MY FINAL CHARGE: LET THE WORK CONTINUE

To my beloved family, friends, and all whose lives have crossed mine:

If my life has taught you anything, let it be this: Never allow your circumstances to limit your purpose, your fears to silence your voice, or your accomplishments to overshadow your responsibility to others. I have spent my years opening doors, challenging injustice, preserving our history, and reminding others that greatness is not measured by the titles we hold, but by the lives we touch.

To my children and grandchildren, you are my greatest treasures. Love one another, honor your heritage, pursue excellence, and never forget the sacrifices that made your opportunities possible. Carry our family's legacy with dignity, but more importantly, write your own chapters with courage and conviction.

To my community, the work must continue. Educate our children. Protect our history. Exercise your right to vote. Stand for justice, even when standing alone. And whenever God allows you to enter a room of influence, make certain you leave the door open for somebody else.

Do not remember me only through tears or the honors bestowed upon my name. Remember me through your service, your compassion, and your willingness to make a difference.

My earthly assignment is complete, but the mission remains. I have carried the torch as far as God intended. Now, I place it in your hands.

Stand tall. Speak truth. Love deeply. Serve faithfully. And never grow weary in doing what is right.

For the greatest tribute you can ever give me is not simply to remember the work I have done, but to continue the work I believed in.

The torch has been passed. Let the work continue.

With Everlasting Love,
Connie

THE FAMILY'S MESSAGE OF GRATITUDE

With hearts filled with profound gratitude, the family of Dr. Constantine Eugena Hicks-Evans extends our deepest appreciation for the overwhelming expressions of love, prayers, kindness, and compassion bestowed upon us during this sacred season of remembrance.

As we celebrate the extraordinary life and enduring legacy of our beloved mother, sister, and cherished family member, we are deeply comforted by the knowledge that her influence reached far beyond our family and touched countless lives. Your heartfelt tributes, gracious gestures, and comforting presence have reminded us of the immeasurable impact of a life devoted to excellence, justice, education, and service to humanity.

While we mourn her earthly departure, we rejoice in the remarkable legacy she leaves behind—a legacy of courage, conviction, love, and unwavering commitment to making the world better for generations to come.

May the Almighty, in His infinite grace, richly bless each of you for the love and kindness you have so generously extended to our family.

With Profound Gratitude and Enduring Love,
***The Family of** Dr. Constantine Eugena Hicks-Evans*

We would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude for the trust you have placed upon us during the Homegoing Service of your loved one. Our fervent hope is that all measures of assistance rendered to your family have been completed in detail. For all your confidence placed in our staff and me, we will be forever grateful.

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A CELEBRATION OF EXTRAORDINARY LIFE & ENDURING LEGACY

An Extraordinary Woman of Distinction, Purpose & Influence



DR.
Constantine
EUGENA
HICKS-EVANS
"Connie"

BORN INTO TIME
June 1, 1946

"His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant... enter thou into the joy of thy lord." Matthew 25:23 (KJV)

ENTERED ETERNITY
September 23, 2026

The Celebration of Her Remarkable Life
Saturday, October 17, 2026 | 11:00 AM

BETHEL AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
501 West Orange Avenue | Tallahassee, Florida 32310

The Reverend Michael B. Price, I
Pastor, Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church
Gracious Host & Officiant

The Right Reverend Adam J. Richardson, Jr.
115th Elected and Consecrated Bishop
Retired Senior Bishop
African Methodist Episcopal Church
Eulogist

J.P. Moore Mortuary & Cremation Services
Entrusted with the Sacred Arrangements

Dr. Constantine Eugena Hicks Evans
A LIFE OF EDUCATION, SERVICE, AND COURAGE

Dr. Constantine Eugena Hicks-Evans—affectionately known as *"Connie or Dr. C"*—lived a remarkable life devoted to education, civil rights, family, historic preservation, and community empowerment. A gifted educator, administrator, organizer, curator, preservationist, mentor, and advocate, she spent decades opening doors and creating opportunities for generations to come.

Born June 1, 1946, to the late Donnell Hicks, Sr. and Luna Peaks Hicks, *Connie* was reared in Durham, North Carolina. She graduated from Merrick-Moore High School, earned a bachelor's degree in Clothing and Textiles from North Carolina A&T State University, a master's degree in the same field from Syracuse University, and a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Home Economics Education from Florida State University in 1988.

A TRAILBLAZING CAREER

Connie began breaking barriers early, becoming the first African American female contract administrator at General Electric Corporation in Syracuse, New York. She also served as Secretary of the Urban League of Onondaga County and chaired Dr. Constance Timberlake's successful 1973 campaign to become the first Black woman elected to the Syracuse Board of Education.

After settling in Tallahassee, *Connie* built a distinguished career in education and public service. From 1985 to 2004, she served the Florida Department of Education as a Program Specialist and Program Director. She also served as Dean at Lively Technical College and in Leon County Schools Adult and Community Education. From 2008 until retiring in 2014, she worked as a Graduation Coach at James S. Rickards High School. Her advocacy at Florida State University also led to graduate students receiving compensation for assistant teaching responsibilities for the first time in the university's history.

A CHAMPION FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

Connie was a steadfast leader in the Tallahassee Branch NAACP, serving in numerous leadership positions. She founded the Black Achievers Awards Banquet and, in 2003, the Civil Rights Hall of Fame. She helped establish the Branch's Martin Luther King, Jr. commemorations, coordinating the annual breakfast, march, C.K. Steele activities, and "Dreamers and Doers" youth awards.

