

*Celebrating The Life Of*

*Dr. Becky J. Adams*

*November 4, 1941 - March 16, 2022*



*Visitation*

*Wednesday, March 23, 2022  
4pm-8pm*

*Cathedral of Joy Baptist Church  
20401 Western Ave.  
Olympia Fields, IL 60461*

*Memorial*

*Thursday, March 24, 2022  
11am-12:30pm*

*Christ Temple Baptist Church  
16200 South Wood  
Markham, IL 60426*



*The Love, Life and Legacy of Dr. Becky J. Adams  
November 4, 1941 - March 16, 2022*

## *The Love*

Becky Jane Haley was born to the union of Taylor and Lunnie Haley of Gordo, Alabama on November 4, 1941. Becky was the youngest of her siblings. Both of her parents and all her siblings preceded her in death: Carlos, Mary, Daisy, Milton, Earl, Verdeen, Amos, Theodis, William and Ruth.

Becky married John C. Adams and they had two children, Twylia Lynn and John Jr. She was a devoted wife and mother, and her family was the center of her life. Becky embraced life to the fullest. She did not meet a stranger and loved to entertain in her home. She had a flair for fashion and enjoyed shopping, in the store and online. Becky, her daughter, and nieces- Retha and Brenda- would spend hours going from mall-to-mall shopping and just enjoying being together. Becky was an avid reader, had a good sense of humor and enjoyed lively conversation with family and friends. She also loved to travel and had the opportunity to see many parts of the world including Alaska, Hawaii, Canada, The Bahamas, France, Spain, Italy, England, Greece and Israel. She was always humbled and grateful for the experiences, especially when she was able to travel with her children and grandchildren.

As the youngest of Taylor and Lunnie Haley's children, she spent many hours with her siblings at family dinners and parties. Becky and her siblings were very close and often came together to travel home to Gordo to visit their parents. No matter what the occasion they would gather and just have fun. Daddy's baby as she was called was instrumental in starting the Haley/Bradley traveling reunions. Becky, with the support of her family, organized the extended family trips to St. Louis, Alabama, Ohio, Detroit/Canada, Atlanta, Florida and South Carolina.

## *The Life*

Becky was educated in the Gordo Colored School system in Gordo, Alabama. She was gifted and her talents were noticed early by her parents, teachers and the people in the community. Becky's father, Taylor, thought she was smart but never thought his daughter would be able to go away to college. The high school principal helped Becky apply for scholarship to Wilberforce University. After graduating from Gordo Colored High School, she went to Wilberforce where she majored in English. During the summer, Becky landed a nanny position in New York. That was really an eye-opening experience as the family she worked for was very wealthy. After two years, she left Wilberforce and moved to Chicago Heights with her brother Milton and his family.

After some other jobs, including a job at Bloom High School as an Adult Educator, she enrolled at Governors State University and continued her studies. Becky earned a Bachelor's Degree in Education and after student teaching she started a career at Prairie Hills Elementary School District #144. After one year in the classroom, she set her sights on a position in the central office. She became the assistant to the superintendent and one of her many duties was to travel all over the United States attending workshops. This gave her many opportunities to meet educators from all over and make many connections and friends. From that position, she became a Home School Relations Coordinator and then the director of the program under Title 7. She also became a member of the National School Public Relations Association. After the Title 7 program ended, Becky went back into the classroom as a kindergarten teacher in one of the first all-day kindergarten classrooms in the district at the Primary Academic Center in Markham, IL. As a teacher, she was the editor of the PHESD monthly newsletter. She was also the President of the Teacher's Union and worked on many committees with the Illinois Education Association. She was also a contributor to a book written about the history of Hazel Crest where she shared information about the history of PHESD #144. During this time as a teacher, she went back to school and earned a Master's of Arts degree in Urban Teacher Education and an endorsement in Educational Administration. In 1990, she became the Assistant Principal at Highlands School and in 1993, she was assigned as Principal to the Primary Academic Center. She remained in that position until 2001.



