



Saphronia A. Drake

September 24, 1959 - January 30, 2021

The remarkable Mrs. Drake was a light unto many people. She left an unforgettable impression of love, understanding and kindness to all that she met. She enjoyed mentoring and helping those in need of guidance and her wisdom. All along the way she praised the goodness of God's grace and mercy for which she knew all things were possible.

On September 24, 1959, Saphronia Annette (Scott) Drake was born in Freedman's Hospital, now Howard University Hospital, to the God-fearing Thomas Scott and the spirited Annabelle Scott. She was the second born of three children and was raised with her siblings Janice (Scott) Ataiyero and Troy Scott (deceased) on 59th Street NW, Washington, DC. As a child growing up, she was not fond of many outdoor activities and had skin allergies to dust and dirt. This led her to take up hobbies that she could do indoors. Of those hobbies she excelled at cooking, baking and sewing to name a few. The word of God was also instilled in her from an early age; she continued to mature in her faith as she developed her walk with God throughout her life.

She attended H.D. Woodson High School where, at the age of 16, she met a young fellow in her math class who gained her attention by the name of Paul Drake. They created a bond that led them to become high school sweethearts. On March 10, 1979, they committed their lives to one another with a simple and elegant wedding ceremony. They went on to grow their

family. The following year on June 18th, they were blessed with a son Winston Drake. Seven years later on the 18th of April, the couple would have a daughter Jessica (Drake) Edwards. Saphronia always wanted a large family with many children but she physically was not capable due to the health risks she incurred from the past pregnancies. However, she would go on to adopt many “children” that she would mother to in her lifetime.

Saphronia was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, aunt and sister. Family meant the world to her. She instilled the wisdom of life, the power of having faith in God and strength in having unshakable family ties to all her loved ones. Planning family events for birthdays, holidays and other commemorative events was a joy for her. Christmas, her absolute favorite holiday, was always a gathering the family looked forward to. She filled every space of the house inside and out with holiday décor. It did not matter if there was two or twenty, she prepared an amazing spread of food and baked goods all on her own for everyone to enjoy.

In her professional journey, she obtained experience in various careers. She worked in fields spanning from federal government agencies such as the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to teaching a kindergarten class of four-year-old children at a private Christian academy. She even ventured out to successfully sell Mary Kay cosmetics for supplemental income while she stayed home to care for her young children. While she was talented in many areas, nothing would compare to the work she performed as the Senior Administrative Assistant in the Political Science Department of Howard University.

Her career at Howard University began when she took a temporary administrative assistant position in the Political Science Department. She had no inkling that she would make such a good impression on the Department Chair, faculty and staff that they would extend the role to her as a permanent

position. She accepted to fulfill the role and the rest is history! In her twenty plus years served in the Political Science Department she became a pinnacle of knowledge and service setting the bar of excellence high for all those she encountered at Howard University.

The most notable acts of service she displayed was the continuous helping hand that she extended to her colleagues and to the extensive list of college students who found themselves at her office door. She developed a reputation as being the mother of the Political Science Department. She never turned anyone in need away. If there was someone who could find the solution to the problem, it was Mrs. Drake. Whether it was a need for food, shelter, clothing for an interview or a correction to a class, she got the job done in effortless fashion. She had an enormous heart and spread love wherever she went to all that needed it.

Saphronia A. Drake is survived not only by her husband Paul and children Winston and Jessica but also by her grandchildren Donte Drake, Mason Edwards and the soon to arrive Carter Edwards. She left a massive impression on the world. She was an angel to many here on earth and now has been brought home to her heavenly father to rest after an ultimate job well-done. The best way to honor her memory is to give unconditionally the way she gave to us all. She will be greatly missed but through the legacy she has created, her spirit will live on eternally in all of our hearts.

Acknowledgments from the Family:

We would like to express our deepest appreciation for the many actions of

love, concern and kindness shown to us during this time of bereavement. Words cannot express how humbled we are to be surrounded by the enormous circle of support in this difficult time.

