

GRACE *joy*  
*gentleness* KINDNESS  
PATIENCE *faith*



*Yvonne B. Toney*

June 12, 1941 – October 20, 2025



CELEBRATING THE  
TRAILBLAZING LIFE  
OF

*Yvonne B. Toney*

Yvonne B. Toney, a beloved and pioneering educator, was born on June 12, 1941, in Philadelphia, PA. Yvonne was one of two children born to the late Jules Lambert and Pearl Woodley Lambert Whitelow. After her father died, she was raised by her mother and stepfather. She was known as Von or Vonnice by her close family and friends.

**A LIFE OF FIRSTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS**

Yvonne's journey began at the Historic James Adams School, continuing through her graduation from Scott High School in 1958. She furthered her education at Millersville University, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Early Childhood Education. Yvonne became a trailblazer as the first African American teacher in Lancaster Schools, starting her career in 1962, a time when diversity in education was scarce. Her dedication and passion for teaching were recognized statewide when she was awarded Pennsylvania State Teacher of the Year in 1976.

Yvonne's teaching career spanned several schools, including Rainbow, Westwood, and Craig Ridgeway Elementary Schools, where she inspired countless young minds for a 35-year career before retiring in 1997. Her mantra, "Learning can be fun," was evident in her classroom, where her students thrived under her innovative and caring guidance.





## A LIFE OF LOVE AND ADVENTURE

On October 10, 1964, Yvonne married the love of her life, Thomas Toney, and together they enjoyed a union that lasted 61 wonderful years. Their love story began with a kiss under the mistletoe at a Coatesville Christmas Cabaret, and the rest, as they say, is history.

Yvonne was not only a devoted wife but also an avid traveler, exploring the world with Thomas by her side. Her journeys took her to Australia, New Zealand, Alaska, Fiji, Japan, China, Jerusalem, Thailand, Egypt, the Berlin Wall, Hilton Head, Mexico, Cape Town, South Africa, Hawaii, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, France, and Switzerland, where she relished the thrill of new experiences and cultures.

## A LEGACY OF COMMUNITY AND JOY

Yvonne was a vibrant member of the Second Baptist Worship Center in Coatesville, PA, and an active participant in various organizations, including:

- The Continental Societies, Inc. Delaware Area Chapter
- The National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa, Inc. XI Chapter of West Chester
- The Pennsylvania State Education Board of Directors, Southeast Region
- The Coatesville Business & Professional Club
- The Pennsylvania State Education Association (PSEA)
- The Foxy after Fifty Red Hat Chapter

Her community involvement extended to her love of gardening, baking rum cakes and zucchini bread, and decorating for Christmas and Halloween, where her festive spirit brought joy to all who visited her home.

She found immense joy in entertaining family and friends, often filling her home with gospel and jazz music that reflected her lively and welcoming personality. An Eagles fan and field hockey enthusiast, Yvonne's enthusiasm for life was infectious.



### Yvonne Lambert Wed On Saturday

The wedding of Miss Yvonne Bernadette Lambert, daughter of Mrs. Pearl G. White, and Thomas T. Coatesville, to Thomas Toney, son of Mr. and Mrs. Willie Toney, 307 E. 10th Ave., Coatesville, was solemnized on Saturday at 4 p.m. in the Tabernacle Baptist Church, Coatesville, with the Rev. Charles H. Wills officiating.

The bride is a former faculty member of the High School, Lancaster. A graduate of Millersville State College, she is teaching in Coatesville Area District. The bridegroom is employed at Lohr's Steel Co. and graduated from Coatesville High School.

The bride was given in marriage by her stepfather, Andrew Wills. Her honor attendants were Miss Joan Schmitt, Lancaster, and Miss Doris Lerner, Philadelphia. The bridesmaids were Miss Diane Robinson and Miss Amelia Burpitt, both of Coatesville, and Miss Oscar Brown, Washington, D.C.

Joanna Toney, Coatesville, Philadelphia, and Terrence Hall, Philadelphia, were flower girl and ring bearer, respectively.