## *The Life Continued...*

In 1999, she continued her studies at Loyola University in Chicago to earn a doctorate in education. In 2001, she became the principal of Markham Park School, and that summer she went to Rome, Italy to observe the educational system as part of her studies at Loyola. In December of 2001, she became the first in her immediate family to earn a doctorate degree. Becky's dissertation was on Looping and its effects on student achievement. Becky retired from PHESD #144 in June of 2002.

After retirement, she formed BJA Consulting Services and became an educational consultant for About Learning. Again, she was traveling around the country as a speaker and teacher. After a couple of years, she decided to work as an adjunct professor at Lewis University in Romeoville to be an instructor to students earning a master's degree in educational administration. She also worked at National Louis University as a student teacher advisor for school districts # 144, #149 and #160 and at Northeastern University Teacher Center as a Consultant. Becky also served as a Board member in PHESD #144.

Becky published in ERIC Search (Education Research Information Center) She also authored two books; *The Impact of Looping on Adult Involvement in School Programs* and last year *Making the Best of What You Have*.

## *Service to God and Her Community*

Becky accepted Christ at an early age. She, along with her family, were members of Rocky Ridge Church in Alabama. After relocating to Chicago Heights, she became a member of St. James C.M.E church. After her marriage, she moved to Harvey, IL. and became a member of J. Claude Allen C.M.E. Church in Dixmoor, IL. Becky later moved her membership to Christ Temple Baptist Church in Markham, IL., where she remained a faithful active member. She served as the Chairperson of the Board of Christian Education, member of the Missionary Society, Bereavement Committee, Library Committee, Trusted Servants, Scholarship Committee, Sister Fellowship, Director of Human Resources (instrumental in creating employee handbook) and a Sunday School Teacher Class #3. Becky helped wherever she was needed at Christ Temple.

Becky was also an active member in the South Suburban Action Conference (SSAC); Metropolitan Association of Congregations (MAC), the South Suburban Chapter of the NAACP and the Cook County Southland Juvenile Justice Council. She served as the Chairman of the Village of Hazel Crest Planning and Zoning commission. Some of her many honors included Women of Excellence Award- Omega Psi Phi and A Phenomenal Woman in Education Award-The Reaching Back Foundation.

God blessed Becky by allowing her to continue her formal education, have a career that impacted the lives of others and to give service to the families in the community where she lived for 43 years. She lived her life to be an example for her children, grandchildren and younger relatives and wanted them to see with God, faith, hard- work and dedication, anything can be achieved.

## *The Legacy*

Dr. Becky J. Adams transitioned from this life peacefully on March 16, 2022, at 2:00 p.m. at South Suburban Hospital in Hazel Crest, IL.

Her legacy lives on through her daughter, Twylia Lynn and her son in love, Frederick C. Bennett; son John C. Adams Jr. and her daughter in love, Ajana; six grandchildren, Lauren, Heather, Rachel, Samaiyah, Meyah and John III (Tre), a great -grandson Kaden, two sisters- in-laws, Regenia Haley of Georgia and Mary Jones of Michigan, and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and family friends.

*To God Be The Glory!*









## *The Wife of Noble Character*

A wife of noble character who can find? She is worth far more than rubies.

Her husband has full confidence in her and lacks nothing of value. She brings him good, not harm, all the days of her life. She selects wool and flax and works with eager hands. She is like the merchant ships, bringing her food from afar. She gets up while it is still night; she provides food for her family and portions for her female servants. She considers a field and buys it; out of her earnings she plants a vineyard. She sets about her work vigorously; her arms are strong for her tasks. She sees that her trading is profitable, and her lamp does not go out at night. In her hand she holds the distaff and grasps the spindle with her fingers. She opens her arms to the poor and extends her hands to the needy. When it snows, she has no fear for her household; for all of them are clothed in scarlet. She makes coverings for her bed; she is clothed in fine linen and purple. Her husband is respected at the city gate, where he takes his seat among the elders of the land. She makes linen garments and sells them, and supplies the merchants with sashes. She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come. She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue. She watches over the affairs of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness. Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her: "Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all." Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised. Honor her for all that her hands have done, and let her works bring her praise at the city gate.

