



Mrs. Hermine Elvena Payne Stanyard

May 7, 1928 - November 28, 2020

Mrs. Hermine Elvena Payne Stanyard, 92, of Charleston, retired teacher and poet; daughter of the late Samuel Payne and Maybelle Comfort Washington entered into eternal rest on November 28, 2020.

The family of Mrs. Hermine Elvena Payne Stanyard, widow of the late Mr. George D. Stanyard, Sr. extends an invitation to her public viewing on Sunday, December 6, 2020, 2:00 – 6:00 pm at the Smith-McNeal Funeral Home, 2119 Dorchester Road, North Charleston, SC.

There will be a private family service (by invitation only) and interment on Monday, December 7, 2020.

She is survived by her children, Geormine (Alonzo) Stanyard-Crawford and G. Dewey Stanyard; granddaughter, Candice (Megan) Crawford-Zakian; siblings, Cyrus C. (Demetra) Washington, Sr., Willie Dell (Henry) Taylor and Barbara Payne; godchildren, Antionette E. (William) Bennett-Bluford and Rev. Marionette E. Bennett; in-laws, Eunice Washington, Jenny Lou Washington, John Nathaniel, Thomas and Morris Ashe, Mary Brown, Rose Whitney and Glenemae Johnson; a host of cousins, nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

In lieu of flowers, the family request that you make a donation to: IAAM indicating that it is in honor of Hermine P. Stanyard. Online gifts may be made here: <https://55170.blackbaudhosting.com/55170/General-Donation/> Checks should be made payable to the International African American Museum and mailed to: Post Office Box 22761, Charleston, SC 29413.

Friends and Family,

To view "virtually" the Celebration of Life service for Mrs. Hermine P. Stanyard, to be held on Monday, December 7, 2020 at 11am – please view via Zoom link (password included)

below or via Facebook Live link below on the Morris Street Baptist Church FB page below.

Thank you for your support of our family during this difficult time.

Warmest Regards,

The Family of Hermine P. Stanyard

Zoom link:

Topic: Celebration of Life - Hermine P Stanyard

Time: Dec 7, 2020 11:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86782707893?pwd=TTdUOHJUaTRaZGZIK2lwSWU3Z1FUdz09>

Meeting ID: 867 8270 7893

Passcode: 823690

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Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86782707893>

FB Page for Morris Street Baptist Church:

<https://m.facebook.com/MorrisStreetBaptistChurch/>

Obituary for

HERMINE ELVENA PAYNE STANYARD

“A Sweetgrass Celebration”

Hermine Elvena Payne Stanyard was born May 7, 1928, to Maybelle Comfort and Samuel Payne, on Minority Street (now George Street) in Charleston, South Carolina. The Creator of All called her home on November 28, 2020. Hermine was raised in Charleston by her mother and stepfather, William Washington, along with her seven younger siblings. She was also the eldest of her father's eight children, who lived in Baltimore, Maryland. She grew up in a loving and supportive extended family and community of well-wishers. As the eldest, she played a major role in her younger siblings' lives.

As a child and youth, Hermine attended Sunday School and church services at St. John's Reformed Episcopal Church and Mother Emanuel A.M.E. Church in Charleston. Bright

and serious-minded, she excelled academically at Buist Elementary and Burke High School. Shortly before graduation, her Burke guidance counselor suggested a middle name (Elvena) for her high school diploma.

After graduating from Burke with salutatorian honors, Hermine continued her education at South Carolina State College ("SCSC") where she also graduated with honors, earning her Bachelor's Degree in English in 1949. While attending SCSC, she was a scholarship recipient, member of the Homecoming Queen's Court, and member of the Criterion Club. Following graduation, Hermine began her career as a teacher at Wilson High School in Florence, South Carolina, as a resident of the "Teacherage." She later obtained her Master of Arts from New York University and furthered her educational studies at the College of Charleston and the Citadel.

