



## Mary Platt Byuarm

August 17, 1926 - April 30, 2023

Mary Ruth Hunt Platt Byuarm was born to James Butler Hunt, Sr. and Helena Diggs Hunt on August 17, 1926 in Greenville, SC. The youngest of six children (Frederick, Florence, Almeda, Ellen, and James Butler, Jr.), she grew up in a family steeped in the Christian faith and she learned from them the virtues of hard work, integrity, self-determination, and service. She graduated from Sterling High School in 1944. Two years earlier she served as the school's Homecoming Queen. She attended South Carolina State College in Orangeburg, SC, where she majored in Business Administration and was inducted into the Alpha Xi Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated. She graduated with a B.S. degree on May 31, 1948, and the next day married "the love of [her] life", Ernest Platt, of Latta, SC. Ernest had enrolled at SC State after returning from service in WWII and he graduated the following year. By September of 1948 she had been hired as Secretary to the Registrar at Johnson C. Smith University and moved to Charlotte, NC. Her husband joined her the next year and began teaching in the Charlotte

City School System. Three years later their union was blessed with the birth of their only child, Lynne DaNean Platt. Sadly, Ernest died suddenly of a heart attack in 1963, leaving her to raise their child alone. Relying on the virtues she learned from her family she plowed on, working relentlessly to keep home and hearth together making sure that Lynne had all she needed to grow up well-nurtured and secure.

In 1976, after 13 years as a widow, Mary remarried. Samuel W. Byuarm, Chairman of the Sociology Department at JCSU, was a long-time friend and colleague. He became a devoted husband, loving stepfather and doting grandfather until his passing in 1987. Mary spent 40 years in the Registrar's Office of Johnson C. Smith University. During that time, she rose from Secretary to the Registrar, to Assistant to the Registrar, to Acting Registrar. In 1968 she was named Registrar, a position from which she retired in 1988. She served as Secretary to the Faculty for 15 years and was a member of the following committees: Executive Council, Educational Policies, Academic Council, Teacher Education, Staff Affairs, Management and Information Systems, and Commencement and Special Activities. She was active in the National Association of College Deans, Registrars and Admissions Officers and served on the Audit and Budget Committees.

An efficient and meticulous record keeper, she took pride in knowing that the quality of her work could withstand any scrutiny she might face. Recently, a former JCSU mathematics

and computer science

professor posted an entry on Facebook which praised her for the role she played in helping develop the university's first computer-based registration process.

She has been a member of Mt. Carmel Baptist Church since 1949 and as long as she was able, she was

actively involved in the life of the church. She was in regular attendance at Sunday School, taught the

Women's Class and served as supervisor to the Young Adult Women as well as a teenaged group. For

many years, she directed the Children's Easter program. She served as church clerk and as a member of

the Financial Committee. She was also a member of both the Trustee and Deaconess Boards. In 1979,

she was presented the "Woman of the Year Award" in recognition of her outstanding service to Mt. Carmel. The church also noted her many civic

activities. She served as a Girl Scout Troop leader, and a

volunteer for the Red Cross, March of Dimes, Presbyterian Hospital and a local nursing home.

In 1990 she agreed to live in Columbia, MD for a year to make it possible for her youngest grandchild to

attend half-day kindergarten. Each year her daughter, son-in-law and grandchildren begged her to stay

"just one more year" until she found herself spending 13 years there. During that time, she became

"Grandma B" to many of the children and parents in the neighborhood, a dependable chaperone at the

elementary school and a beloved attendee at St. John the Evangelist Baptist Church, which her son-in-

law pastored for several years.

She was known for her love of and affinity for children. To her many nieces and nephews, going to “Aunt Mary’s” or “Aunt May-Ruth’s” was always a treat. Many of them have often said that the times spent at her house represented some of the most joyous and fun-filled of their childhood.

On the evening of April 30, 2023, Mary Ruth Hunt Platt Byuarm, quietly slipped away from the bonds of this earthly plane to join her parents, all her siblings and a host of family and friends who had preceded her. She was surrounded by her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren and breathed her last breath in their embrace. To cherish her memory, she leaves behind her beloved daughter, Lynne Platt Newsome (Clarence), granddaughters Gina Newsome Duncan (Michael) and Brittany “Bree” Newsome Bass (Marcus), great-granddaughters Kendellyn M. Duncan and Ava K. Duncan, and great-grandson Marcus C.R. Bass, Jr. as well as many nieces, nephews, grand and great-grand nieces and nephews and one “adopted” granddaughter. We give thanks that God gave her to us in this life and we look forward to seeing her again in the next

# Cemetery Details

## York Memorial Park Cemetery

5150 S. Tyron Street  
Charlotte, NC

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAY 6. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

A.E. Grier & Sons Funeral and Cremation, LLC.  
2310 Statesville Avenue  
Charlotte, NC 28206  
(704) 377-4243  
info@aegriersonsfcc.com  
<https://www.aegriersonsfcc.com>

## Celebration of Life Service

MAY 6. 12:00 PM (ET)

A.E. Grier & Sons Funeral and Cremation, LLC.  
2310 Statesville Avenue  
Charlotte, NC 28206  
(704) 377-4243  
info@aegriersonsfcc.com  
<https://www.aegriersonsfcc.com>

# Tribute Wall

AP

“ *Alecia Pittman lit a candle in memory of Mary Byuarm*



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**Alecia Wakefield Pittman** - May 10, 2023 at 05:29 PM

TR

“ *Tina Robinson lit a candle in memory of Mary Byuarm*



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**Tina Robinson** - May 06, 2023 at 07:58 PM

GD

“ *Gloria Duncan lit a candle in memory of Mary Byuarm*



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**Gloria Duncan** - May 06, 2023 at 10:36 AM

GD

“ *Our most sincere Condolences in memory of your beloved grandmother and great grandmother  
..May she always rest in your heart. With all of our love to our daughter-law- Gina; our son, Michael our granddaughters KD Ava.  
Love always to GG*

*Gloria and Mike Duncan  
Bluffton SC*

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**Gloria Duncan** - May 06, 2023 at 10:33 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mary Platt Byuarm.*



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May 05, 2023 at 09:36 PM