



Dr. Joyce Marie Davis

June 12, 1933 - July 18, 2015

Joyce Marie Davis was born to Gregor and Helen Amey on June 12, 1933, in Rosenberg, Texas, joining her brother, Sylvester, as a member of the family. At the age 7, she accepted Christ and joined the Mount Vernon Baptist Church of Rosenberg and began her work in the church at that early age by directing the Rhythm Band of the Missionary Starlight Band. At the age of 9, she began serious studying of piano and theory with Mrs. Bernice Hightower of Galveston, Texas, who studied with the renowned R. Nathaniel Dett; and, with the constant, special, and continuing support, particularly from her mother, her Nanie (pronounced quickly as “Nai-nee”) Aunt Ervia, for whom Joyce Marie’s daughter is named, and Mrs. Hightower, she began her choral directing career at the age of 12 as the director of the Adult Choir at Nazareth Baptist Church in Rosenberg, Texas.

Graduating Valedictorian from the A.W. Jackson High School of Rosenberg at the age of 15, she went on to Prairie View A&M University where she was listed in Who’s Who in American Colleges and Universities. At the age of 19, she received the Bachelor of Arts degree in Music Education Summa Cum Laude and, with the mentorship of Mrs. Juanice Lister, received her first check as a professional educator in the Dallas Independent School District. She holds the Master of Music Education from the University of Colorado at Boulder where she has done further study; and, she was awarded the Doctor of Humane Letters by Central America University Ministries in Kansas City, Kansas.

Among her career activities, Dr. Davis taught in Texas and Colorado public schools; lectured at five Colorado colleges and universities; served as music instructor at Loretta Heights College; taught in the Denver Public Schools Cultural Arts program; was selected by the National Association of Schools of Music as one of 22 nationally recognized music educators to develop proposals for revising college preparation programs for music educators; chaired the Ethnic-Urban committee of the Southwestern Music Educators National Conference (MENC); and, served as a clinician for the Southwestern MENC. She also served as Co-chairman of the Music Committee for the Invitational Committee of the 1987 Rocky Mountain Billy Graham Crusade; was appointed by Governor Richard Lamm in 1985 to the Colorado Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission and by State Representative and then Denver’s First Lady Wilma J. Webb in 1987, 1988, 1993, and subsequent years as Director of the Music for the Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday activities; is the 1988

Founder-Director of the Colorado Interfaith choir; and, in 1992, was invited to serve as Adjunct Professor and Vice President of the School of Fine Arts of the Central America University Ministries in Kansas City; 1999, accepted the invitation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America to rehearse and their 1999 National convention choir and to direct them in the concluding Morning Worship for the convention in the Colorado Convention Center.

She began her teaching career at Greenlee Elementary School where at one time she led 200 4th, 5th and 6th graders around Denver singing songs from the very popular “Up With People” movement in the 1960’s. Her enthusiasm at Greenlee as well her work at Zion Baptist Church caught the attention of the late James Ward, who principal at Denver Manual High School, and he then brought her to Manual. As the first African American Vocal Music Director and Instructor in a Colorado senior high school, she was the Denver Manual High School Vocal Music Director from 1970 until her retirement in 1992. During that time she led the Concert Choir and affiliated groups in performances throughout the state and across the nation; from the Denver Hope Center for the Retarded to the Governor’s Inauguration; from a 21-person audience at a neighborhood church to a half hour uninterrupted appearance on Channel 7 – KMGH television; from nursing homes to gala community occasions; from elementary schools to colleges and universities – to mention a few.

A member of the Zion Baptist Church of Denver, Colorado, since 1955. She worked with the children and youth; served as Woman’s Day Chairperson; Director of the Mission Chorus; the Brotherhood Chorus; the Sanctuary Choir; the Young People’s Choir, and special occasion choruses; accompanist for the Men’s Chorus; and, Director of the Baptist Training Union. She actively assists every phase of the church’s ministries as well as involvement in other churches and community activities throughout the state and the nation. One memorable involvement was the July 1983 directing of a 400-voice Western States Baptist Convention choir and orchestra in a historic appearance in Denver’s Boettcher Concert Hall. She was also guest conductor for the 1980 National Baptist Convention, USA INC.; has served as Assistant Music Director and Music Director for the Women’s Convention of the National Baptist Convention, USA INC.; Director and now Director Emeritus of the National Baptist Congress Lucie E. Campbell Church Music Workshop; was an instructor in the Thomas A. Dorsey Convention of Gospel Choirs and Choruses; lectured and conducted a 2500-voice choir at the 1993 Hampton University conference for Ministers and Directors; and, in 2000 she accepted the invitation to return to Hampton University’s Annual Conference for Ministers and Musicians as instructor for sessions on “Women in Ministry”; served repeat terms as Music Department Chairperson and Director of the Henry Ballard Chorus for the National United Church Ushers Association of America, Inc.; facilitated three one-hour workshop sessions for the Christian Ministries Convention at the Colorado Convention Center; has lectured at

