



VALERIE FRANCES CECELIA FLOYD PROCTOR  
**A WOMAN OF** Excellence  
SUNRISE: December 27, 1932  
SUNSET: January 28, 2025

*A woman of excellence, who can find? Proverbs 31:10*

Once upon a time, a little girl was born. Her parents, Wallace Walker and Dorcelle Floyd (nee Wingfield) named her Valerie Frances Floyd, and they would christen her with the name "Cecelia." The year was 1932—the midst of the Great Depression. In 1953, the name "Proctor" would be added when she married the love of her life.

She had an older brother, Wallace, and older sister, Doris and they loved each other with their whole hearts. They played together and all three slept in the same bed on Pennsylvania Street, where there lived a diverse mix of ethnicities and cultures. Valerie was the "baby" for 18 years, at which time younger brother Paul would be born.

Valerie came to faith in Jesus Christ at an early age and was christened in the Catholic Church. She attended St. Ives Elementary and Jackson Junior High Schools. A self-described "tomboy," she won the school decathlon and held that record for at least eighteen years.

Valerie attended Southeastern High School and on graduation in 1950, attended Wayne State University, where she met and formed lifetime friendships and lasting memories. She took the bus from the far east side of Detroit to Wayne State's campus, and returned home late at night where mother Dorcelle had a hot dinner waiting. After eating, she would say, "This is the best dinner I ever ate!" That phrase would become her calling card, and a topic of laughter with all the family members as she pronounced that at nearly every family meal throughout her life. An avid reader and thinker, she excelled at her college studies, graduating with a Bachelor's in Library Science and a Master's Degree in Guidance and Counseling.

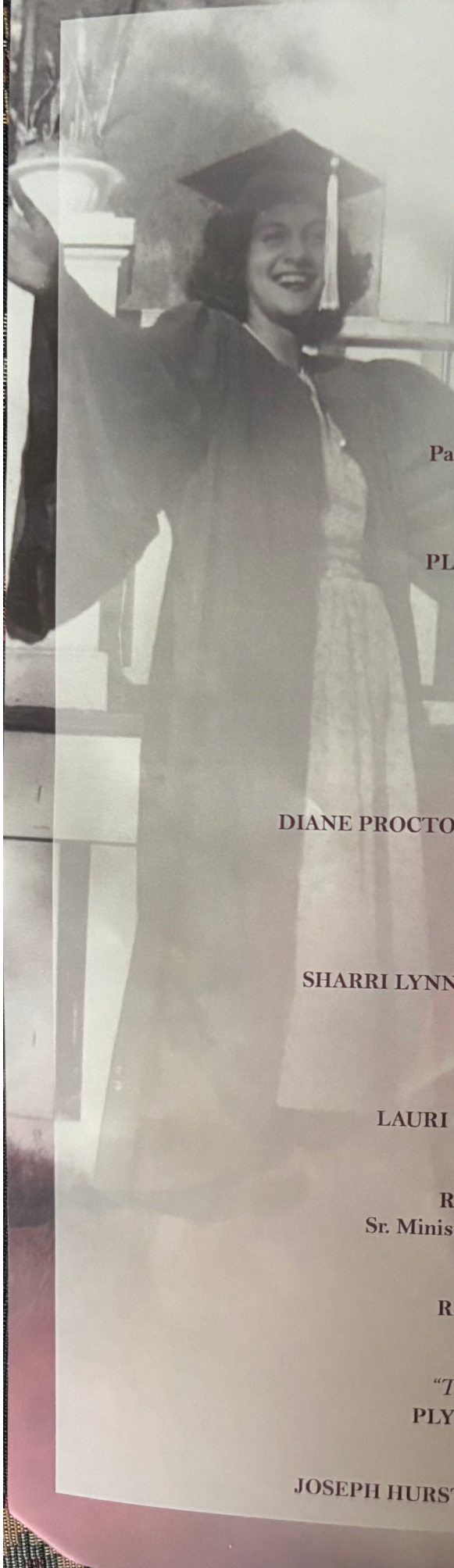
Valerie pledged her beloved "Divine 9" Sorority, Delta Sigma Theta as a freshman and served as Third Vice President.

