



A CELEBRATION OF LIFE  
FOR

*Belle Bagwell Brooks Dennard*

Tuesday, November 29, 2016  
11:00 a.m.

**Friendship Baptist Church at Providence Missionary Baptist Church**  
2295 Benjamin E. Mays Drive, SW  
Atlanta, Georgia

The Reverend Dr. Richard W. Wills, Sr. Pastor, Officiating



## Obituary

**Belle Bagwell Brooks Dennard** was the embodiment of style, class, life and love. A beloved daughter, sister, wife, mother, grandmother, teacher and friend, Belle passed away peacefully on Tuesday, November 22, 2016. Known for her generous heart, joyful spirit, dynamic and energetic personality, sophisticated style, exuberant and infectious laugh, wit and wisdom, Belle was also as beautiful as her

name. She was devoted to her husband, family, friends and church. Belle was an original, a one of a kind and she left an indelible imprint on each of our lives. This is her story.

Belle was a proud native of Atlanta, the only daughter born to the late Sadie Bagwell and Joseph Tate Brooks on June 4, 1925. Belle, along with her brothers Oliver Wendell and Joseph Tate Jr, was educated in the private laboratory schools of Atlanta University and Alabama State University. She attended Spelman College and graduated from Florida A&M University with a degree in Home Economics. It was there that she met the love of her life Cleveland Leon Dennard. They married in a beautiful home wedding on August 27, 1948.

Belle followed in the path of her parents and became an educator. Teaching in both the Alabama and Atlanta Public School Systems, Belle was a popular teacher among her peers and her students, especially at Capital Avenue and Pitts



## INTERMENT

Southview Cemetery  
1990 Jonesboro Road, Southeast  
Atlanta, Georgia

*Repast to Follow in the Fellowship Hall of Providence Baptist Church.*

## PALLBEARERS

Sean Burke	Terry Harps
David Burke	William Telfair
Clayvon Croom	Steven White

## HONORARY PALLBEARERS

The Usher Board of Friendship Baptist Church  
The Deacon Board of Friendship Baptist Church

## FLOWER BEARERS

The Deaconess Board of Friendship Baptist Church

## HONORARY FLOWER BEARERS

Members, Atlanta Chapter Links, Inc.  
Atlanta Chapter Smart Set, Inc.  
Le'Girls Bridge Club

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Family of Belle Bagwell Brooks Dennard expresses sincere appreciation to our friends and church family for your prayers, concern and countless expressions of kindness.

**Carl M. Williams Funeral Directors**  
492 Larkin Street, SW  
Atlanta, Georgia  
404.522.8454

Programs by Darryl Allen's Plus 404.755.0965

# Order of Service

The Rev. Dr. Richard W. Wills, Sr. Officiating

Prelude Bernice Hogan Hall, Pianist

Processional

Hymn "Blessed Assurance" No. 27

Invocation

Scripture Readings

The Old Testament

The Reverend Angela Sutton

The New Testament

The Reverend Kevin Calhoun

Prayer Deacon Larry Dozier

Choral Selection

"It's My Desire"

arr. Pullen and Boyer Combined Choirs of  
Friendship Baptist Church

Reflections Miriam Shriver Shropshire  
Deacon Charles N. Hawk, Jr.

Solo "If I Can Help Somebody" Henrietta Antoinin

Reflections Jane E. Smith  
Oliver Tate Brooks

Solo "We Shall Behold Him" Bernice Hogan Hall

Eulogy Reverend Richard W. Wills, Sr., Pastor

Music for Meditation (Obituary Read Silently)

Acknowledgements

Recessional



Elementary Schools in Atlanta Georgia, where she was a beloved first grade teacher. Belle enjoyed a rewarding twenty-year career until 1968 when she retired to become a full-time wife, mother, and homemaker.

Belle married a man on a mission, and relocations became a part of life for the Dennard Family. In 1966, New York City Mayor, John Lindsey appointed Cleveland Deputy Commissioner of Labor and the family relocated to Brooklyn, NY. Two years later, the family moved to Washington, DC, when President Lyndon Johnson appointed Cleveland, President of the first land grant university in Washington, D.C., the Washington Technical Institute. The move to Washington, D.C. thrust Belle and "Cleve" into a national circle of politics, society and world travel.



Belle was a perfect complement to her husband having learned the art of entertaining from her parents whose home on the campus of Alabama State University was filled with guests, dignitaries, and occasions for entertaining. Always stunning and stylish, Belle was known as a warm and engaging host with an infectious laugh, innovative themes and décor and a knack for making each guest feel welcome. Belle and Cleve made their final move in 1977 – home to Atlanta, when he accepted the Presidency of Atlanta University. Belle redecorated the presidents home on Beckwith Street, SW and

renamed it “Holly Hill”, still remembered by many for the receptions, dinners and holiday parties hosted by the President and first lady Belle.

Belle was inducted into the Atlanta Chapter of The Links, Inc. in 1986. Her mother, Sadie Bagwell Brooks had been an active member in the chapter since the mid 60s and a charter member of the Montgomery, AL chapter. Belle, was an alumni member of National Smart Set, Jack and Jill of America, Inc., Omega Wives and an Archousa of Sigma Pi Phi Boule.

Belle’s heart and soul belonged to her children. Left to carry on her legacy, are her daughters Judy, Sadie Jo, Beth (Thomas) and Ann (Webster); her grandchildren, Dana Lauren (Raymond), Brook, Cleo Sean, David and her great-grandchildren, Sydney Rae and Braylon.