schools, churches, universities around the nation; and, served as Minister of Music at the Zion Baptist Church in Denver, Colorado for 50 years.

A vocal and instrumental soloist in her own right, she was in great demand throughout the United States as a clinician, speaker, workshop director, facilitator, Mistress of Ceremony, encourager, etc. She has received awards, honors, and recognition from many community, educational, professional, religious, service and social groups and agencies: including the Black Educators United 1986 Blair Award for Excellence in Education; 1990 Denver Distinguished Teacher Award; 1990 "Key to the City" from the Mayor of Memphis, Tennessee; 1992 State Legislator's Proclamation of Honorary Member of the Tennessee State Legislator; 1992 "Joyce Marie Davis Day" proclaimed by Denver Mayor Wellington Webb; 1993 Ford-Warren Library "Living Portraits of African-American Women"; in 1994 with Mrs. Edna Joyce Tate Robinson, was the master artist in a Colorado Council on the Arts "Master Artist-Apprentice Award", the "Louise Duncan Lifetime Achievement Award for Excellence in the Performing Arts" from the Denver Black Arts Festival, Inc.; the 1997 Woman of the Year Scepter Award of the Women's Convention of the Western States Missionary Baptist Convention; the 1997 Colorado Parents of the Year (with her husband, Dr. Moses C. Davis) from the National Parents Day Foundation Award of Washington D.C.; also with her husband, the 1998 "Outstanding Asset Builder Award" from Search Institute's Assets for Colorado Youth. In February 2000, Dr. Davis was selected by the Colorado Black Chamber of Commerce to receive the "Black Pioneer Award". There are other awards received during this decade, including being a Colorado Legend and member of the Hall of Fame for Dr. Syl Morgan's Colorado Gospel Music Academy and Hall of Fame. In 2009, PH Resources and Grace Incorporated presented the Living Legend Luncheon in which Dr. Davis was a recipient.

On January 10, 2012 during the Martin Luther King, Jr. Humanitarian Awards at Boettcher Concert Hall in Denver, Colorado, the Humanitarian Awards committee presented the first Dr. Joyce Marie Davis Youth Award. It was presented to Salina C. Trahan, and Dr. Davis had no idea that the award had been created in her honor, as Dr. Davis is a past Humanitarian Award recipient in 1991.

She was one of 11 people selected by Dr. Sherman R. Tribble to develop a new hymnal/worship resource for the National Baptist Convention USA and other communions. Dr. Tribble stated "I expected to have a group of energetic persons whose talents, training, and experience would allow us to develop a book that God would be proud of and that it would bless the people of God. That expectation was exceeded in many ways. A key exception was Mama Joyce. Yes, she brought her wonderful 60 years of music ministry experience that helped us understand the past that had brought us and the Way that had taught us. But she also brought her warmth, her wisdom, her worshipful ways, her elegance, her charm, and her love for God, the Church, the work and for each one of us."

That book is the Total Praise hymnal that is being used in conjunction with other resources.

While holding membership in Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. (AKA), American Choral Directors Association (ACDA), American Guild of Organists (AGO), and numerous other community, educational, professional, religious, service, and social organizations, she persistently retained her humility – and did not neglect her home, home church, nor her community, both locally and nationally.

Dr. Joyce Marie Amey Davis leaves to celebrate a truly amazing life her children Clarence Eugene and Ervia Patrice. Also celebrating her life are a host of other relatives, Godchildren, “adopted” relatives, students, colleagues and friends.

Thank you

(From Ervia Patrice)

My brother and I are so grateful to our Zion Baptist Church family, including our Pastor, all Ministers, and all Zion Baptist Church Ministries. You have shared your hearts with us, and you’ve given us your love, your support, your kindness, your prayers and your encouragement. There really are no words to adequately express how full our hearts are with gratitude and love for our church family.

