



## Laura Ward Garlington

September 11, 1927 - February 3, 2025

Ms. Laura “Pie” Ward Garlington, 97, fell asleep in death, surrounded by loved ones, at home in Upper Marlboro, MD, on February 3, 2025. Laura was born on September 11, 1927, in Waterbury, CT, daughter of the late William and Annie “Toowie” (Harrell) Ward. She graduated from Wilby High School in 1945, and the Teachers College of Connecticut in New Britain in 1950. She went on to teach at Walsh and Bishop Elementary Schools, becoming one of the first African American teachers in the city. She, also, tutored countless children and adults. Throughout her life, she influenced numerous people in and around Waterbury. She was very active during the civil rights movement. She served in an official capacity for the NAACP and hosted Girl Scouts’ meetings in her home.

Laura is survived by sons, Larry Garlington, of Springfield, MA, Ernest Garlington, of Suffield, CT, daughter, Castella (Keith) Murphy, of Upper Marlboro, MD, two nephews, whom she loved as sons, John “Dougi” Ward of Minneapolis, MN, William “Buddy” Ward (deceased); grandchildren, Kia (Michael) Silva of Snellville, GA, Julian Garlington of Waterbury, CT, Dotteanna (Clayborne) Garlington Moore of San Diego, CA, and Derek Garlington of Los Angeles, CA and sister-in-law, Odene Ward of Kennesaw, GA. Laura was predeceased by her brothers, Clyde “Sonny” Ward, John “Spoonie” Ward, sister, Nora “Baby” Ward, daughter, Tawanda Garlington, and daughter-in-law, Sheila Garlington.

Laura will be dearly missed by several great grandchildren, nieces, nephews, cousins, friends, and former students.

Please visit Facebook for the full tribute to this wonderful trailblazer and caring woman. You will have an opportunity to post your comments there, as well as on this tribute page.

# Tribute Wall

SW

“ My deepest sympathies go out to you Kia and Julian with the loss of your grandmother. Sending prayers and hugs.”

*"A good teacher is like a candle – it consumes itself to light the way for others." – Mustafa Kemal Ataturk. May you find comfort in the memories of Mrs. Garlington and the lives she touched."*

*Sophie Walton*

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**Sophie Walton** - February 07, 2025 at 03:16 PM

DH

“ Where do I begin? So many memories...Pie, my cousin, was the "warrior princess" in our family. She was fierce in her beliefs for social justice and human rights. That runs in our family!! Growing up and spending so much time at my "Aunt Annie's" and "Uncle Williams" house, I learned from my talks and discussions with Pie to always " have pride", "stand for your principles", and "respect yourself"....LONG BEFORE IT BECAME A SONG.

*My strongest condolences to Larry, Ernest, and Stella and grandkids. You guys have done a fantastic job "shepherding" your MOM and ensuring that she was always LOVED. May Pie now rest in her well-deserved peace!!*

*Dave H and children*

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**dave holmes** - February 07, 2025 at 07:52 AM