

## HONORARY PALLBEARERS

J.R.E. Lee FAMU Alumni Association Chapter

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

## ACTIVE PALLBEARERS

Octavius A. Holliday, Jr., Esq.  
Larry C. Dennard  
Darryl Parks, Esq.  
William Seymore

Craig L. Bryant  
Vernon Hampton  
Dr. Jose Vicente  
Antonio J. Johnson

## HONORARY FLORAL BEARERS

*Dr. Castell Vaughn Bryant's Caregivers*

Catherine Bowen  
Delores Council  
Shirley Moore

Tarsha Williams  
Brenda Cherry  
Marie Smith

Alifia Jackson  
Sandra Carter  
Petrice Anthrum

Sandra Harvey  
Martha Garvin  
Evelyn Humphries

## ACTIVE FLORAL BEARERS

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

## *The Family's Message of Gratitude*

The family of *Dr. Castell Bethune-Nathleen Vaughn Bryant* extends our deepest and most heartfelt appreciation to each of you for the overwhelming love, prayers, kindness, support, and countless expressions of sympathy shown during this season of bereavement. Your comforting words, calls, visits, floral tributes, acts of service, and continued prayers have strengthened our hearts and reminded us of the extraordinary impact that she made upon so many lives.

As we celebrate a life marked by grace, excellence, leadership, scholarship, and unwavering faith, we are comforted knowing that her legacy will forever live on through the countless lives she inspired, mentored, and uplifted throughout her remarkable journey.

The family wishes to extend special appreciation to all private and personal caregivers of Dr. Castell V. Bryant for the compassionate, dignified, and loving care rendered throughout her journey. Your kindness, patience, and dedication will never be forgotten.

We gratefully acknowledge:

Mr. Larry Dennard and Mr. Bruce Bailey Faithful Drivers and Trusted Friends to Dr. Castell V. Bryant

The Medical Staff of Mayo Hospital  
Jacksonville, Florida

Pinnacle Home Health Services  
Gainesville, Florida

Brooks Rehabilitation  
Live Oak and Jacksonville, Florida

A profound and heartfelt thank you is extended to the Florida A&M University Administration, Security Department, Food Services, IT Department, and every area of the FAMU family for your tremendous love, support, professionalism, and unwavering commitment shown during this time. The dignity, care, and honor extended beautifully reflected the same excellence Dr. Bryant devoted to the university she so dearly loved.

We also extend sincere gratitude to:

Mrs. Carmen Cummings  
Mrs. Carol Anderson  
Mr. Michael Glover

Mrs. Jacqueline Gaddis  
Mrs. Barbara Mitchell

Mr. George Barnes  
Mr. Darryl Bowens  
Mr. William Brown

Thank you for every act of kindness, every prayer whispered on our behalf, and every gesture of love shared with our family. Your support has brought comfort during one of life's most difficult seasons.

Though our hearts are heavy, we rejoice in knowing that Dr. Bryant's life was one of purpose, impact, faith, and extraordinary service. Her legacy will continue to inspire generations yet to come.

May God richly bless and keep each of you is our prayer.  
~ The Family

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

## *Professional Services Entrusted To*



J.P. MOORE MORTUARY & CREMATION SERVICES  
Jamarien "JP" Moore, MBA, CFSP, CFSGM, CCO, CCA  
President | Mortician

Madison Chapel  
379 West Base Street, Madison, Florida 32340  
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Tallahassee Chapel  
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# CELEBRATING THE *Life, Legacy & Extraordinary Leadership of*

## DR.

# *Castell* BETHUNE-NATHEEN VAUGHN BRYANT

*A Visionary Educator. Distinguished University President. Trailblazing Leader.  
Community Advocate. Woman of Grace and Excellence.*

## 1938



## 2026

Thursday, May 21, 2026 | 10:00 AM

FLORIDA A & M UNIVERSITY  
Lee Hall Auditorium  
Tallahassee, Florida

Dr. Vivian Hobbs | Charles "Chucky" Hobbs, Esq., Officiants  
Reverend Dr. Walter T. Richardson | Eulogist

"J.P. Moore Undertaking Company, Directing"



**Dr. William C. McCormick, Jr.**  
**President**  
**Florida Memorial University | Miami Gardens, Florida**

**Dr. Vincent G. June**  
**Chancellor**  
**South Louisiana Community College | Lafayette, Louisiana**

**Dr. Marva B. Johnson, J.D.**  
**President**  
**Florida A&M University | Tallahassee, Florida**

**Musical Tribute..... Reverend Dr. Peggy Britt**  
**Portsmouth, Virginia**

*Reflections of Grace, Friendship & Legacy*  
**Mrs. Carla Adams Lippett, President**  
**Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated**  
**Tallahassee Alumnae Chapter | Tallahassee, Florida**

**Ms. H. Leigh Toney & Ms. Michael Strong-Mason, Former Staff Members**  
**Miami-Dade College | Miami, Florida**

**Dr. Gladys Gary Vaughn, Sister-in-Law**  
**Cabin John, Maryland**

**Resolutions and Proclamations.....Dr. Valencia Matthews**  
**Dean, College of Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities**  
**Florida A&M University | Tallahassee, FL**

