



Francine Chakolis

December 22, 1945 - January 15, 2019

A warrior in the battle for equal education for all students, Francine passed away peacefully on January 15, 2019, at the age of 73. Francine came from a family of sharecroppers that suffered from discriminatory practices in Mississippi. Her background served as a catalyst that fueled her passion for education and social justice. At the age of 15, Francine dropped out of school to take care of two younger siblings and two nephews (James Greer and Vincent Liddell). After moving to Minneapolis in 1969, she got her GED and graduated from Augsburg College in three years, while raising four children. Francine received a master's degree from the University of Minnesota and served as President of Pillsbury United Neighborhood Services. She became a professor of social work at Augsburg College, where she taught for 28 years. While at Augsburg, she spearheaded a campaign that resulted in the first accredited Master of Social Work (MSW) in the United States offered in a weekend college format. While working as a professor, Francine worked tirelessly in the community, serving as the President of the Minnesota Alliance of Black School Educators and as the co-founder of Inter-Race. After retirement, she lent her expertise to numerous projects and remained dedicated to her community. Francine was a devoted wife to her husband of 46 years, Richard Chakolis Sr., and mother to her four children, Tonda, Ronda (Robert Swilling), Richard Jr. (Desma), and Fawnda (Glenn Burt). Her list of angels also included seven grandchildren: Brittain, Dejahne, Cameron, Jasmine, Dlayla, Janessa, and Richard (RJ); her great-grandkids, Nevaeh and Brittain Jr.; extended family members; and friends. She was preceded in death by her mother, Fannie; father, Edmund; sisters, Marie Dixon and Josephine Moore; and brother, Ed Byrd. Her surviving siblings are Irene Muldrow, Elizabeth Vaughn, Betty Liddell, and brother, Jimmie Byrd. A memorial service will be held January 26, 2019, at Speak the Word International Church, 515 Jersey Ave. S. Minneapolis (763-512-9096). Visitation is at 11:00 AM, and the service will start promptly at noon. In lieu of flowers, the family is requesting monetary memorials to the Francine Chakolis Scholarship. Donations can be mailed to 927 Vincent Avenue North, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55411. Washburn-McReavy.com Crystal Lake Chapel 612-521-3677

Cemetery

Events

Crystal Lake Cemetery
3816 Penn Avenue North
Minneapolis, MN, 55412

**JAN
26**

Visitation

11:00AM - 12:00PM

Speak the Word Church International
515 Jersey Avenue South, Golden Valley, MN, US,
55426

**JAN
26**

Church Service

12:00PM - 01:00PM

Speak the Word Church International
515 Jersey Avenue South, Golden Valley, MN, US,
55426

Comments



“ Dear family of Francine: My heart is filled with sadness for you and for all of us who knew her. She turned so many dreams into reality and helped so many students and others realize their possibilities. She was an inspiring colleague of mine at Augsburg for several decades, and we worked closely on many research projects, many of which focused on improving educational opportunities for African American students and faculty. Always smiling and positive, Francine was a bright light in my life. Love, Boyd Koehler, professor emeritus, Augsburg University

boyd koehler - January 20, 2019 at 12:50 PM



“ My heart is deeply saddened by the news that Dr. Francine Chakolis, my longtime friend and "Shero" passed away on Tuesday, January 15th. Francine always made time for me in sickness and in health. To know Francine was to love her, she acted justly, loved mercifully, walked humbly and gave very generously. Francine overcame many obstacles, paved her own path, and redefined her definition of success. Words cannot begin to describe the depth of the loss of my friend.

My thoughts are with her husband, Richard Chakolis, children, Tonda Chakolis, Ronda Marie Chakolis, Hap Chakolis and Fawnda Chakolis-Burt, and all her family and friends. May their hearts and souls find comfort in knowing that Francine is at peace.

Helen Williams - January 20, 2019 at 08:10 PM



“ SO VERY SORRY TO LEARN OF TH LOSS OF YOUR BELOVED FRANCINE. OUR PRAYERS AND CONDOLENCES ARE WITH ALL OF YOUR DURING YOUR TIME OF SORROW. PEACE AND LOVE TO ALL. THE DAVIS FAMILY OF NORTH MINNEAPOLIS

ANNETTE DAVIS - January 21, 2019 at 10:54 AM