### **MARRIAGE & CHILDREN**

In 1951, she would meet the man with whom she would spend the next 47 years: Louis Anderson Proctor. They married on November 7, 1953, settled into a busy routine that included work, school, sports and socializing. They would eventually welcome two daughters, Diane Pearcelle and Rosemarie Doris. Valerie let her daughters know: 'In my life, God comes first, your daddy comes second and you guys are [a close] third. In life, you have to set and know your priorities.' Louis and Valerie had a love story for the ages. In their 47 years of marriage, they rarely spent one night apart and they were consistent in finding ways to be good to each other. Louis passed in 2000, and Valerie grieved, but remained determined to continue life. "Your father died," she would say much later to Diane, "but I didn't die. I want to live!"

### **CAREER & COMMUNITY SERVICE**

Valerie had a storied career, beginning as a teacher at Highland Park Public Schools, and was soon hired into Detroit Public Schools as a librarian at Nichols Elementary School. In 1964, Valerie became one of the first group of African Americans to be promoted to the position of school counselor, assigned to Barbour Junior High School. In 1968, Valerie received another promotion, moving from Junior High School to Mumford High School as a Counselor. She regularly handled, as did her colleagues, caseloads of up to 300+ students. Eventually, she would be promoted to Counseling Department Head, where she served, led and mentored teachers, counselors, administrators and students alike. She was instrumental in starting the Technical and Business (TAB) Club, exposing students to STEM fields before the acronym became popular. She retired in 2000, and worked as an Adult Education Supervisor for an additional two years. She was passionate about her work and assertive about making sure that "her" students—whether in her caseload or not—had every resource and every opportunity to succeed; hounding them about applying to college and completing scholarship applications for them to sign and send. She took an approach that blended tough love with humor and a touch of compassion. When Valerie attended Mumford High School's Class of 1972 50-Year Reunion, she was a "rock star," with students and former staff alike waiting in line to take pictures with her and talking, sometimes with tears, about how she impacted their lives.



# Programme

## PROCESSIONAL

### HYMN

*"Faith of Our Mothers"*

### SCRIPTURE

*1 Corinthians 13*

RENEE BIGGS

### PRAYER

REV. DR. GEORGIA A. HILL  
Pastor, Life Church Riverside Detroit

### MUSICAL SELECTION

*"Guide My Feet"*

PLYMOUTH RENAISSANCE CHOIR  
DAMON DEBOSE, DIRECTOR

### REMARKS

MAUREEN STAPLETON

ELLEN HILL

LUTRICIA VALENTINE

BURNS ROLLAND, JR.

DIANE PROCTOR REEDER & ROSEMARIE PROCTOR NANCE

### OBITUARY

*(read in silence)*

### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

SHARRI LYNN PHILLIPS & KRISTIN DORCELLE WHITE

### MUSICAL SELECTION

*"Don't Cry"*

### WATER

LAURI G. KISNER, DIRECTOR / REMARKS

### EULOGY

REV. DR. NICHOLAS HOOD III  
Sr. Minister, Plymouth United Church of Christ

### BENEDICTION

REV. DR. NICHOLAS HOOD III

### RECESSIONAL

*"The Lord Bless You and Keep You"*  
PLYMOUTH RENAISSANCE CHOIR

### MUSICIANS

JOSEPH HURST SR., PIANO • JASON JOHNSON, DRUMS

# Val: ISMS

val·isms val·lizəms  
noun

:the wisdom of our mother, Valerie Frances Cecelia Floyd Proctor

## On Love & Marriage

- Love never divides... it always multiplies.
- Your father was so wonderful! If you find a man half as good as him, you'll be doing alright.
- When you pick a husband, think about whether he'll be able to make it for the long haul.
- You can fall in love with a gorilla if you spend enough time with him.

