



Mrs. Delores Wilkins

December 26, 1929 - December 21, 2020

Delores Nicholson Wilkins was born in St. Louis, MO December 26, 1929, to Thomas White Nicholson and Viola Comer Nicholson. As a family, they moved to Quincy, IL in 1932. From Quincy, IL they moved to Milwaukee, WI in 1944. Delores graduated from North Division High School where she excelled in band (clarinet and bassoon), science and math. She graduated in 1947. She applied for nursing school and was accepted at three schools in Milwaukee. At that time, black students were only accepted if there were two of them to share a dorm room. It would have been impossible to place a black student in a dorm room with a white student. Mt. Sinai school of nursing offered her a room by herself, so she accepted. An only child, Delores happily accepted this arrangement and today credits her upbringing for never feeling lonely or singled out.

She graduated from Mt. Sinai School of Nursing as a registered nurse (RN) in 1950. Delores was the first student of African descent to complete their program. As a matter of fact, she was the first black graduate of a school of nursing in Wisconsin.

Since then she has been a member of "RENS" organization, which was a service organization of black registered nurses who encouraged young women of color to enter the nursing profession. The RENS were the precursor of the current black registered nurses association.

Being a lifelong learner, she then went to Planned Parenthood and became a Women's Health Nurse Practitioner in 1975. She received her BSN from

Alverno in 1976, and then her Master's Degree in Nursing from University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in 1992. She went on to become an obstetrics and gynecology nursing supervisor at Mt. Sinai Hospital where she had spent most of her nursing career.

In a bold move, she left her career at Mt. Sinai Hospital and went to work as a nurse practitioner in Dr. Milton Gutglass' office. Her popularity among patients caused her to become an essential part of his practice and the compensation was commensurate with her significant training, experience and responsibility. When Dr. Gutglass retired, the doctor whose office was across the hall asked Delores to come and work for her. She remained with Dr. Suseelah Budarapu for five years. When Delores finally retired from office work, she did not retire from nursing. She became a parish nurse through a program offered through Marquette University and served in that role at Calvary Baptist Church for many years. She also worked as a nurse examiner at the Sexual Assault Center at Mt. Sinai (which by then was called Aurora Sinai Medical Center). Delores and her family have been members of Calvary Baptist Church in Milwaukee since 1944. She has participated in and led many of the ministries within the church including being a long-time member of the choir. She was a strong Christian woman, attended various Bible study classes and though she was Biblically astute, she never flaunted her knowledge. Her sense of humor and ability to tell good, clean absolutely, funny jokes made her a joy to be around and sometimes was featured at special activities. Before and after she was the Parish Nurse at Calvary, members trusted her medical know-how and particularly her absolute respect for their personal privacy.

As Parish Nurse she developed health programs in collaboration with other health-related organizations in the community. Annually, she led mission programs that provided personal care kits to local service organizations that met the needs of women and children. For years, she was the camp nurse at the American Baptist Churches of Wisconsin summer camp at Camp Tamarack.

Friends and acquaintances marveled at her determination to maintain her own

physical fitness. She kept herself healthy and strong by going to the YMCA five days a week for weight training and lap swimming and she was a marathon runner.

Delores was married to Robert Wilkins until his death in 2006. She was the primary caregiver to her parents, Thomas and Viola Nicholson, until their deaths. She leaves to mourn two children, Carl Thomas Savage and Karen Marie Bradley, four grandchildren, Janice Marie Savage, Floyd Jamal DeBow, Jamila Romelle DeBow and Kimberly Denise Bradley. She was the proud great grandmother of Austin Thomas Davis, Aaliyah DeBow, Carrington Davis, Brittany DeBow and Lailah DeBow. She also leaves a legacy of many godchildren and informally adopted children on whose lives she made quite an impact.

Delores touched the lives of so many friends and relatives in Milwaukee and the world. She has traveled to Africa three times to do medical mission work. Delores drove friends to medical and other appointments and always served as a patient advocate for them until her illness. She was truly loved and admired by all who knew her.

Cemetery Details

Northwest Cremation Services

6630 W. Hampton Ave.
Milwaukee, WI 53218

Tribute Wall

KW

“ I was blessed to have met Yippy at the Y -- for a long time, she came to my fitness classes. The two of us had many beautiful conversations about life and the Lord. Her joy for life and people was absolutely infectious. I'm not exaggerating when I say that she was one of the most delightful people that ever have crossed my path in life. I am so sorry for you loss. Your mom/grandma was one in a million. She'll be one of the first people I look up when I get to Heaven.

Kimberly Wedell - January 22, 2021 at 03:44 PM

RT

“ Carl and Karen I'm so sorry for your loss. The last time I saw your mom she and Helen had come to visit my mother in the nursing home in Sparta. We had a nice visit then. I will never forget the Christmas of 1985 when I was living in Milwaukee and Yippy invited me to spend Christmas with you. Carl you and your mother were making fun of a doll that one of Karen's children had received as a Christmas gift. This was occurring while the children were doing a presentation of the Christmas story. I never bit my tongue so hard to keep from laughing. When the children were done your grandfather expressed his displeasure with the adults in the room. That is a memory that I will always cherish. Your mother was a very special person.

Ruth Tiry - January 12, 2021 at 11:20 PM

PB

“ *Delores had a gentle yet powerful impact in my life- as I am sure she shared this gift with so many others. Her gift of caring, giving and allowing people to blossom is so special. At Family Service of Milwaukee she worked with a team of professionals serving others. It was a beautiful thing. She was so vital to all. I treasure our laughter and work together during those years. Truly a gift. My thoughts are warmly with her beautiful family*
Peggy Brown

peggy brown - January 11, 2021 at 10:01 PM

FK

“ *So sorry to lose such a wonderful woman! Delores and my mom Helen were lifelong friends. As children, we loved visiting her home and family. As adults, we so appreciated her visits and friendship for our mom. it was always such a treat when I would return to town to see my family and Delores would be visiting my parents. I'll always treasure the memory of her traveling to Eau Claire with my mom for a very special visit.*

May she rest in peace and may your family find comfort through this difficult time.