As a youth and young adult, Hermine spent many summers living and working in New York. She even worked as a Camp Counselor with the New York Tribune Fresh Air Fund in Fishkill, NY, and was active in many outdoor activities such as canoeing (despite not being a good swimmer).

While in high school, Hermine caught the eye of a handsome, bright, future fellow educator, George Dewey Stanyard. After a few visits to the "Teacherage" in Florence, George-- donning his Sunday best-- obtained permission from his future mother-in-law to officially court Hermine. Following their courtship, George and Hermine wed on June 9, 1956. The wedding took place in the then St. John's Reformed Episcopal Church building, now demolished. The beautiful irony is that the wedding was held on the same block where they would eventually reside as a family for almost 50 years. George and Hermine's union was blessed with two children: Geormine Deweya and George Dewey, Jr.

Soon after her marriage, Hermine joined Morris Street Baptist Church ("MSBC"), where she was a devout and hard-working member of the congregation. She was a member of the Hour of Power, Mass and Senior Choirs – occasionally a soloist. Additionally, she served as Chair of the Drama Committee for over 40 years, directing multiple productions with all age groups. Her ministry of church theater touched the lives of many congregants during her years of service. She has been recognized by MSBC for her stellar service as a member, including the honor of "Mother of the Year," on May 2, 1985.

Hermine was an effective and versatile educator who worked at Laing High School and later at the now Laing Middle School, for more than 30 years. She served as English teacher, Reading Specialist, and Guidance Counselor. Many former students fondly recount the seriousness and firmness of Mrs. Stanyard. In addition to teaching in the

classroom, Hermine also mentored many young teachers, aides and students.

On November 22, 1975, Hermine was initiated as a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., in the Charleston Alumnae Chapter. A Golden Life member, she served in many capacities and on numerous committees, including: Chapter Vice President 1992-1994; Historian 1994-1998; Arts and Letters; Delta Tones; Founders Day; Fundraising; and May Week. She shined her bright light on the Arts and Letters Committee for many years, including service at the National Level. The Charleston Alumnae Chapter honored Hermine with the Delta of the Year award in 1983. Over the years, Hermine had the opportunity to attend many Delta Sigma Theta Regional and National Conventions-- many with her daughter Geormine, who is also a Delta. In 2013, Hermine had the once-in-a-lifetime and “fortuitous” experience to attend the Delta Centennial National Convention in Washington, DC, where both her children still reside today. Family unity was demonstrably embraced when her son Dewey followed his father’s path by becoming a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity.

In addition to education and Greek life, Hermine shared her passion of the Arts with both her children, encouraging them to explore their talents in and appreciation of the arts (music, dance, theater and writing). Hermine is a published poet, having authored two poetry books: *My Lingering Thoughts* (1992) and *Verses for You and Me* (1995). Her work reflects the arc of her life in the “lowcountry” and uniqueness of life in Charleston. She was a stalwart advocate for the continuing culture of sweetgrass basket-making and the need for land access to resources. This advocacy was a focal point in her poetry and storytelling performances. Hermine has shared and read her poems throughout the lowcountry at cultural festivals, including the Piccolo Spoleto Sundown Poetry Series and the MOJA Arts Festival’s Storytelling and Poetry Series. She especially loved performing at the Dock Street Theatre. She was most honored when Moja acknowledged her works with the Arts Community Award in 1997. Her poem, “Seed of Peace,” inspired baritone singer and composer Trevor Weston to write his first composition after 9/11 as the 5th and last movement of a longer work entitled “Evening Songs.”

A believer in the importance of advocacy and community engagement, Hermine held memberships in the NAACP (life member), YWCA, Association for the Study of African American Life and History, Phillis Wheatley Literary and Social Club, South Carolina Poetry Society, South Carolina Education Association (SCEA), National Education Association (NEA), Charleston Civic Ballet Board of Directors, and the South Carolina State University Alumni Association. She was also a principal in a book club with other like-minded friends for decades. After retiring from teaching, she served as a docent with the Avery Research Center - College of Charleston and volunteered with Meals on

Wheels.