A trusted counselor and strategist, she organized voter-engagement initiatives, advocated for justice, and supported efforts that advanced Black representation and preserved historical truth. She stood with her husband, Dr. Charles L. Evans, in challenging local judicial election procedures—work that helped lead to Nikki Clark's appointment as the first Black judge of Florida's Second Judicial Circuit. *Connie* also became the first African American woman to seek the District 2 seat on the Leon County School Board, advancing to a runoff and finishing only 194 votes short.

PARTNERS IN SERVICE AND PRESERVATION

Connie shared a powerful legacy of service with her beloved husband, Dr. Charles L. Evans, Sr., a longtime president of the Tallahassee Branch NAACP. Together, they championed education, civil rights, civic engagement, and historic preservation. Among their most significant achievements was raising more than $385,000 to preserve, renovate, and relocate within the historic French town district, the African American owned Modern Cleaners Building, to become the current Tallahassee NAACP branch building emblazoned with murals of past presidents.

A Smithsonian-trained cultural curator, interior designer, and preservationist, *Connie* safeguarded African American history through collecting, interpretation, and advocacy. She loaned the Drs. Charles and Connie Evans Musical Jazz Collection for exhibition at Florida A&M University and curated the Presidential Portrait Gallery in the university's Grand Ballroom.

In recognition of their extraordinary impact, the City of Tallahassee unanimously designated Circle Drive from Myers Park Drive to South Magnolia Drive as the "Drs. Charles & *Connie Evans* Honorary Roadway" on May 13, 2026, honoring the couple as transformational community leaders.

Honors, Family, and Enduring Legacy

Connie was selected, along with Celli II, as Grand Marshal of the City of Tallahassee's 2024 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Parade and also served as Grand Marshal for the FAMU Marching "100" Band Camp. She was a proud Golden Soror of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, and exemplified its ideals of scholarship, sisterhood, and public service.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Dr. Charles L. Evans, Sr.; her parents; her brother, Donnell Hicks, Jr. (Jacquelyn) and beloved Celli I. She leaves to cherish her memory Cellie II, her four devoted children: Charles L. Evans, Jr. (Julie), of Newport News, Virginia; Carita L. Evans, of Tallahassee, Florida; Constance L. Evans (Billy Singletary), of Charlotte, North Carolina; and Cara L. Evans-Patterson (Bryan), of Charlotte, North Carolina; her brother, Dwight Hicks (JoAnn), of Syracuse, NY; her sisters, Vivian Hanson (John) and Carolyn Tyson, both of Erial, New Jersey; two sister-in laws: Delphine Evans Chapman and Delores Evans, both of Durham, NC; one brother-in-law: Ricky Evans of Durham, NC; sixteen grandchildren: Jasmine, Trevor, Cerita, Gennara, Aviana, Chelsey, Tyler, Tayler, Jaylen, Nathan, Kaylee, Renee, Alexander, Bryan, Charles III and Cara; six great grandchildren: Ricaryii, Camden, Milani, Reagan, Kayden and Sovereign; seventeen nephews, eleven nieces, four goddaughters: Yolanda Williams, Ediri Viegbesie, Shawn and Dr. Angela Tidwell; one godson: Delaitre Hollinger, and a host of other loving relatives, extended family of friends, colleagues, former students, and mentees. Family was at the heart of *Connies* life, and she cherished every opportunity for a good adventure, traveling the world with those she loved and creating treasured memories along the way.

Dr. Constantine Eugena Hicks-Evans lived with purpose. Her enduring legacy is reflected in the students she encouraged, the young people she mentored, the history she preserved, the institutions she strengthened, the voters she mobilized, and the countless people she inspired. She gave generously of her intellect, talents, influence, and time, leaving her family and community an enduring example of courage, service, and love.

PRECIOUS MEMORIES















THE DIVINE ORDER OF SERVICE

Honoring the Extraordinary Life and Enduring Legacy of
Dr. Constantine Eugena Hicks-Evans

An Elegant Tribute to a Life of Purpose, Distinction, and Service

The Prelude of Sacred Reflection ..... "Precious Lord, Take My Hand"

The Processional of Honor ..... "When We All Get to Heaven"

The Hymn of Praise and Thanksgiving ..... "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

The Invocation of Divine Presence ..... The Reverend Dr. Michael B. Price, I

The Sacred Scriptures

The Old Testament Reading	*The New Testament Reading*
Psalm 23	John 14:1–6
Brother Tayler Evans	Brother Tyler Evans

A Musical Offering of Faith ..... "His Eye Is on the Sparrow"

Tributes of Honor, Legacy & Remembrance
Celebrating a Life of Extraordinary Influence
Tributes are respectfully limited to two minutes per speaker.

Reflections on a Legacy of Excellence and Service
Drs. Melvin & Patricia Stith

The Honorable Jack L. McLean, Jr.

Minister Delaitre J. Hollinger

Sister Jacquelyn "Jackie" Henderson

A Musical Tribute of Assurance ..... Brother Jamarien "J.P." Moore
"My Soul's Been Anchored in the Lord"

A Reflection of Family Love and Remembrance ..... The Reverend John Hanson

A Tribute of Generational Love and Legacy
Honoring the Grandmother Whose Love and Influence Endure
Sister Jasmine Evans Sister Cara Patterson Brother Trevor Bethea

Resolutions, Expressions of Honor & Acknowledgments ..... The Honorable Anita Favors

A Musical Offering of Eternal Hope ..... Sister Kerri Lamar Anderson
"I Pray We'll Be Ready"

The Eulogy — A Celebration of Life and Eternal Promise
The Right Reverend Adam J. Richardson, Jr.
115th Elected and Consecrated Bishop
Senior Bishop, Retired
African Methodist Episcopal Church

The Triumphant Recessional ..... "Going Up Yonder"

"Her life was a testament to excellence, her service a gift to humanity, and her legacy an enduring inspiration to generations."