We especially want to thank the Music Ministry of Zion Baptist Church, and ALL musicians who have come to celebrate the life of Dr. Joyce Marie Davis; every instrumentalist, every director, every soprano, every alto, every tenor and every bass. There is such joy in your sharing your musical gifts with us.

Thank you to the Colorado State Ushers who reached out to me to see if I needed them for both services. This week is their convention and many aren’t here, but even so, they remain ready to serve, and I’m grateful. I didn’t know who to contact, but praise God, you contacted me first.

We want to thank the staff at Namaste Home Health and Hospice for the exemplary care, compassion and all that was provided for Dr. Joyce Marie Davis during this final stanza in her life. You all treated her with the utmost respect and we will never forget you. We cannot thank you enough for your being there as she went from earth to Glory ever so peacefully.

I thank those of you who helped me during this extremely challenging time during times where my being alone would have been so difficult. You were by my side, no matter what was needed. For those who helped with our out of town guests with lodging, transportation, etc., there are no words. Even talking with me either in person, via text or on the phone, I thank you, and I love you more than words can say.

Clarence and I also want to sincerely thank the Ballard Family Mortuary for its loving, caring, patient, thoughtful and compassionate manner during this new journey in our lives. Mama stated that after the care taken with Daddy when he transitioned, she wanted Ballard to handle her final journey. So as we loved and respected her in life, our final gift to her is to love and honor her as she begins a new composition in Heaven. Thank you all, and in the words of Dr. Joyce Marie Davis, "Tones of Love! Love!! Love!!! In Christ!!!"

There are many roads to go, and they go by many names. They don't all go the same way, but they get there all the same. And I have a feeling that we'll meet someday where the roads come together up the way. What a day it will be, you'll be surprised who you'll see. Where the roads come together up the way. Together, up the way, together up the way...

Previous Events

Praise & Celebration Service

JUL 31. 7:00 PM (MT)

Zion Baptist Church
933 East 24th AVE
Denver, CO 80205

Viewing

AUG 1. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (MT)

Zion Baptist Church
933 East 24th AVE
Denver, CO 80205

Homegoing Celebration

AUG 1. 11:00 AM (MT)

Zion Baptist Church
933 East 24th AVE
Denver, CO 80205

Tribute Wall

JH

“ I was a Sophomore in high school manual singing in the hallways and Ms Davis said sweetheart you have a beautiful voice you need to sign up for choir share that gift you have my highlight of school was going to chiir class just to stay after and visit with my favorite teacher she will be missed. love JoAnne Holden

JoAnne HOLDEN - July 23, 2016 at 09:07 AM

 Leane Vasquez

Mrs. Davis was my choir teacher 33 years ago! She heard a voice in me and saw me through an invisible shield of fear and unknowns. Her kindness instilled a brave presence in me while I performed on stage. Blessings. Love, Leane

Leane Vasquez - February 24, 2022 at 11:18 AM

VF

“ Vonnie Floyd lit a candle in memory of Dr. Joyce Marie Davis



Vonnie Floyd - February 18, 2016 at 01:32 PM

VF

Thank You Dr. Joyce Davis for years of Love & Music. You are truly missed.

Vonnie Floyd - February 18, 2016 at 01:35 PM

CB

“ ERIVA, I AM SOO SORRY TO HEAR ABOUT THE LOSS OF MAMA DAVIS. MY CONDOLENCES GO OUT TO YOU AND CLARENCE AND THE REST OF YOUR FAMILY. SHE WAS TRULY A WOMEN OF GOD. AND SHE ALSO WAS TRULY A GIFT THAT WAS SENT BY GOD FOR SO MANY LIVES. THANK YOU FOR SHARING YOUR MOTHER WITH ME AND OTHERS. SHE WAS AN AWESOME MUSIC TEACHER AT MANUAL HIGH SCHOOL.WE HAD THE BEST CONCERT CHOIR IN THE CITY.NOW SHE IS IN HEAVEN OVER THE ANGELIC CHOIR, SINGING FOR EVERY MOUNTAIN YOU BROUGHT ME OVER. I WILL CONTINUE TO KEEP YOU ALL LIFTED UP IN PRAYER, AND THAT GOD WILL CONTINUE TO COMFORT YOUR HEARTS AND GIVE YOU PEACE, THE BIBLE SAYS WEEPING MAY ENDURETH FOR A NIGHT BUT JOY COMETH IN THE MORNING. (THIS IS JOANNE ROBERTS SISTER) I LOVE YOU.