Cemetery Details

Washington National Cemetery

4101 Suitland Road
Suitland, MD 20746

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB **15**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Marshall-March Funeral Homes - Prince George's County
4308 Suitland Road
Suitland, MD 20746
(301) 736-1616
info@marchfh.com
<https://www.marshallmarchfh.com>

Service

FEB **15**. 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM (ET)

MARSHALL-MARCH FUNERAL HOME OF MD
4308 SUITLAND ROAD SUITLAND MARYLAND 20746
SUITLAND, MD 20746

Tribute Wall



“ *To View the Webcast of the Funeral for Saphronia A. Drake, Please Click the Link below.*



Marshall-March Funeral Homes - February 11, 2021 at 11:33 AM



“ *Saphronia A. Drake*

October 23, 2023 at 08:15 AM



“ *You are never forgotten, love endures all and I'm praying to happily see the day we meet again.*



Jessica Edwards - May 08, 2023 at 12:45 PM



“ *Elizabeth Colbert lit a candle in memory of Saphronia A. Drake*



Elizabeth Colbert - July 30, 2022 at 01:52 PM

RE

“ *The Ellerbe family expresses their deepest condolences to the Drake family. May you find warm comfort in the beautiful memories that you have of your wife, mom, mother-in-law, grandma, and love one. She was a bright light that filled any room that she entered.*



*Love,
The Ellerbe's
Cheltenham, MD*

R Ellerbe - February 15, 2021 at 08:34 PM

TD

“ *Credit of Jamsdigitalsolutions, and Mr James Allen of Providence-St. Johns Baptist church.*

A shared moment of Motherly love upon one of Mama Drake's fellow sisters in Christ. Mama Drake's assistance in this get-together gave all who were in attendance abundant joy, jubilant love, and those gracious hugs, as a maternal touch only a God-child could express.

S. Annette Drake, thank you for laying down the bridge to God through every hug you gave in life.



T. DeSean - February 15, 2021 at 01:35 PM

FD

“ *It's always warm and fuzzy when you enter Paul and Annette's home. Nothing but love, fun, and sunshine no matter what. That's what I will always have in my mind and heart about them both. It makes me soooo happy to know that my sweet one is no longer in pain, is resting in peace, and as the Bible likens death to a peaceful sleep at John 11:11. What a comfort. I love you Annette.*

Fran

Fran Dews - February 15, 2021 at 12:46 PM

TI

“ *We will remember visiting cousin Annette, hearing her happy voice and feeling her excitement. Her joy is contagious. We are looking forward to the hope of seeing her again. Sending love and prayers.*

- Yolon and Tiffany (Dews) Bradford

Tiffany - February 15, 2021 at 12:30 PM

TW

“Mrs. Drake was more than I can find words to explain. She saw me. She saw me and there weren't many "adults" at my tender age of 18 who had ever taken the time to see me before. She always had my back and always had an ear for me to rant. She always supported me (all of us) with the administrative needs, but what I really needed was a support system, a parent of sorts, and she willfully stepped into that role and never shamed me for needing it.

Mrs. Drake was an angel, honestly and truly. I am overwhelmed that I can't tell her again just how much she meant to me, but I am honored to know I knew her, was loved by her and loved her equally. I never missed a chance to tell her she was the best and still it wasn't enough.

Forever grateful to Mr. Drake, to Winston and Jessica, who not only shared their wife and mom but supported her antics to love and care for everyone else. The actions taken by Mrs. Drake changed and shaped my life forever; words simply don't do justice. I am because of you.

Courtney Williams
Howard University c/o 2014

T. Courtney Williams - February 15, 2021 at 12:13 PM

MI

Mrs. Drake always worked diligently and professionally for the undergraduate and graduate students and "ALL of the faculty" within the PolSci Department. Mrs. Drake always availed herself to help Howard University students along with giving them words of support and encouragement. Mrs. Drake was the consummate professional who was always honest with you. Condolences to the Drake family and especially the Howard PoliSci Department.