Love, Franci Bernstein Koehn

Franci Bernstein Koehn - January 10, 2021 at 09:54 PM

MW

“ *What a wonderful woman. It was always a pleasure to be in her presence. Rest well with Fran, Ethel, and Ella.*



Marcella Williams - January 09, 2021 at 06:02 PM

LR

“ To Miss Yippy Family,

God has keep your Mother, GrandMother for a long time and in his time hne decided to call her home, to continue praising and telling jokes in heaven. What a Blessing its been to have known such a wonderful, intelligent, humorous Women of God. I will continue to pray for you and I will always remember the smile on her face when she entered into our Saturday Mornings pray time.

Her relationship with George was Special. I never met anyone who could tell him him off when warrant and discuss scripture in the same conversation.

She would say God knows my Heart. Yes Miss Yippy God knows your Heart.

Love,

Linda Rankin

Linda A Rankin - January 09, 2021 at 11:44 AM

RB

“ *Rocksand R Byrd lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Delores Wilkins*



Rocksand R Byrd - January 09, 2021 at 11:24 AM

RL

“ *My dear Delores Wilkins...rest now...thy good and faithful soldier. We love you and will miss you so much. Your heavenly reward MUST be Divine!*

My family and I were always grateful for your love and humor. You shared your gifts of knowledge freely!

I will never forget when you saved my life on the day I had a miscarriage and was treated poorly by others at your office. YOU comforted me. .. You loved me...you encouraged me...you were GOD's angel sent for me...You said "Honey sometimes GOD and mother nature just correct things when they are not fully healthy and there is no reason why you can't try again" Then My beautiful son Andre was born.

So, here on earth you were our treasure and now in heaven you are GOD's treasure. Take your place Angel. With a full heart we say "Not Good Bye" but we will see you later dearest Angel. Rest in Heaven.

With all our Love, Andrea, Renee, Andre II, Toni and Chloe Lewis

Renee Lewis - January 09, 2021 at 10:03 AM

JS

“ *Thank you Delores for encouraging me to chair the Mildred Leigh Gold Health Ministry with your support and consulting the ministry and myself will miss you greatly.*

Jacqueline Smith - January 09, 2021 at 08:41 AM

CW

“ Thank you Mrs. Wilkins for your encouraging prayers and cards during my illness. As a long-time friend to the Wood/Kleckley family, we will miss you.

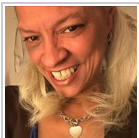
Corliss D. Wood.

Corliss D. Wood - January 08, 2021 at 02:52 PM

CS

thank you for your thoughts, words and prayers.

Carl t savage - January 08, 2021 at 07:44 PM



“ I have so many fond memories of Yippy...always appreciated her wit & wisdom. Her passing certainly leaves a void in the Calvary church family, but we rejoice knowing her destination. May God comfort and strengthen her family and friends as only He can.
Chandra Johnson Burns



Chandra Johnson-Burns - January 08, 2021 at 02:36 PM

DJ

“ Condolences to the family of Mrs Wilkins. I will always remember her kindness to me.ive know her for over 50 years. You will be missed. *Diane Johnson and family.*

Diane Johnson - January 08, 2021 at 08:23 AM

WL

“ I am truly saddened to hear of the passing of Delores (AKA Yippy). She had a sweet soul very humorous and humble. She new those scriptures in Sunday school too. I will miss her dearly. Sis Wilma Lee Calvary

Wilma Lee - January 08, 2021 at 06:31 AM

DM

“ Sending prayers of strength and serenity to my friend Jamila and her beautiful family.



Dionna McFerrin - January 08, 2021 at 12:34 AM

EB

“ I love me Ms. Yippy. Always so encouraging with a soft gentle smile and bright joyful spirit. Although she will be missed, taking comfort in knowing she is at rest and in everlasting peace.



Enoch Boyd - January 07, 2021 at 01:24 PM

LT

My prayers are with the family and friends. She was loving and kind woman with a wonderful sense of humor. She will be missed.

Linda Ware Toure - January 08, 2021 at 10:47 PM

LW

“ Yippy was a treasure in my life and the lives of so many others. I will miss her more than words.



Lisa White - January 07, 2021 at 12:54 PM

TG

“ I am going to miss you in Sunday School never a dull moment. Rest in Peace!! Love Tracey D. Guthrie

Tracey D. Guthrie - January 07, 2021 at 12:51 PM

SY

Tracey I know that we will surely miss her in class and the help she has given me with my bags.

Sharlene young - January 07, 2021 at 02:33 PM

SP

“ Sharon Patterson lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Delores Wilkins



Sharon Patterson - January 07, 2021 at 11:59 AM

PP

“ I will always love and miss the funniest lady at Calvary Baptist Church. Never a dull moment when Yippy was around. May you rest in the Arms of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Perdido Patterson - January 07, 2021 at 10:44 AM

RC

“ Yippy was ALWAYS supportive and encouraging. I will truly miss her!



Roxanne Cardenas - January 07, 2021 at 09:58 AM

II

“ IrisYoung lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Delores Wilkins



ilrisYoung - December 24, 2020 at 10:01 PM

LW

Thank you Iris, she was family to us in so many ways.

Lisa White - January 05, 2021 at 01:44 PM