**Acknowledgements and Appreciation .....Mrs. Kimberlee Borland Gibbs, MBA**  
**Former Special Assistant to Dr. Castell V. Bryant**  
**god-daughter**

**A Daughter's Tribute ..... Dr. Kathi M. Vaughn-Malpress**  
**Jacksonville, FL**

**Eulogy ..... Reverend Dr. Walter T. Richardson**  
**Pastor Emeritus, Sweet Home Missionary Baptist Church | Miami, FL**

**Closing Prayer**

**Mortician's Brief..... Mr. Jamarien "J.P." Moore, MBA, LFD**

**Recessional..... Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring**  
**Johann Sebastian Bach**

# The Order of Service

Musical Prelude ..... *Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring*  
Johann Sebastian Bach

Processional..... Total Praise  
Richard Smallwood

Invocation..... Reverend Carlos Presley  
Pastor, First African Missionary Baptist Church | Green Cove Springs, FL

## The Holy Scriptures

Old Testament | Reverend Benjamin Carroll  
Pastor, Greater Antioch Missionary Baptist Church | West Palm Beach, FL  
New Testament - Reverend Cedric Singletary  
Pastor, Church Without Walls | Jacksonville, FL  
The Daily Word | Dr. Leenette Penington-Martin  
Rockledge, FL

Musical Tribute..... Reverend JT "Billy" Simon  
"Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross"

## Civic & Community Reflections

The Honorable Bill Proctor  
Leon County Commissioner  
Leon County, Florida

The Honorable Dianne Williams-Cox  
Mayor Pro Tem  
City of Tallahassee Tallahassee, Florida

The Honorable Al Lawson  
Former United States Representative  
Florida's 5th Congressional District

Musical Tribute..... Reverend Dr. Peggy Britt  
Portsmouth, Virginia

## Reflections of Scholarship, Leadership & Excellence

Ms. Madeline Pumariega  
President  
Miami-Dade College | Miami, Florida

Dr. Marlou C. Harrison  
Executive Vice President & Provost  
Miami-Dade College | Miami, Florida

Dr. Kathie Sigler  
Provost Emeritus, Miami-Dade College  
Campus President Emeritus, Medical Campus  
Miami-Dade College | Miami, Florida

# Dr. Castell Bethune-Watheen Vaughn Bryant

## MARCH 1938 - MAY 2026

"Whoever Lives and Believes in Me Shall Never Die"  
John 11:26

With hearts filled with gratitude to God for a life extraordinarily lived, we celebrate the remarkable legacy of *Dr. Castell Bethune-Watheen Vaughn Bryant* — pioneering educator, visionary leader, devoted woman of faith, loving mother and grandmother, and steadfast champion for educational excellence whose influence transformed countless lives throughout Florida and across this nation.

Born in Jasper, Florida, in March 1938, *Dr. Bryant* was the cherished firstborn of three children born to the late Joseph B. Vaughn, Sr. and the late Bessie Mae Holloway Vaughn. She was deeply cherished by her family and held the distinguished honor of being the first granddaughter and first great-granddaughter born into her paternal lineage. Raised in a home deeply rooted in Christian values, discipline, education, and service, young Castell developed an unwavering commitment to excellence from an early age.

Her destiny was evident even in her name. Affectionately named "*Bethune*" by a close friend of her grandmother, the legendary educator Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune, she was often called "My Little Teacher," a prophetic declaration that would shape the course of her life. *Dr. Bryant* faithfully attended Sunday School and later united with Mount Olive Missionary Baptist Church in Jasper, Florida, where she was baptized under the leadership of Reverend F.W. Williams.

A brilliant scholar and gifted musician, *Dr. Bryant* graduated as Valedictorian of J.R.E. Lee High School's Class of 1955. Her love for music and ministry allowed her to faithfully serve as pianist for numerous churches throughout Jasper, Jennings, Live Oak, Mayo, Lake City, and surrounding communities. Following graduation, she matriculated to the historic Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU), beginning a lifelong relationship with the institution she dearly loved and faithfully served for decades.

Though she temporarily stepped away from her collegiate studies to embrace the cherished role of motherhood with the birth of her beloved daughter, Dr. Kathi M. Vaughn-Malpress, her determination, resilience, and unwavering pursuit of excellence never diminished. While residing in Detroit, Michigan, she earned an Associate of Science degree in Secretarial Science from Lewis Business College before returning to Tallahassee to begin employment at Florida A&M University as a Clerk Typist in the Samuel H. Coleman Memorial Library. Through perseverance, sacrifice, and steadfast commitment, she utilized employee educational benefits to complete her Bachelor's degree in Library Science and later a Master's degree in Adult Education and Public Relations — all while faithfully serving the university full-time.

