



## Mrs. LaVerta L. Terry

November 10, 1926 - February 18, 2016

LaVerta Lorene Terry, 89, of Bloomington, passed away Thursday morning, February 18, 2016 at Hearthstone Health Campus. Born November 10, 1926 to Reverend William Pat Buckner and Mary E. Buckner of Brazil, Indiana.

She was a 1943 graduate of Greencastle High School. LaVerta sang all of her life. As a child, she and her sister Mary (Billy) sang in special church programs. Juanita, the third sister, was the talented reader in these programs. As a teenager, LaVerta won first place in Metropolitan Opera audition and received a scholarship to the IU School of Music. When she arrived at the assigned dormitory with luggage in hand, she was denied a room because of her race. Crushed, she returned home and later graduated from Jarvis Christian College in Texas after attending Tuskegee Institute.

After moving to Bloomington, marrying Henry David Terry and having three children: Henry David, Jr., Kay Ellen and Gwen Anne, LaVerta worked in factory jobs at Otis Elevator and RCA while getting her teaching degree. As the first black teacher in Monroe County, she became involved in local affairs when she was appointed to boards and commissions as a pioneer in a more diverse community. She worked diligently at these appointments and became very well respected.

For many years, LaVerta was very active in the choirs and Bible Studies at First United Methodist Church in Bloomington. LaVerta moved from

Elementary Education to a position at Indiana University as Assistant Dean and later Dean of the Groups Program. She traveled widely, meeting parents and prospective students and is fondly remembered by many whose lives she enriched. She received many awards including mention in the National Congressional Record.

LaVerta is survived by her sister, Juanita Mason, son David and his wife Marcia, three grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren and three great great-grandchildren. LaVerta was preceded in death by her husband, her parents, two daughters, one sister, and two brothers. She will be fondly missed by sister in-laws, Paula Bucker and Jane Buckner, many nieces and nephews and many close friends including her Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority sisters.

Family will receive friends from 3:00 - 8:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 25, 2016, at Allen Funeral Home and Crematory, 4155 S. Old State Road 37, Bloomington. A funeral service is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. Friday, February 26, 2016 at First United Methodist Church, 219 East 4th Street. Burial will follow at Valhalla Memory Gardens. Memorial contributions in LaVerta's memory may be made to the Indiana University Groups Program.

"I sought solace in the sun's bright warmth. And the coolness of the breeze. I sought comfort from my friends. And clung close to family. I sought peace of mind through prayer and waited for God's grace to come. I sought easing of my pain and looked for answers everywhere. Then, in the quiet of the night, as I lay writhing in my pain, a voice swelled from my soul to say 'I send thee in the sun and breeze, I comfort thee with love from friends, and say, in answer to your prayers, Peace comes when you but look within.'"

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB **25**. 3:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Allen Funeral Home and Crematory  
4155 S. Old State Road 37  
Bloomington, IN 47401  
(812) 824-5905  
<http://www.allencares.com>

# Tribute Wall

LL

“ It is with great sadness that I learned of the passing of my friend, benefactor and mentor, Mrs. Terry who impacted my life and career. I am but one of the several thousand students she and Dean Rozelle Boyd provided the opportunity to achieve a world class education at Indiana University which impacted not only my life but that of my children and future generations. I can only think of Mrs. Terry with love and heartfelt appreciation as she gave unselfishly to each one of her students the support, encouragement and for those who needed it- a firm but loving hand in realizing the potential she saw in us. Indeed she made us feel special and wanted, providing every opportunity to succeed at a place and time much different than today. I had the opportunity to witness her being honored by the Congress of the United States at her retirement by my then employer, U.S. Senator Richard G. Lugar who cited her service and accomplishments in the Congressional Record, the official proceedings of the congress. However, the testament to Mrs. Terry remains in the hearts, minds, actions and achievements of us her students who she influenced and encouraged. Her ready smile, hearty laugh and warm hugs also come to mind from this former inner city kid from Gary, Indiana who could not have done it without her. God bless and keep her near until we meet again. Louis Lopez, Groups '73

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**Louis Lopez** - March 08, 2016 at 12:12 PM

PG

“ Thanks to you David and the rest of the Terry family for allowing all of us to be apart of your extended family. Mrs. Laverta made everyone she ran across in life feel as if they were a close relative or friend. I was a Group 69 student who left school after my freshman year. We talked about my future before I left and she encouraged me to not give up on the goals I had set for my life. She assured me that the door to I.U. would not be closed in case I wanted to return to school at a later date. Long story short, I did return and ended up living and working in Bloomington and continuing to play a part in helping other young people to keep striving to be the best they can possibly be by pursuing higher education at I.U. Love you Laverta Terry and RIHP.

