



Mrs. Evelyn Elmira Lucas

July 22, 1929 - February 2, 2022

Celebrating the Life and Legacy of Evelyn Elmira Lucas

Evelyn Elmira (Daniel) Lucas, affectionately called Nana, was born in Elizabeth, New Jersey, on July 22, 1929. She was the third of the four Daniel sisters of the late Allen and Braddie Daniel. At 16-years-old, Evelyn married her high school sweetheart, the Honorable William Lucas. Evelyn and William began their life's journey together and would share 75 years of marital bliss.

Evelyn attended Morris High School in Bronx, New York, and was a strong student and popular cheerleader. Evelyn was forced to leave high school early to give birth to her first child. This experience served as a catalyst for Evelyn's future educational endeavors and later, as a tool of motivation for the academic success of her family.

Evelyn understood the power of education and raised her six children with the same mentality. She placed her own aspirations and career goals on hold and instead directed her energies towards her children's educational growth and upbringing. Evelyn's sacrifice undoubtedly shifted the trajectory of her children's and husband's professional pursuits. Her selfless act allowed them to thrive at the highest level of their chosen professions. This ultimately resulted in the academic and career achievements of her children: Dr. Stephanie Lucas-Oney, Dr. William Lucas Jr., Dr. Patricia Ann Lucas, Police

Sergeant Richard Lucas, Dr. Jo Ann Lucas, and John Mc Lucas.

When circumstances allowed, she finally was able to continue her own education. Evelyn was accepted to Wayne State University and at times, was learning alongside her children in the very same classes. Evelyn double majored in Psychology and English and graduated with a Bachelor's of Arts. She then attended Cooley Law School for two years but withdrew after the death of her youngest child, John.

Evelyn gathered her strength and continued her education by obtaining a Paralegal Degree from the American Institute for Paralegal Studies. She began her legal career as a researcher for the 36th District Court and would later serve as an arbitrator in family and custodial cases. Evelyn was recognized for her tenacity and propensity to develop briefs against major entities and for malpractice cases. Additionally, Evelyn was instrumental in the success of her husband's campaigns and his outstanding political career.

Evelyn's accomplishments extended to other areas. Evelyn was the founder and CEO of Lucas General Contractors LLC. She established the community initiative 9-1-1 Baby, a specialized program for pregnancy prevention and prenatal care. Evelyn launched Give Back, an advocacy and counseling program which supported families in need. Inspired by the impacts of her communal contributions and desire for knowledge, Evelyn returned to academia.

At the age of 80, Evelyn obtained two associate's degrees in Gerontology and Mental health from Wayne County Community College District in Detroit. As a Golden Key Scholar, Evelyn graduated Summa Cum Laude and was inducted into Phi Theta Kappa, an international academic honor society. Evelyn was a member of the Black Professional Women's Association (BPWA), Bonded

State Notary (BSN), Michigan Gerontology Association (MGA), and the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP). Evelyn was also a Lifetime Member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

Evelyn was an educator and lifelong learner. She taught courses as a substitute teacher and led classes at her local community center. Evelyn continued to attend seminars and training sessions to become a Specialist with the Medicare/Medicaid Assistance Program (MMAP), and was responsible for counseling seniors with their healthcare benefits and choices. Evelyn was an active member of Citizens for Better Care (CBC), advocating for the vulnerable by inspecting the living conditions of nursing facilities and foster care homes.

Evelyn's dedication to education and community advocacy was only outmatched by her character and God-given ability to connect with others. Evelyn was a generous, compassionate, and nurturing soul with a perceptive nature. Evelyn had a sixth sense of knowing what was needed at any given moment and used her gifts to offer comforting words and a stern voice of wisdom. Evelyn would often share her premonitions with others as a means to offer guidance, reassurance, and a sense of peace. Moreover, people were drawn to her. They felt safe confiding in Evelyn because she allowed them to be heard, validated, and supported.