Marlin Toney served as best man for his brother. Others were the bride's brother Paul Lambert, Abingdon, Toney, McNewell, Jacobs, all sons of Coatesville, Mrs. Jean Eggensten was organist and Mrs. Curtis Edwards, singer.

The bride wore an emerald brocade gown, designed with a square neckline, sleeveless, and a-line skirt with waistline panel train, closed-length. Her station was attached to a cluster of roses from which she carried a cascade of white roses.



MRS. THOMAS TONEY  
Former Miss Lambert

Nail, Coatesville. After a wedding trip to New York City the couple will reside at Brookside Terrace, Coatesville.



## A LIFE WELL-LIVED

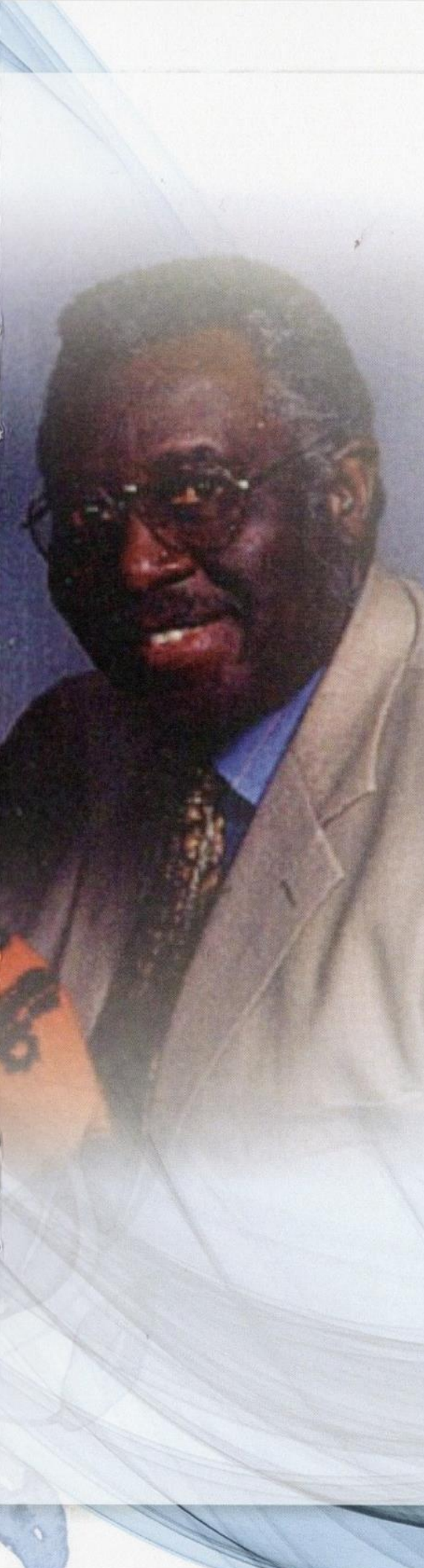
In remembering Yvonne B. Toney, we celebrate a life lived with passion, courage, and love. Her legacy as a trailblazer in education and a beacon of joy in her community will forever inspire those who knew and loved her. Her vibrant spirit will remain in our hearts, a testament to a life well-lived and a reminder that "getting old is not for sissies."

Yvonne passed away peacefully at the age of 84 on Monday, October 20, 2025. In addition to her mother, Pearl Whitelow, she was preceded in death by her brother, Paul Gregory Lambert, and step-father, Andrew E. Whitelow.

She leaves a treasure of precious memories to her husband of 61 years, Thomas Toney; god-children: Stacey Lawson, Todd Ward, Brian Ward, Beth Miller, William Miller, Jr., Mia Neurell and Ronald Hardy; sister-in-law, Gwendlyn Wallace-Lambert; nephew, Gregory Lambert; niece, Michelle Lambert; as well as Ellington Newton Davenport who was like a grandson; Shirley Ward, who she considered the sister she never had, and many cousins, other relatives and beloved friends.