Most weekends, whether busy or not (and usually the former), you could find Hermine preparing breakfast by frying fish and cooking shrimp and grits, or for dinner, preparing okra soup for family and friends. She also loved baking biscuits for the “sick and shut-in” and drafting her children for the deliveries. Most of all, she loved her plants and flower gardens — enjoying their beauty either quietly or with family and friends.

Hermine was preceded in death by her husband of 52 years of marriage, George D. Stanyard, Sr. She leaves to mourn two children: Geormine D. (Alonzo) Stanyard-Crawford and G. Dewey Stanyard, Jr.; granddaughter, Candice (Megan) Crawford-Zakian; siblings: Cyrus C. (Demetra) Washington, Sr., Willie Dell (Henry) Taylor and Barbara Payne; godchildren: Antionette E. (William) Bennett-Bluford and Rev. Marionette E. Bennett; in-laws: Eunice Washington, Jenny Lou Washington, John Nathaniel, Thomas and Morris Ashe, Mary Brown, Rose Whitney and Glenemae Johnson; a host of cousins, nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Cemetery Details

Mt. Pleasant Memorial Gardens

1308 Mathis Ferry Rd.
Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464

Previous Events

Viewing

DEC 6. 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Smith-McNeal Funeral Home
2119 Dorchester Road
North Charleston, SC 29405
(843) 722-3676
smithmcnealfuner@gmail.com

Tribute Wall

NF

“ *Norvela Fluddrice lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Hermine Elvena Payne Stanyard*



Norvela Fluddrice - March 19, 2021 at 10:10 AM

RD

“ *My sincere condolences is extended to the children and other family members of this beautiful and kind lady. She has been a part of my life since my childhood. I'm blessed because of her warmhearted spirit towards me.*

She would always say to me, "When I grow up, I'm going to learn how to play the piano just like you."

The day came and I began to teach her music. She was an excellent student and I enjoyed going to her house to teach music. Those were beautiful times.

*God Bless
Rachel Naomi Dowling McDaniel*

Rachel Dowling - December 08, 2020 at 09:46 AM

MB

“ *No amount of words can express the pain that you are going through. We are sending you love and prayers and hope you are able to find strength during this difficult time.” On behalf of the members of the Professional Travel Agents of North America (PTANA), we extend our heartfelt sympathy to Germaine Stanyard in the loss of her mother Mrs. Hermine Stanyard. May God continue to comfort you and give you strength.*

*Mary Burley
National Chairperson
PTANA*

MARY E BURLEY - December 07, 2020 at 11:01 AM

CP

“ *In loving memory of a special teacher and friend. We were privileged and honored to have known her. May memories of Mrs. Stanyard and the love of family surround you and give you strength in the days ahead. Wishing you peace to bring comfort, courage to face the days ahead and loving memories to forever hold in your heart. Please accept our sincere condolences and know that your family is in our thoughts and prayers at this time.*

Sincerely,

The Pinckney Family – Edward, Lou Ester, Carla and E.P.

Carla Pinckney - December 04, 2020 at 01:03 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mrs. Hermine Elvena Payne Stanyard.*



December 04, 2020 at 10:13 AM

“*The mediocre teacher tells. The good teacher explains. The superior teacher demonstrates. The great teacher inspires.*”

William Arthur Ward (1921-1994--famed writer of inspirational maxims)

Sigh...

The most impressive thing about my relationship with Mrs. Hermine Stanyard was that she was not one of my high school teachers. She was not one of my elementary school teachers.

SHE WAS A TEACHER!

I grew up on the east side of Charleston, attended Charles A. (C.A.) Brown High School and I developed a very close relationship with both her children; first Dewey, then most rewardingly with Geormine. I say the latter about my relationship with Geormine because it was this burgeoning friendship that primarily cultivated my long-lasting relationship with the Stanyards.

