

An Exceptional Life for An Exceptional Woman
Celebrating the Life of Gwendolyn King Butler

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, and 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.