*-Proverbs 31:10-31*

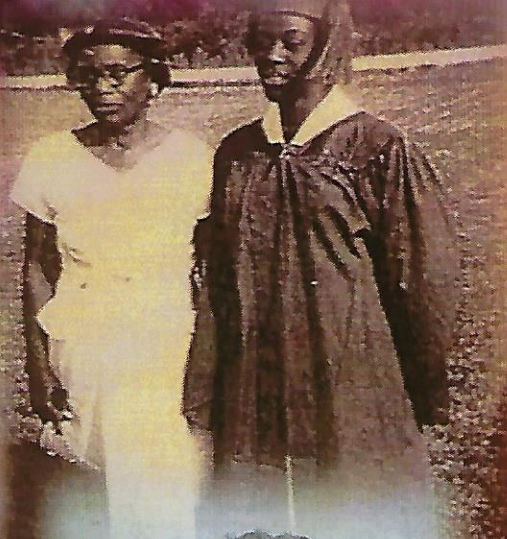




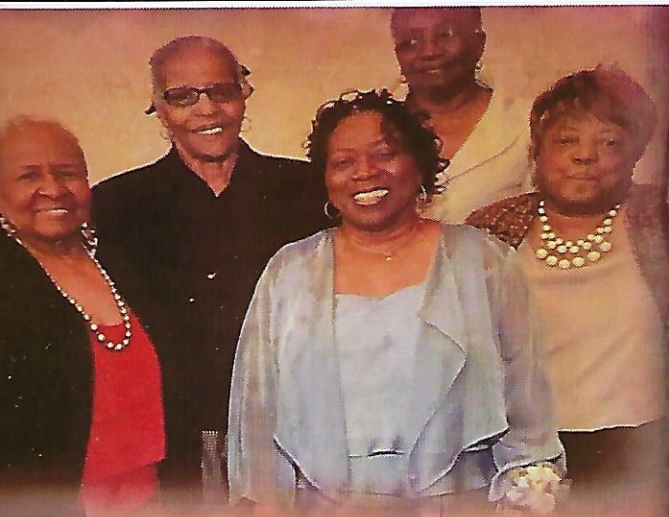
*The Love, Life and Legacy of Dr. Becky J. Adams*  
*November 4, 1941 - March 16, 2022*



SCHOOL DAYS 1957-58  
GORDO H. S.









## *Pallbearers*

John C. Adams III  
Rev. Keith J. Alexander  
Mario Brown Jr.

James Robinson  
Michael Shelton  
Carl Sylvester

## *Acknowledgements*

The family of Dr. Becky J. Adams would like to thank you for your patience and kindness as we navigate through this most difficult time and adhere to Covid-19 restrictions. We would like to express our heartfelt appreciation for your calls, cards and your prayers. The life of Dr. Becky Adams touched so many people in countless ways. We only ask that each of one of you touched by her life, share your blessings with someone else during this time. Please continue to keep us in your prayers. May God bless you richly for blessing us.

## *Special Thanks*

Special thanks to Retha Haley- her niece who cooked the homecooked meals she enjoyed so much, Rosebud Robinson-close friend and caregiver, Deacon Willie Jones and Odell and Michele Morris for coming to help take mom to treatments, Rose Ramey for praying with mom, Janice Bray, Charlotte Newsome, Bonnie Robinson and Frances Starks her longtime friends and support, Rev. Dale A. & Lady Val Lawson and the members of Christ Temple Baptist Church for continued prayers and support, Symone Smith R.N. who came to the house to care for Becky, The Medical Staff at Rush University Medical Center, The Medical Staff at South Suburban Hospital, the Nurses, Occupational Therapists and Physical Therapists at HRS and the Hospice Team from Advocate Health Care.

### *Arrangements Entrusted To:*

Gatling and Sons Funeral Services  
Olympia Fields, Illinois 60461

### *Programs Designed and Printed By:* *AJ Design & Studio*



(708) 674-7093  
AJDesignStudioLLC.com