CAROL BROWN

CAROL BROWN - August 11, 2015 at 09:38 AM



“ 5 files added to the album Memories Album



Ballard Family Mortuary, LLC - August 04, 2015 at 09:47 AM

George Nelson

“ Mrs. Joyce Marie Davis made education fun. It was a wonderful privilege to be one of her students at Manual High School. --- George W. Nelson

George Nelson - August 02, 2015 at 04:20 PM

YM

“ Yvonne McCoy lit a candle in memory of Dr. Joyce Marie Davis



Yvonne McCoy - August 01, 2015 at 02:49 AM

YM

“ *The elect Lady, what an inspiration to so many. What I have seen with my own eyes was her over powering love For the Lord, church, friends and her family. Dr. Davis you were my hero. I pray that the work you've done in this city will be with us always. Thanks for touching my life.*

*Love,
Pastor YvonneMcCoy*

Yvonne McCoy - August 01, 2015 at 02:47 AM

BN

“ *On behalf of the Redeeming Love Fellowship Church Family, we extend our deepest condolence to the Family of Dr. Joyce Marie Davis, and we have their family in prayer, for we know that to be absent from this body is to be present with the Lord, so some weeping may endure for the night , but Gods joy will come in the morning. May your heart find comfort that only God is able to give.*

Bishop and Mrs. Clyde R. Nichols

Bishop Clyde R. Nichols - July 30, 2015 at 12:52 PM

ST

“ *Dr. Davis Family, What a wonderful life she lived.(A Life Well Lived) Be Blessed knowing all the lives that she has touched in her life time. Dr. Davis memories will forever be in your hearts. Heaven have gain a angel and her wings will fit her well.*



Shirley W. Thorn - July 29, 2015 at 11:21 AM

CL

“ *Cleasta Lewis lit a candle in memory of Dr. Joyce Marie Davis*



Cleasta Lewis - July 28, 2015 at 03:05 PM

L(

“ *Leonese and Prince Jr. (Holder) purchased the Your Light Shines for the family of Dr. Joyce Marie Davis.*



Leonese and Prince Jr. (Holder) - July 26, 2015 at 11:03 AM

RE

“ Dr. Davis consistently wore vibrant, “rainbow “like colors. I believe they were more a statement of favor than of fashion. Just as Joseph donned his coat of many colors showing his father’s favor, so did Dr. Davis displaying favor from her Heavenly Father. She touched and taught many lives here with a Well Done Spirit. She was, is and will be loved.

EPD & Clarence, I am at your disposal and praying God’s continuous Love, Peace, Hope & Joy for you.

Love Ronnie (VLE)

Ronnie Ellerbee - July 24, 2015 at 03:13 PM

JO

“ *I'll always remember her warm, beautiful, colorful spirit.*

Joyce - July 24, 2015 at 11:42 AM

LJ

“ *To the Family of Mrs. Joyce Marie Davis,*

Our Momma D, she was wonderful, patient, loving and very very encouraging to all her students, Momma D could see your GOD giving talents in each an every one of us.

The news of her passing struck very deep. But I knowing that she love Jesus, I know she went home to be with him.

Ecc 3:2 A time to be born , and a time to die ; a time to plant , and a time to pluck up that which is planted. We will miss her.

*The Milton Family
Mattie, Louise, Lia & Vivian
2821 Milwaukee Street
Denver, CO 80205*

Lia A. Milton Johnson - July 23, 2015 at 08:37 PM

MM

“ *To the Davis Family,
God put no more on us that we can bear, we loved Dr. Joyce but God loved her best. She is now in heaven directing the choir there. Keep you hand in God's hand and there is nothing he want see you through. May God's Blessing shine on the family.*

Margaret Louise Davis Moore & Family

Margaret Louise Davis Moore - July 23, 2015 at 10:51 AM

VW

“ *Vittoria Tori Whitsett lit a candle in memory of Dr. Joyce Marie Davis*



Vittoria Tori Whitsett - July 22, 2015 at 07:42 AM