA; a very special granddaughter, Mrs. Satonya Keisha (Todd) Hall and her other grandchildren: Mr. Lamarcus A. (Tanitra) Wiggins, Mr. Zebulon Hawkins, Mr. Chambliss Randy Wiggins, Jr., Mr. Andrae Robinson and Mr. Michael King; twenty-one great-grandchildren, four great-great grandchildren, two god-daughters, Ms. Brenda Tyson and Ms. Vanessa Furlow; many nieces, nephews, students, dear and devoted friends.

The family extends a very heartfelt THANK YOU to our community of individuals who took their time to make our loved one's life full of laughter, fellowship and love.



"Mrs. Butler"

Epitaph for Mother

We never said "I love you" much
but yet you knew we cared,
and all throughout your entire life,
you always took time to share.

Your love and kindness has touched
so many lives as you journeyed here on earth,
and all who knew you can truly say,
you always gave your best.

Today, we're sad, but yet, we can rejoice,
for we will always know that she is ever near.

We can hear you whisper and it seems as
though you say, "Love God, love your family
and help your fellow man."

This is what she taught us.

This is what she loved,
and as we strive to do your will,
we know our Mother will smile.

For you know, we want to meet
you in your new home in the skies.