



LOVETTA FARRINGTON PICKENS

On the morning of April 7, 2020, God chose a flower for His heavenly garden. Lovetta Farrington Pickens was born to William and Ruby Farrington on August 13, 1943. She was the eldest of four daughters and was honored to serve as a big sister to her siblings.

In 1976, she and her former husband became the proud parents of her only daughter, Chelsea. It was her role as a mother that motivated her everyday life and accomplishments. "Ches," as she affectionately called her, was her greatest joy.

Lovetta attended Orange County Public Schools and graduated from Jones High in 1961. She matriculated to Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and earned a liberal arts degree in Sociology. She also received her certification in education once she returned to Orlando, Florida.

Her career as an educator began in 1967 at Charles R. Drew High School (Winter Garden). She joined the district where she attended school herself and had the distinct pleasure of teaching at various grade levels in junior high schools, including Westridge Junior High and Memorial Junior High. She also served as a career counselor at Valencia Community College.

In her last years of teaching, Lovetta was most proud of the years that she spent teaching at Jones High School. Not only was it her alma mater, but it was also very special to her. She vigorously supported her students, sporting events, and school functions. As a former recipient of the "Teacher of the Year" award, she faithfully devoted herself to her students. Serving as an encourager and promoting higher education to students, she introduced many students to Historically Black Colleges through her work with Upward Bound. Lovetta was a proud Tiger and an amazing mentor! After 40 years in education, Lovetta retired from Orange County Public Schools.

A longtime member of Washington Shores Presbyterian Church, Lovetta loved to attend the church where she was baptized and the place that remained a staple for her family throughout her lifetime.

On September 23, 2013, Lovetta Pickens graduated from mother to grandmother, and her family was blessed with Braxton Lee Ward. Anyone who knew her was aware of her eagerness to become a "grandma." Braxton became her world! In his first year of life, she was proud to be able to relocate to Maryland to assist her daughter and son-in-law in caring for their new addition. No matter when you saw her, she was ready to share a story about her beloved grandson. A doting grandmother, she felt blessed to join the ranks of grandmotherhood.

Throughout her adult life, Lovetta dedicated herself to helping others. In her community, she held membership in the Orlando Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and the Orange County Classroom Teachers Association.

She was truly a jewel who loved to help others shine. She leaves to cherish her legacy:

Chelsea Pickens Ward (Carroll) of Upper Marlboro, Maryland; Grandson: Braxton Ward of Upper Marlboro, Maryland; Sisters: Jacqueline Ford, Fredricka Wilson (Curtis) both of Orlando, Valisa Farrington Lynch of Waldorf, Maryland; a host of nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, relatives, friends and former students.