## On Children

- It's all about the kids...
- I always took the baddest kid in the group, and made them my best friend.
- I'll NEVER buy my kids a car; that's the WORST thing you can do to a child.
- I've never met an ugly child.
- If my kids don't turn out, I'll quit my job; how can I counsel other people's children if I can't raise my own?

## On Life

- You can choose to be sad, or you can choose to be happy. I choose to be happy.
- You can always find the good in people.
- Without the love of books, the richest man is poor.
- You can travel anywhere if you read!
- You gotta laugh!

## On Money

- Try to save half your salary.
- I'm rich. You know why? I don't want anything!

## On Hospitality

- I was just thinking about you!
- I'd be happy to!
- Welcome! Please, you must have something to eat.

## On Ethics

- If you don't start nothin', it won't be nothin'.
- Don't do anything illegal, immoral or fattening!



## And Our Favorite:

*"All you have to do is two things: Love God and keep His commandments. Everything else will fall into place."*

loving orbit their spouses and significant others as well. She fanned that love out to all in the second and third generations—great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews and cousins near and far.

### TRAVEL

Valerie and Louis traveled everywhere together, by themselves and with their children and grandchildren. Every summer would find them going on long driving trips to places like New York, and one very special cross-country trip to California to see Louis's cousins Dorothy and Chapman Anderson, their daughter Peggi and her daughter Jill, bringing Jill back to Detroit. That trip included visits to the Wisconsin Dells, the Grand Canyon, Yellowstone Park, Mount Rushmore, the Great Salt Lake and the Four Corners where four states meet at one point. Together, they enjoyed trips with dear friends throughout their married life.

### WALKING INTO LIFE

Valerie moved to Brookdale Senior Living in 2022, an independent living facility where she received assistance for all daily activities. She met each day with an unusual measure of enthusiasm and zest for life, with the help of dear friends who also lived in the facility. She quickly endeared herself to her caregivers, who called her Mom and treated her as such

On Tuesday, January 28, 2024, after a brief time in hospice with Caretenders who were so very diligent in making her last days possible, Valerie Frances Cecelia Floyd Proctor passed from death into life, peacefully in her sleep. We like to think that she took her place at the heavenly banquet table. Perhaps she was greeted by Louis and the other relatives. And just maybe, after she feasted on food for her heavenly body, she proclaimed, this time with full confidence, "This is the best dinner I ever ate!"

Valerie was preceded in death by husband Louis Anderson Proctor; mother Dorcelle Wingfield Floyd; father Wallace Floyd; brother Wallace Floyd; sister-in-law Wilma Floyd; sister Doris Jean Rolland; brother-in-law Burns Lovell Rolland, Sr.; brother Paul Kevin Floyd; mother-in-law Pearl Proctor; sisters-in-law Laurie Eloise Proctor, Mabel Gwendolyn Glenn (Francis - dec.), and Sadie Ruth Sturdivant; brother-in-law Arthur Sturdivant; and niece Lynne Newberry Adams (John-dec.). She leaves to mourn and celebrate her life daughter Diane Pearcelle Reeder (Terry-dec.); daughter Rosemarie Doris Nance (Erik); grandson David Justin Reeder; granddaughter Alexandra Dianne Lacey (Jason); great-granddaughters Gabrielle Asachi Reeder (mother Angela Anderson and bonus great-granddaughter Riley), Kennedy Rose Lacey, London Lanise Lacey, and Camellia Noelle Reeder (mother Jasmyne Alford); nieces Sharri Lynn Phillips (Stephen), and Kristin White (Kerry - dec.); nephews Burns Lovell Rolland, Jr., Marc Wallace Floyd, and Blair Louis Sturdivant; grand-nieces Lauri Gwendolyn Kisner (Ronald) and Ashley Yoshizaki (Coh); grand-nephew Douglas White; great-grand nieces Morgan Lynne Kisner and Misaki Yoshizaki; great-grand nephew Scott Wesley Kisner; the newest addition, great-great-grand niece Ava Lynne Kisner (mother Aleya Sumler); and cousins and extended family members too numerous to name.

## EARLY LIFE & MARRIAGE

