



## Dr. Althea Anita Holmes Masterson

March 13, 1935 - January 3, 2025

Althea Anita Holmes Masterson was the only child born to the union of Chesterfield Holmes and Almenia Horry on March 13, 1935 in Charleston, South Carolina. Almenia Horry preceded her in death at her delivery. Althea was lovingly raised and cared for by her father's and mother's family. She was remarkably close to her maternal grandmother Hester Horry Gibbs, and her two uncles, Rev. George B. Horry, and Ernest J. Horry, who all preceded her in death. Althea would begin her walk and devotion to Jesus Christ at an early age guided by her beloved Christian family.

The remarkable South Carolina school system would be the place early in her life, that Althea demonstrated that she was an intelligent and bright student and advanced in her educational pursuits. In 1953, Althea graduated as the Valedictorian from the Avery Institute High School. Shortly after graduation she moved to New York City, where she was highly productive and culturally immersed in this exciting city. Within a couple of years, she returned to South Carolina to pursue her higher education.

In 1955, Althea began her education at Allen University and this year would prove to be her breakout year and the beginning of numerous collegiate achievements. She'd gain the honor of scholarship and was inducted into the Alpha Kappa Mu Honor Society. It was also during this time that she became a member of her beloved sorority, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., and remained an active member until her passing. In 1957, Althea was nominated and named Miss Allen University, this would be the first of many accolades

bestowed to her amazing talent and convivial spirit. In 1958, Althea graduated with a Bachelor of Education as well as made lifelong friends and personal connections.

New London Connecticut would be her first placement in her illustrious career of educating children, where she would remain for several years. In true Althea fashion, she would be assigned as educator to the children of the NASA Apollo Space Expedition team. Althea would find herself making her way north, and landing in her second hometown of Detroit, Michigan, where strong family and professional roots would be planted.

Althea would find her love in the heart of Marvin Masterson, Sr. Who as the story goes, “saw her” and went for what he knew would be his devoted wife, and he was correct! Marvin and Althea would remain married for 53 years until Marvin Sr’s passing in 2019. To this union three incredible sons were born, Marvin Holmes Masterson, Jr., who preceded her in death, Merton Horry Masterson, and Byron Ricardo Masterson. Merton expanded the family tree with a son, Levi Samuel Emmanuel Masterson in 1995. These honorable men would take care of and remained faithful to her care for the length of her life. Althea loved family and made it known in all her circles, that she was supportive, caring, and willing to be involved. Her beautiful face is in just about every picture scene with her family, students, friends, church, and community organizations.

Dr. Althea Masterson has been honored throughout the country in publications both academic and societal, as a supreme historian and educator, visionary leader and organizer, whose innovation helped to found alternative schools that transformed the lives of those who attended. She was recognized in Essence Magazine for her involvement at the Charles H. Wright African American Museum in Detroit Michigan. Her professionalism, eloquence and tact were the cornerstones of her character. She was an intricate part of the Vetal Elementary School as Assistant Principal until 1987. She held the Principalship at Stewart Elementary from 1987-2000. During these years she obtained her Master of Education, as well as her Doctor of Education, both

from the University of Michigan. It was here she earned the esteem to be forever called Dr. Althea Masterson.

Wherever she was, she engaged in the community. In her immediate neighborhood with the Rosedale Park Association. Serving as President and Chaplin, for the Detroit Association of the University of Michigan Women, an active member of Phi Delta Kappa, and National Coalition of 100 Black Women Inc. Her church communities were an intricate part of who she was and how she practiced her faith to God, whether it was signing with the Madrigals, or ringing the bells, or serving in any capacity she gave it her commitment of excellence. Her devotion to Berea Lutheran Church in Detroit and Outer Drive Faith Lutheran Church of Detroit had her unwavering support for over 50 years.

There was not anything that Althea Masterson could not do!!! She was a super talent, who graced the lives of all who knew her. Her sense of style, flair, decorating, and presentation were unmatched. If you were ever blessed by her engagement, you were honored by a loving, honest and authentic woman of faith and high standard. You could find her in the kitchen serving food that to this day make your mouth water. Hosting parties in her home, her incredible "Hoppin' John" New Years feasts are etched in the history and hearts of all who sat around her table. Her unique, distinctive, and authoritarian voice will resound in hearts and souls forever. No one could say it like her!

Dr. Althea Masterson we honor, celebrate, hope, and aspire to emulate the auspicious legacy of love, education, and family you have left us with in your 89 years. Althea leaves to honor her legacy her sons, Merton Masterson, Byron Masterson, and grandson Levi Masterson. Along with an incredible, loved, and cherished host of nieces, nephews, cousins, friends, loved ones and colleagues.

Everyone felt like Althea was their best friend, as Althea kept up with everybody and everyone was a part of her family.