Evelyn was a God-fearing woman who loved the Lord. As she reflected upon her life experiences, she identified five key elements to live by. Better known as Nana's Five Things, Evelyn preached the importance of God, Self, Family, Love and Discipline at every gathering and event. These five principles would serve to guide her family for generations.

Evelyn Elmira Lucas peacefully transitioned to be with the Lord on February 2, 2022, at 2:00pm, in the comfort of her home. Evelyn was surrounded by her husband and family. Evelyn is survived by her husband (the Honorable William Lucas), her five children (Dr. Stephanie Lucas-Oney, Dr. William Lucas Jr., Dr. Patricia Ann Lucas, Police Sergeant Richard Lucas, and Dr. Jo Ann Lucas), 16 grandchildren, and 12 great grandchildren.

In the words of Evelyn's favorite songs, 'She dreamed the Impossible Dream and She did it Her Way'.

Those we love don't go away,
They walk beside us everyday.
Unseen, unheard but always near,
Still loved, still missed and very dear.

Cemetery Details

Woodlawn Cemetery

19975 Woodward Ave.
Detroit, MI 48203

Tribute Wall



“ *Mrs. Evelyn Elmira Lucas*

January 21, 2023 at 09:34 PM



“ *Our heartfelt sympathy we send to our family for the loss of Aunt Evelyn. Reunions held in NYC allowed us to get to know each other better. She touched the lives of many persons and will always be sadly missed. May God continue (Ps.34:18) to give you the strength that you need with each new day. Our loved ones may leave the world but never our hearts.*

Ana & Dee Lucas - July 02, 2022 at 10:44 AM



“ *Brenda Averett lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Evelyn Elmira Lucas*



Brenda Averett - February 10, 2022 at 08:38 PM



“ *Our deepest condolences to The Lucas Family, Christina and Vinay Gowda*

Christina Brassett - February 10, 2022 at 06:09 PM

AG

“ *Ava Golson lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Evelyn Elmira Lucas*



Ava Golson - February 10, 2022 at 12:53 PM

JB

“ *Sincere condolences to the family of my Great Aunt Evelyn. Holding you all in my heart. May the memories you have be a blessing.*
Warmest regards,
Joy Booker



Joy Booker - February 10, 2022 at 12:43 PM

LF

“ *To the family of Evelyn Elmira Lucas,*

Hold on to the memories, and let them guide you during this time of sadness.

From:
Cousin Louise Franklin & Family
Glenarden, MD 20706-2882

Louise Franklin - February 10, 2022 at 10:42 AM

LW

“ Dear Lucas Family,

I am so sorry for your loss. I am so happy to have known your dear Evelyn. We met at St. Brigid's Catholic Church when all our children were young. It was such a delight to see the family at church where my young family also attended.

I have a fond memory of attending lunch at your home. I still see her pride and joy at a collection of drop-leaf tables. She was a lovely hostess and an admirable mother.

As Mr. William Lucas arose in politics, there were many of us who assisted in this goal.

As a mother of many children, Evelyn and I could commiserate on the joys and difficulties of motherhood. She was a cut above in many ways and I admired her greatly.

Her love of her children is evident in the grown children that represent her manners and ways and warm personality.

She will live on in each of you. God be with you all, now and forever.

Fondly,

*Lois Wheeler
(Mother of Welborne children)*

Lois T Wheeler - February 10, 2022 at 10:28 AM

CB

“ *Ma Lucas,*

*The Ninth Wonder of The World!!
You were Always so Amazing to me.
You are Missed by me.
I Love You!
Your daughter since I met you.*

Cynthia A. Bell

Cynthia A. Bell - February 09, 2022 at 06:15 PM

CB

“ *Cynthia A. Bell lit a candle in memory of Mrs.
Evelyn Elmira Lucas*



Cynthia A. Bell - February 09, 2022 at 06:08 PM

BA

“ *Sending our Deepest Sympathy to Rena and to the entire Lucas
family.
Keeping your family in our prayers. Brenda-Cole Averett & Thomas
Averett*

Brenda Averett - February 09, 2022 at 04:46 PM



“ 12 files added to the album Obituary



O.H. Pye III Funeral Home - February 09, 2022 at 02:41 PM



“ With Distinction was purchased for the family of Mrs. Evelyn Elmira Lucas.



