

Pallbearers

Members of Iota Upsilon Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

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All Saints Home Health Care, Silver Spring, Maryland

Aspenwood Assisted Living Facility, Silver Spring, Maryland

Capital Caring Hospice, Washington, D.C.

Envisacare Home Care, Washington, D.C.

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Missionary Circle, Israel C.M.E. Church, Washington, D.C.

Oasis Ministries, Virginia Beach, Virginia

United Methodist Women, Colesville United Methodist Church, Silver Spring, Maryland



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Celebrating the Life of



Naomi Ervin Waddleton

May 12, 1934 ~ November 17, 2022

Monday, November 28, 2022

10:30 A.M.

Colesville United Methodist Church

52 Randolph Road

Silver Spring, MD 20904

Obituary

Devoted wife, mother, educator, entrepreneur and community leader, *Naomi Ervin Waddleton* was a force to be reckoned with. Naomi was born in Gilmer, Texas, on May 12, 1934, to Lela Bell Ervin and John Henry Ervin, Sr. Next to the last of eight children, she strategically fought for her family position and reminded others that she was “the baby” even after the birth of her baby brother, John Henry Ervin, Jr.

Education

Naomi excelled academically and graduated from Bruce High School when she was 17 years old. Following the family tradition, she enrolled into Texas College as a Home Economics major. She demonstrated early on that she was a supreme culinarian, preparing elaborate meals, planning on-campus functions, and entertaining housing visitors, including members of the college president’s cabinet.



At Texas College she was selected to perform and traveled with the “Steerettes,” the original group of high-stepping majorettes whose dance and performance style would be emulated by Historically Black Colleges and Universities in dance and performance. The dynamic group was often compared to New York City’s world-famous Rockettes and was featured in Ebony Magazine.



HIGH-STEPPING TEXAS STEERETTES
Texas College precision marching squad ranked among finest in Lone Star State



Texas College Steerettes back on the field | Local News

Order of Worship

Gathering Music		Bruce Caviness, Organist National United Methodist Church, Memorial Campus
Greeting		Rev. Dr. Michael W. Armstrong
Opening Hymn	Joyful Joyful, We Adore Thee	CUMC Comfort Choir and Congregation Dr. Barbara Baker, Director
Prayer		
Scripture Readings		Old Testament Psalm 27 New Testament John 5:24-27
Affirmation of Faith		
Musical Selection	His Eye Is on the Sparrow	Wayne Robinson, Soloist
Acknowledgements		Lauren Wells
Tributes		Shirley Hargess Jackson Attorney Larry Lewellyn Dr. Felecia S. Waddleton-Willis
Musical Selection		Marcus Johnson, International Recording Artist, Image Award Nominee
Eulogy		Bishop Ricky D. Helton
Closing Prayer		Rev. Dr. Michael W. Armstrong
Closing Hymn	Oh When the Saints Go Marching In	CUMC Comfort Choir and Congregation
Benediction		Bishop Ricky D. Helton
Recessional		Bruce Caviness, Organist

Always IN YOUR HEART

Picture me as I was,

Full of Life and love.

Although not with you now,

I'm watching from above.

I know how much you miss me,

And I miss you too.

It was my time to leave,

As each of us will do.

Although not in your arms,

I'm always in your heart.

The precious love we shared,

means we're never far apart.

Marriage

Naomi minored in chemistry, and when offered a private tutor to enhance her knowledge in the subject matter, she cautiously accepted. A relationship was destined to be as he tutored her in chemistry, and she supported him with completion of his projects. The couple married in 1953.



Their Child

Shortly after Naomi graduated from Texas College, Preston and Naomi relocated to Tucson, Arizona. She worked as an elementary educator in the community of Eloy. The couple later relocated to Las Vegas, Nevada, in pursuit of her husband's career aspirations at the U.S. Bureau of Mines.

In addition to teaching school, Naomi pursued a career in costume design and fashion. The couple returned to Tucson and gave birth to their only child, Felecia S. Waddleton in 1962. The family relocated to Washington, D.C. shortly thereafter. There, Naomi was personally selected by a State of Arizona Congressional Representative to teach third grade at Bruce Elementary School.



Educator

An appointment to Bruce Elementary School (later Bruce-Monroe) allowed Naomi to expand upon her expertise in the fields of Home Economics and Primary Education. She was a member of a cadre of teachers who performed a pilot-study for the Initial Teaching Alphabet (ITA) Teaching Program for reading and writing. This unique curriculum received national attention and recognition. She and her students also received recognition throughout the region for accomplishments in Nutrition in Elementary Education, Clothing and Room Arrangement, Etiquette and Clothing/Fashion Design throughout grades pre-kindergarten, 7th and 8th. Her students were invited to the United States White House for a Christmas holiday celebration to meet First-Lady, Rosalyn Carter, and later for the unveiling of the Bicentennial Commemoration of the Susan-B Anthony Coin Stamp and to meet First-Lady Laura Bush.



While at Bruce-Monroe, Naomi was one of the first teachers to pilot the open-space teaching learning module. She furthered these teaching techniques when she accepted a position at Brookland Elementary School. There, her students received national honorary recognition with the Future Homemakers of America (FHA) and traveled to Seattle, Washington, for formal presentation. Naomi received Outstanding Teacher of the Year and Outstanding Home Economics Teacher of the Year awards. She retired from Backus Middle School in Washington, D.C.



The Faith and Service

Naomi served in multiple capacities: Naomi was welcomed under watch-care ministry at Colesville United Methodist Church, an active and dedicated member of the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church at large. While at Israel Christian Methodist Episcopal (C.M.E.), Washington, D.C. she served as Missionary, Stewardess, Host of the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church 7th Episcopal District Annual Citywide Tea and Delegate to the 7th Episcopal District Conference Conclave election meeting. Naomi had been member-at-large of the Colesville United Methodist Church since 2012.

Family

Naomi leaves behind a devoted daughter, Dr. Felecia S. Waddleton-Willis, of Silver Spring, Maryland; brother, John H. Ervin, Jr. of Redmond, Washington; aunt, Zella B. Smith of Los Angeles, California; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, friends and eternal students.