# Cemetery Details

## Glen Eden Lutheran Memorial Park Cemetery

35667 W. 8 Mile Road  
Livonia, MI 48152

# Previous Events

## Visitation

Friday, Jan. **17**. 3:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

O. H. Pye, III Funeral Home  
17600 Plymouth Road  
Detroit, MI 48227  
(313) 838-9770  
info@pyefuneralhome.com

## Family Hour

Saturday, Jan. **18**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Outer Drive Faith Lutheran Church  
17500 James Couzens  
Detroit, MI 48235

## Celebration of Life

Saturday, Jan. **18**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Outer Drive Faith Lutheran Church  
17500 James Couzens  
Detroit, MI 48235



# Tribute Wall

CC

“ I am very sorry to hear of Dr.Mastersons passing. I began my teaching career at 24 years old as a building sub at Vetal in Detroit in 1980 and she was very kind and protective of me. A true professional . She never had a cross or negative comment and I had admiration of her. She will be missed tremendously.

C. Canty - May 14, 2025 at 08:57 PM

AH

“ I'm sorry to hear about Mrs. Masterson. My mom, Edith Inez Goswic, worked with her at Vetal Elementary for many years. They shared an amazing bond that spanned over 50 years. I met Mrs. Masterson in 1973 while I attended Vetal. She was an Assistant Principal then and later became the Principal. To this day, she has earned my love and respect. I was afraid she had passed when I didn't get my annual Christmas card. I looked forward to talking with her. Please accept my deepest condolences. She will truly be missed. 💔💔💔 May God continue to bless her. With love, Alice.

Alice Helms - March 27, 2025 at 11:16 PM

RM

“ I was sorry to hear about Althea's passing. I worked with her at Carlyle Stewart Elementary School. My daughter attended Stewart with Althea as her Principal. Althea was definitely a powerhouse in her field. A commanding but humble voice and a very helpful and caring person. She kept in touch with me for years after i moved on in my life and always asking about my daughter and grandkids. I miss our letter correspondence. The letters and cards i have from her are cherished memories now. Ramona McCants

Ramona McCants - March 19, 2025 at 10:57 AM

LE

“ Althea was a good friend. I shall always remember her with appreciation. Leola Garvander

Leola - February 20, 2025 at 04:30 PM

EF

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with your family. Continue to rely God and know that he hears your prayers, because he cares for you. Thinking of you all.

Evans family - February 06, 2025 at 11:26 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Dr. Althea Anita Holmes Masterson.



January 17, 2025 at 10:29 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Dr. Althea Anita Holmes Masterson.

January 17, 2025 at 10:29 AM

TI

“ The Honorable Colonel Dennis Reece, II lit a candle in memory of Dr. Althea Anita Holmes Masterson



The Honorable Colonel Dennis Reece, II - January 16, 2025 at 06:49 PM

TI

“ Deepest condolences to Dr. Masterson's family. Thanks to Dr. Masterson for all she did for me, my family (especially my late grandmother), and to my peers that attended Stewart. She will truly be missed.

The Honorable Colonel Dennis Reece, II - January 16, 2025 at 06:48 PM



“ Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dr. Althea Anita Holmes Masterson.



January 16, 2025 at 06:43 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Dr. Althea Anita Holmes Masterson.

January 16, 2025 at 06:43 PM

LL

“ Forever my principal.



Lorenzo Logan - January 15, 2025 at 04:18 PM

BK

“ *Bernice K. purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Dr. Althea Anita Holmes Masterson.*



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**Bernice K.** - January 15, 2025 at 09:50 AM

AT

“ *Anita Taylor purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Dr. Althea Anita Holmes Masterson.*



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**Anita Taylor** - January 13, 2025 at 11:27 PM

CW

“ *Althea was dedicated and excellent in many endeavors. She was a wise and wonderful woman. I will miss playing handbells in the Outer Drive Faith Ringers Bell Choir with her. May her family be comforted and may she rest in peace.*

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**Candace Walls** - January 13, 2025 at 03:08 PM

SL

“ *Soror Julia Longstreet lit a candle in memory of Dr. Althea Anita Holmes Masterson*



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**Soror Julia Longstreet** - January 12, 2025 at 03:27 PM

JD

“ Jeffrey Davis lit a candle in memory of Althea Holmes Masterson



Jeffrey Davis - January 06, 2025 at 02:28 PM

JD

“ Jeffrey Davis lit a candle in memory of Althea Holmes Masterson



Jeffrey Davis - January 06, 2025 at 02:28 PM

EF

“ What a wonderful and loving human being. Althea had such a magnificent voice and presence....we share March as our birthday month. She will be missed!!  
Edythe Hayden Friley

Edythe Hayden Friley - January 06, 2025 at 02:20 PM



“ Pandoretta Jackson lit a candle in memory of Dr. Althea Anita Holmes Masterson



Pandoretta Jackson - January 06, 2025 at 09:19 AM