As a teenager, I longed for the opportunity to experience a life beyond the confines of what I was experiencing socially, intellectually...I had a great childhood, but I also craved more.

Hermine and George Stanyard, Sr. both welcomed me as a regular guest in their home when I visited Dewey and Geormine both. Through this family, I was introduced to the Charleston Civic Ballet, (along with one of my actual high school teachers, Mrs. Yvonne T. Orr!) Delta Sigma Theta youth programs, and indirectly with the College of Charleston's Upward Bound Program.

I recall close conversations with Hermine Stanyard, when she asked about my avid passion for reading and writing. She recommended that I opt for college outside of Charleston. I became enchanted with the idea of Washington, DC and Howard University because of her influence.

So...what did this magnificent teacher of legions of students impart to me?

Show yourself in all respects to be a model of good works, integrity, dignity, and sound speech that cannot be condemned.

Yes, she had that stellar voice that penetrated your brain and left you tremendously impacted.

So Hermine Stanyard was instrumental in molding me academically, but she was also instrumental in molding me as a person. I would not be the person I am today without some of her influence, and I am forever grateful for that.

"Children have never been very good at listening to their elders, but they have never failed to imitate them."

James Baldwin

*Mark Freeman
Washington, DC*

Mark Quentin Freeman - December 03, 2020 at 03:58 PM

NF

Well saidMr Freeman...

Norvela Fludrice - March 19, 2021 at 10:16 AM



“ *I am deeply sorry for her family's loss of their lovely Mother. She was a dear friend from that decade in the 80s when we carpooled daily to Laing Middle School, where she taught for years. She was a truly beautiful woman, inside and out, who shared with this Yankee her life's experiences living in Charleston and raising her beloved children. She will be missed.*



Ron Hornbeck - December 02, 2020 at 11:03 AM

JB

“ *James Brinson lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Hermine Elvena Payne Stanyard*



James Brinson - December 02, 2020 at 10:25 AM

JB

“ We were saddened to hear of the passing of your dear Mother. We wanted you to know that we are thinking of you and praying that you are comforted by cherished memories and held close by God's love as you move through the difficult days ahead.

You are blessed with an awesome legacy!

James & Esther Brinson Family

James Brinson - December 02, 2020 at 10:24 AM

TR

“ My deepest sympathy to the family of Mrs. Hermine Stanyard. I couldn't wait until she penned her poetry so I could receive my copy. She was a jewel. We will keep the family in prayer. Will also miss that beautiful singing voice.

Ronald A. & Thelma Ravenell

Thelma Ravenell - November 30, 2020 at 09:06 PM

BE

“ My heart and soul are saddened today. I have known Mrs. Stanyard as a Morris Street Baptist Church member, as a Soror of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.,, as a volunteer with the City of Charleston's Office of Cultural Affairs, and as a GREAT LADY.

Dr. Barbara Graham-Holmes

Barbara Graham-Holmes, EDD - November 30, 2020 at 04:22 PM

JJ

“ My deepest sympathy to the family of Mrs. Stanyard. She and her husband, George, were extremely kind neighbors living on Charlotte Street when my family and I owned the Channel 5 television station. She was always most cordial and friendly whenever our paths crossed. Her house was always immaculate and her garden in the rear of the house full of aspiring plantings. Please accept my sincere condolences during this time of bereavement. Since she and her husband were accomplished educators, I am sending a memorial in her name to Avery Institute at the College of Charleston.

Sincerely,

John M. Rivers, Jr.

John M. Rivers, Jr. - November 30, 2020 at 10:56 AM

RJ

Mrs. Stanyard was a Jewel. I was in her homework class at Laing High School. I am a graduate of the Class of 1959 under her leadership.

Ruth Richardson Jenkins - December 07, 2020 at 07:27 PM