



Mary Ann Adams

June 27, 1927 - December 24, 2021

Mary Ann Henderson, “Nan-Nah”, was born on June 27, 1927 to Joseph W. Henderson and Elizabeth B. Henderson. She was the only girl and youngest of four children. When Mary Ann became school age, she entered Maddoxtown Elementary School. After skipping a grade and completing elementary school, she attended Douglas High School through the 10th grade, She had transfer from Douglas High School to Dunbar High School for grades eleven and twelve. Mary Ann graduated from Dunbar High School in 1945. She entered Kentucky State College in the fall of 1945. Mary Ann became a member of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority where she served as Grammetus. She was also a member of the yearbook staff. Mary Ann graduated from Kentucky State with a Bachelor of Science Degree with majors in Sociology, Economics and English in June of 1949.

Because of a discrimination suit against UK. UK was forced to admit African-Americans; the school opened to them in the summer of 1949. When Mary Ann's father learned that UK would be accepting African-Americans he recommended that she enroll for the fall semester and start working toward a Master's Degree. Mary Ann entered UK in the fall of 1949. and graduated in June 1950 receiving a Master of Arts Degree with a Major in Secondary Education becoming the FIRST African-American to graduate from the University of Kentucky Graduate School. She returned to UK in 1957 and received Certification for Elementary Schools and again in 1977 and received Certification in School Administration and Supervision and Rank I status.

Mary Ann married her soulmate James Richard Adams on June 27, 1964. In May 1966, the couple welcomed their only child Nycoe Ann Adams into the world.

Mary Ann started her career in 1952 as Social Studies and English Teacher at Banneker School in Cynthiana until 1957. From 1958-1972 a third and fourth grade teacher at Constitution Elementary School, Lexington. From 1972-1989 a fourth and fifth grade teacher at Maxwell Elementary School, Lexington. In 1989 she retired from the Fayette County Public Schools and from 1990-1996 a GED Examiner for Fayette County Public Schools Adult Education.

Mary Ann had visited all 50 states and has traveled abroad several times. The highlight of her traveling was visiting the Holy Land and walking the path that Jesus walked while

carrying his cross to be crucified and being baptized in the Jordan River.

Mary Ann was a faithful member of New Zion United Methodist Church, which she served as the Director of Christian Education Methodist Youth Fellowship Advisor, Council on Ministries Chairperson, Director of Vacation Bible School, Sunday School Teacher, Finance Committee Chairperson, Kentucky Conference United Women Secretary of Program Resources, Lexington District UMW Secretary of Global Concerns and Church Historian.

Mary Ann received the UK African American Women Achievement Award, Dunbar High School Wall of Honor Award, UK Trailblazer Alumni and Distinguished African American Woman of the Year Nomination (UK)

Lastly, Mary Ann would tell you that she fell in love for the last time on June 26, 1998 when her grandchildren Taylor Ann Morton and Tyler JR Morton were born.

In addition to her parents and husband she was preceded in death by her brother Joseph W. Henderson, Jr. (Ida), John Henderson, Sr. (Sally) and William H. Henderson, Sr. (Marylyn) and nephew, William R. Henderson (Jeanette). Mary Ann "Nan Nah" is survived by her loving daughter Nycoe Adams-Morton, step-daughter Jana R. Adams and devoted grandchildren, Taylor Ann Morton and Tyler JR Morton, A bonus granddaughter J'Lee Morton, neices and nephews; Joetta Matthews, Charlesetta Chaney, Donita Rowe, Michelle Jones, William H. Henderson, Jr. (Angela), John A. Henderson, Jr. (Virglyn), Ricky L. Henderson, Mattie E. Poland, Mary F. Harvey (Rev. Robert) and Joseph L. Henderson.

She is also survived by a host of great neices and nephews and great-great neices and nephews as well as cousins. Special friends Shirley Adams, Mrs. Martha Figgs, Mr. Charles Figgs and Mrs. Barbara Talbert. Special thanks to Bluegrass Care Navigators.

Cemetery Details

New Zion Church Cemetery

Previous Events

Service

DEC 31. 1:00 PM (ET)

Unity Worship Center
1975 Haggard Court
Lexington, KY 40505

Tribute Wall



“ *Mary Ann Adams*

February 01, 2023 at 11:02 AM

MH

“ *Wow! I just now saw she has passed. We shared the same birthday 6/27. I was blessed to be her neighbor across the street for many years. We served in Top Ladies of Distinction together. We traveled to a conference together and I got up early each morning to walk with her. She was a beautiful person inside and out. To the family my prayers and hugs go out to you. Treasure the memories. My the Lord protect and guide you along this journey 🙏*



Missy Hagans - January 30, 2022 at 05:16 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mary Ann Adams.*



December 30, 2021 at 04:31 PM

MM

“ *Michelle Henderson-Jones and Michael purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Mary Ann Adams.*



Michelle Henderson-Jones and Michael - December 29, 2021 at 04:02 PM



“ *Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mary Ann Adams.*



December 29, 2021 at 10:54 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mary Ann Adams.*



December 29, 2021 at 10:34 AM



“ *Auntie, you will be truly missed.*

mattie poland - December 28, 2021 at 07:32 PM