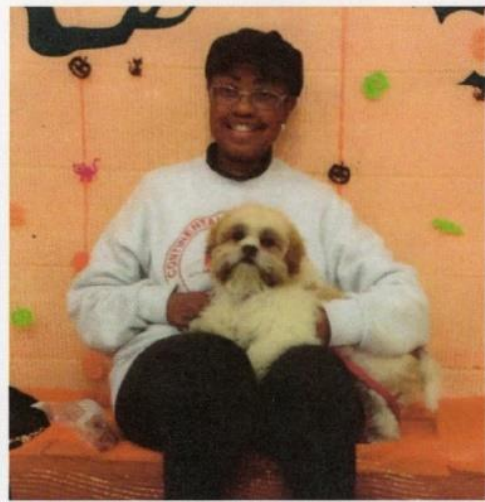


## Order of Service

<b>Processional</b> .....	Clergy & Family
<b>Music Prelude</b> .....	Sis. Roberta Scott
<b>Officiant</b> .....	Min. Vee Graham
<b>Opening Song</b> .....	"Pass Me Not Oh Gentle Savior"
<b>Scripture Readings</b>	
<i>Old Testament - Psalm 31:10-29</i> .....	Min. Shirley Trammel
<i>New Testament - Rev. 18:18-29</i> .....	Elder Peggy Harris
<b>Prayer of Comfort</b>	
<b>Reading of Cards &amp; Acknowledgements</b> .....	Sis. Pamela Depte
<b>Reflections</b> .....	Claudia Simmons Daphne Hadley
<b>The Obituary Presentation Video</b>	
<b>Reflections</b> .....	Barnia Young Diane Ginn
<b>Music Selection</b> .....	Rev. Bernadette Campbell
<b>Reflections</b> .....	Gwen Lambert Gregory Lambert
<b>Words of Comfort</b> .....	Selected Clergy
<b>Music Selection</b> .....	Rev. Bernadette Campbell
<b>Eulogy</b> .....	Rev. Dr. James L. Smith
<b>Remarks</b> .....	Ventnor T. Wright, Funeral Director
<b>Benediction</b>	
<b>Recessional</b> .....	Clergy & Family

*Yvonne donated her body to science to help aid in the education  
of future medical professionals.*





1976

# State Teacher of the Year Yvonne Toney *f*

Pennsylvania

is recognized for outstanding achievement in teaching and dedicated service to the youth and schools of the nation as a nominee for the National Teacher of the Year Award

*Don D. Soppetto*  
President, Encyclopaedia Britannica  
Educational Corporation



Ο ΕΘΝΙΚΟΣ ΔΙΔΑΚΤΕΑΣ ΤΟΥ ΕΤΟΥΣ

*Louise Hershey*  
Editor,  
Ladies' Home Journal

*Howard K. Ross*  
President  
Council of Chief State School Officers





## *Petals of Her Life*

As beautiful as a rose to see,  
Was her life she lived so gracefully.  
She made things precious by her touch,  
Her selfless love lives on in each of us.  
The petals of her life fell one by one,  
Each a gift of her heart  
till there were none.  
Yet her radiance blooms once again  
In fields of glory with no end.







*When a loved one passes, it is helpful to  
remember the four R's.*

Rest- They are at rest.

Reward- They have received their reward.

Reunion- They have been reunited with  
those who have gone before.

Remembrance- This is for us who loved  
them, to keep their memory alive.

### MEMORIAL SERVICE

Thursday, November 6, 2025  
11:00 AM

Second Baptist Worship Center  
857 Lumber Street  
Coatesville, Pennsylvania  
Rev. Dr. James L. Smith, Pastor

### A Note of Thanks

*Thank you with sincere gratitude for your care and concern  
shown during our time of bereavement. Thank you all for your  
support and love. May God bless you.*

*Sincerely, The Family*



**Wright**  
FUNERAL & CREMATION SERVICES, INC.

725 MERCHANT STREET  
COATESVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA  
610-384-0341 | [wrightfunerals@aol.com](mailto:wrightfunerals@aol.com)  
Ventnor T. Wright, Funeral Director, Supervisor