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**Pastor Donald Griffin** - February 26, 2016 at 12:14 PM

MM

“ Mrs. Terry was always a beautiful person;inside and out. It was a real pleasure knowing her all these years and she will be missed. My prayers are with the family during this tme of need. God Bless.  
Myla Ford Meadows

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**Myla Meadows** - February 25, 2016 at 08:45 AM

BS

“ Hello. I did not know Mrs. Terry at all. But I read in her obituary that she was the first black teacher in Monroe County. I was a teacher at MCCSC for 13 years and would like to acknowledge Mrs. Terry as a teacher in some way and learn more about her life. I offer my sympathy to you upon her passing but what a life she lead! And what an inspiration to all teachers! If you have any desire to contact me, my e-mail is [bschwegm60@gmail.com](mailto:bschwegm60@gmail.com). Thank you, and how proud you must be of her life!

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**Barbara J. Schwegman** - February 24, 2016 at 08:51 AM

 Gina  
Graham

“ *Mrs Laverta was a great inspiration in my life for the Short time I knew her. She motivated me and helped me direct my focus on things I am truly passionate about. Her words of wisdom and the stories she shared will be with me forever. I will truly miss her presence now, although we shall meet again. My thoughts and prayers go out to her family and close friends.*

*Regina, Hearthstone HC*

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**Gina Graham** - February 23, 2016 at 10:23 PM

ML

“ *Although it has been many, many years since I have seen Mrs. Terry, she was truly a kind, inspirational woman. I was a Groups student in the early 1990's. She made me feel so welcome and was available any time you needed her. I am sorry to hear of her passing. I never expected to go to College and am now finishing up my third degree! Your family is in my thoughts.*

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**Michele Ludy** - February 23, 2016 at 07:40 PM

CP

“ *LaVerta was living proof that angels do walk on earth. A woman who made a difference in so many lives, including mine, and who made each day brighter by her love and caring. Rest in peace, my dear friend. We will all miss you, but will carry your courage, your justice, your compassion, your charity, your humor, your humility, your intellect, your encouragement, with us wherever God leads us. The heavenly choirs will sound so much more beautiful now that you have joined their numbers. -- Chuck Prestinari, Wesley Choir, FUMC Bloomington*

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**Chuck Prestinari** - February 21, 2016 at 08:24 PM

DT

*“ I am so saddened by your passing but I know you aren't in any pain now. I will never forget all the encouraging words and stories that you have told me. You were my rock for several years and for that I am so thankful! RIP my adoptive Mom....Love you!*

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**Diana Taylor** - February 20, 2016 at 02:48 PM

IM

*David and family-please accept my heartfelt condolences for the loss of your Mother-she was a beautiful person that I had the pleasure of knowing during our high school years and most recently at Hearthstone-may she rest in peace-Ike Mefford*

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**Ike Mefford** - February 21, 2016 at 07:17 PM

DR

*Such a wonderful woman--- Met her at Park Doral & loved to listen to her wonderful stories.. Prayers to her family-- Diana Rollins*

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**Diana Rollins** - February 22, 2016 at 07:32 AM

BS

*LaVerta's gifts to the world were her life and energy, her deep friendship and compassion. She was as singular and unique as the sun or the moon, and will always be remembered warmly.*

*Bridgette Zahnle Savage*

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**Bridgette Zahnle Savage** - February 22, 2016 at 08:13 PM

DG

*I don't think I was informed of LaVerta Terry's passing until just now as I saw Beverly Calender-Anderson 's list of those to be remembered on All Saints Day, today.*

*What a joy always, it was to be in the presence of LaVerta Terry. She was one of the first persons, Thurman and I met when we arrived in Bloomington, July 1, 1975. For weeks we met at the newsstand on Kirkwood where we and LaVerta faithfully picked up our Sunday New York Times. It was almost a ritual when the Gordons, after attending Mass at Trinity Episcopal Church which was further down on Kirkwood, we would go to get our newspaper, and this gregarious, pleasant lady would undoubtedly appear there just as we did. So, as we got to know each other the ritual became just as much a "Get With LaVerta", as much as it was go get our New York Times.*

*Little did I ever predict how closely LaVerta Terry and I would work together within in six years when in 1981, I was appointed Dean of Students at Indiana University. But even before then because of LaVerta, I became the mentor to ten black and Latino students each year, who had been a part of the Groups Program, which was a partially funded by the Federal Government program designed to encourage and support those two formerly highly under-represented minority groups of students from the state of Indiana. Mrs Terry was first, the Assistant Director of the Program and later the Director of a more expanded version of the program which included underrepresented whites, Asians and others from the state.*

*I never knew a single employee of Indiana, and that includes, faculty, staff, and administrators, who more thoroughly, eagerly, and faithfully devoted themselves to their work; not one.*

*I know personally of scores of students that would not have graced our campus and many for whom she almost singled handily removed obstacles to their success. And she certainly assisted me, almost singled handedly removed obstacles to my success in all I tried to do in serving the Bloomington Campus of Indiana University as it's Vice Chancellor And/Or Dean of Students for ten years 1981-1991.*

*I immediately upon reading in Beverly's post that LaVerta Terry had passed, I wanted to in some small way, with these few words, pay tribute to this Great Lady; most certainly great in the life of Indiana University and certainly in the life of Michael V.W. Gordon .*

*Amen!*

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**Dr. Michael V. W. Gordon** - November 01, 2016 at 06:02 PM