Her remarkable professionalism, intellect, and grace quickly elevated her into leadership roles within the university. *Dr. Bryant* later served in Florida A&M University's Office of Public Relations and eventually became Special Assistant to the university's ninth president, Dr. Benjamin L. Perry, Jr., whom she deeply revered as a trusted mentor, esteemed leader, and guiding influence throughout her professional journey. During this season, she traveled extensively on behalf of the university, helping strengthen the institution's visibility and prestige throughout the nation, especially during the famed Orange Blossom Classic festivities in Miami, Florida.

In 1975, *Dr. Bryant* relocated to South Florida, where she embraced her roles as a wife to the late Dr. Leonard Bryant, Jr. and loving mother to Craig Bryant. She remained deeply committed to faith, family, and community service, joining New Way Missionary Baptist Church under Rev. Billy Baskin and later Mt. Bethel Missionary Baptist Church in Daytona Beach under the pastorship of Rev. Dr. C. Dawson. Whether in Cabin John, MD, Cincinnati, OH, Miami, Jacksonville, Port Orange, or Jasper, FL, she found great joy in gathering family together, especially during Christmas and holiday celebrations shared with her late siblings Idee, Clemente, Leon, Jay, and Yvonne.

A lifelong advocate for education and empowerment, *Dr. Bryant* continued building an extraordinary professional legacy. After briefly teaching in the Dade County Public School System, she joined Miami-Dade Community College, where she established a stellar reputation as an educator and administrator. Committed to lifelong learning, she earned a Doctorate in Vocational and Adult Education from Nova Southeastern University and later pursued prestigious post-doctoral studies in Educational Administration and Management at Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Throughout her distinguished career, *Dr. Bryant* became widely respected as a visionary advocate for educational opportunity, equity, and advancement. Her leadership extended statewide and nationally through service on the Florida Board of Governors during the administration of Governor Jeb Bush, where she helped shape higher education policy throughout the State of Florida. She also faithfully served within the United States Department of Education during the administration of President William J. Clinton, contributing to national educational initiatives centered on student success and access.

*Dr. Bryant's* life was defined by servant leadership and community empowerment. She was a proud member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, Dade County Alumnae Chapter, and actively supported organizations including the YMCA, NAACP, United Negro College Fund, National Council of Negro Women, and the National Council on Black American Affairs. Passionate about mentoring and developing future leaders, she worked tirelessly to encourage African American youth through educational initiatives and public speaking opportunities such as the "Oratorical." Recognizing disparities within underserved communities, she joined fellow civic leaders under the leadership of Dr. Willard T. Fair to help finance and charter We Rise Academy in Liberty City, Miami, Florida — an institution that continues to impact lives today.

On January 3, 2005, *Dr. Castell Bethune-Natheen Vaughn Bryant* made history again when she became Interim President of Florida A&M University, becoming the first woman to lead the institution in its then 139-year history. During one of the university's most pivotal seasons, she led with unwavering integrity, grace, wisdom, courage, and faith. Guided by the Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi, *Dr. Bryant's* leadership reflected humility, strength, and a deep love for the institution she so faithfully served. Under her administration, Florida A&M University received the prestigious HBCU College of the Year Award — a testament to her visionary leadership and steadfast commitment to excellence.

Throughout her lifetime, *Dr. Bryant* received numerous honors and recognitions celebrating her extraordinary impact in education, leadership, and community service. Among them were the City of Miami Commission on the Status of Women's Unsung Heroes Award, the Miami Beach Chamber of Commerce Women of the Year Award, the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated Woman of the Year Award, the Florida Memorial College Board of Trustees Outstanding Service Award, the Miami Metro Magazine's "100 Women to Watch" Award, the National Association for Negro Business and Professional Women Award, the United Way Golden Rule Award for Volunteerism, and a Dade County Proclamation recognizing "*Dr. Castell Vaughn-Bryant Day*" in Miami, Florida.

Above every accomplishment and accolade, however, *Dr. Bryant* will forever be remembered for her integrity, elegance, humility, compassion, wisdom, and unwavering belief in the power of education to transform lives. She opened doors for generations, uplifted communities often overlooked, and inspired countless students, educators, leaders, and families through her example of grace and excellence.

*Dr. Castell Bethune-Natheen Vaughn Bryant* leaves to cherish her precious memory and carry forward her extraordinary legacy: her devoted children, a brother, in-laws, nieces, nephews, cousins, treasured friends, former colleagues, mentees, and countless individuals whose lives were forever impacted by her grace, wisdom, love, and unwavering spirit. Though her earthly presence will be deeply missed, the impact of her life, service, and compassion will continue to live on in the hearts of all who were blessed to know and love her.

Though she has entered eternal rest, the extraordinary legacy of *Dr. Castell Bethune-Natheen Vaughn Bryant* will continue to shine brightly for generations to come.

"Well done, thy good and faithful servant."  
Matthew 25:23

# Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi (PRAYER FOR PEACE)

*Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:*

*where there is hatred, let me sow love;*

*where there is injury, pardon;*

*where there is doubt, faith;*

*where there is despair, hope;*

*where there is darkness, light;*

*where there is sadness, joy.*

*O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek*

*to be consoled as to console,*

*to be understood as to understand,*

*to be loved as to love.*

*For it is in giving that we receive,*

*it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,*

*and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.*