February 09, 2022 at 01:54 PM

GF

“ To Dr. William Lucas an the entire family: I am sorry to hear about the lost of such a beloved woman. Dr. Lucas, I have only met your mom a few times and she was always smiling ad bragging on her wonderful children and their accomplishments. I am certain she is smiling from the heavens and so proud of each and everyone of you. May you find peace in knowing that she was well loved and remembered in a special way. My late brother in law Al Wallace always had wonderful words to speak about such an amazing woman.

May God keep you and your family in his perfect peace an you go through such a difficult time.

Hold on the the fond memories and hold to Gods unchanging hand. He will give you the strength to carry on.

My Deepest Sympathy!

Gwen Freeman

Gwen Freeman - February 09, 2022 at 10:52 AM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Mrs. Evelyn Elmira Lucas.*



February 08, 2022 at 04:35 PM

DS

“ *Dr. Purna and Nandan Shah. purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Mrs. Evelyn Elmira Lucas.*



Dr. Purna and Nandan Shah. - February 08, 2022 at 01:16 AM



“ *Crystal Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mrs. Evelyn Elmira Lucas.*



February 07, 2022 at 04:42 PM

JE

“ To Billy, Pat, Ricky, Jo Ann, Stephanie, and Mr. Lucas
Billy and I grew up together as good friends. Mrs Lucas always treated me as an important person and she always encouraged me to reach my full potential. I remember talking to her when she was planting bushes around her house on San Juan Drive (2 doors away from where I grew up). Some of those bushes are still there today (My mom currently lives 2 doors away from where the Lucas family previously lived). Most adults at that time did not talk to children, but Mrs. Lucas always had a smile, kind words, and encouragement for me.

Billy and I graduated from the same Medical School. My deepest thanks to Mrs. Lucas for her smile, advice, and encouragement during a time when most adults ignored children. I believe her encouragement played a role in helping me to reach my potential. The world is a better place because it was blessed with Mrs. Lucas.

My deepest condolences to the family.

Jerry McConnell

Jerry - February 07, 2022 at 03:14 PM

AN

“ On behalf of the entire Napoleon family we send our sincere condolences out to your family, and know that you are in our thoughts and prayers. Earth has no sorrow that heaven can't heal.

Anita Napoleon - February 07, 2022 at 02:40 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mrs. Evelyn Elmira Lucas.*



February 07, 2022 at 12:43 PM



“ *My Heart, Prayers and deepest Condolences go out to You and Your BEAUTIFUL family!!!*

As a child I remember your flawless style, gentle voice and nurturing kindness! As an adult I admired and looked up to you as role model and HERO!

You had such profound confidence, intelligence, insight, advice and unending Grace!!! I will forever cherish every moment I got to spend with you! Thank You for all of your BRILLIANT advice, warmth, grace, guidance and love you always gave to me unconditionally!

*You are loved beyond on measure!
You will be truly missed!*

*Sincerely,
Molly Tannian ❤️🙏*

Molly Tannian - February 06, 2022 at 09:03 AM



“ *May you Rest In Peace. Vanassa OwensWarren*



Vanassa OwensWarren - February 05, 2022 at 04:19 PM

CC

“ Cheryl Cannon lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Evelyn Elmira Lucas



Cheryl Cannon - February 05, 2022 at 02:38 PM



“ Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Mrs. Evelyn Elmira Lucas.



February 04, 2022 at 10:40 AM

AD

“ My sincerest thoughts and prayers are with our entire Lucas and Perry families during our time of bereavement!

AC Dumas - February 03, 2022 at 08:05 PM