Michael - March 09, 2021 at 12:29 AM

SY

“ *My sincere prayers and condolences to you and the family.*
Sandra Thomas Young

Sandra T Young - February 15, 2021 at 12:06 PM

OH

“ *Prayers and condolences to the family.*

Blessings,
Opal Hawkins

Opal T Hawkins - February 15, 2021 at 12:05 PM

JC

“ *Mrs. Drake had an open door policy. If it was open you stuck your head in. If she wasn't busy with a task or a student or colleague, you had her full attention for a bit. If you were uncertain about an administrative matter she had the answer. If you were having a bad day, you got emotional support. My best memories of Mrs. Drake involve humor. We laughed often and heartily. I'm an incurable punster. After the punchline invariably she would smile, guffaw or roll her eyes. "Dr. Cotman, you're crazy." As we all know Mrs. Drake was an excellent judge of characters ;-). I miss the smile and that twinkle in her eye. Rest well, my friend.*

Dr. John Walton Cotman
Howard University
Political Science (1990-2021)

John Cotman - February 15, 2021 at 11:55 AM

KM

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Kasun Millawithanachchi - February 15, 2021 at 11:54 AM

KM

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Kasun Millawithanachchi - February 15, 2021 at 11:54 AM

KR

“ *Mrs. Drake is one of those people you meet once and never forget. During my time at Howard she loved and cared for me as one of her own. She offered comfort, guidance, and was not shy about correcting me when needed. Without her support, I would not be where I am today. To the Drake family, thank you for sharing her with us for so many years. My prayers and thoughts are with everyone who loved Mrs. Drake and feel her loss.*

Kareem Redmond - February 15, 2021 at 11:46 AM

SK

“ *Mrs Drake was an amazing woman. Like so many others she was a Mother to me while at Howard and even after I left. I will always cherish her infectious smile and her worryless attitude. She spoke life in me so many days when discouraged at Howard. She always expressed how she loved her family. Thank y'all and Mr. Drake for sharing her with us. She impacted so many lives, which is why I believe God placed her there at Howard. She is now getting the much deserved rest up in Heaven.*



Sleep peacefully Mama Drake

*Symone Knox
Howard c/o 2013*

symone knox - February 15, 2021 at 11:37 AM

AP

“ Dear Mrs. Drake, if you can read this from heaven or feel my emotion behind these written words, I must say to you what you already know. You were the integrity of the Political Science Department at Howard University.



I thank you kindly for advising me on matters most important for the success of my education. Without your steadiness, I would have been a wreck! You are sorely missed. You, more than anyone, should be enshrined on campus with your name on a hall, dorm, or building.....Drake Hall should be a place where political science students can gather and deliberate salient issues of our world, and invite great speakers to lead us. Why? Because your name stands for honor, dignity, truth, transparency, integrity, timeliness and respect - the very attributes that are needed in politics for stability and peace. May God rest your soul and may you be forever remembered at Howard. Peace, Angela R. Pashayan

Angela R. Pashayan - February 15, 2021 at 11:19 AM

TD

“ Toni Drake lit a candle in memory of Saphronia A. Drake



Toni Drake - February 15, 2021 at 11:03 AM

LY

“ We were very saddened for the loss of Mrs. Annette Drake a nice kindhearted friend and neighbor. She has the most beautiful family. She love to cook and her doors were always open. She will be missed even though I am housebind and I am unable to make it. Atleast I feel that I am there and I can watch it online which is so gracious. She has no more pain no more sorrow she is in a better place with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! Love, Dorothy Chambers, Linda Chambers, Denzel Chambers, Lyndora Chambers-Williams and the William's family God Bless!

lyndora - February 15, 2021 at 10:37 AM

SY

“ Sandra T Young lit a candle in memory of Saphronia A. Drake



Sandra T Young - February 15, 2021 at 10:12 AM

DP

“ My sincere condolences to the family. I am praying that God's Grace supports you today. Cousin, Diane ❤️



Diane Penn-Mickey - February 15, 2021 at 10:00 AM

JD

“*Mrs. Saphronia Drake cared for students, faculty, and everyone who came along her path. She would always ask of my girls and give me little gifts for them. May God continue to bless your legacy and your family. Gone but never forgotten.*

*Dr. J.J Dawuni
Department of Political Science
Howard University*

J.Jarpa Dawuni - February 15, 2021 at 09:59 AM

JD

“*J.Jarpa Dawuni lit a candle in memory of Saphronia A. Drake*



J.Jarpa Dawuni - February 15, 2021 at 09:55 AM



“ *Mrs. Drake was a wonderful mom to all of us. She was there for my success and failure, with her guidance. Mrs. Drake always makes sure I have food and money to pay my bills. She shared so much love, knowledge, and life lessons with me, so I can become a better person, husband, and father to my family. I enjoyed the time I spent with her on campus and outside Howard. I will really miss you, mum. You are a great person. May you have a great time with angels and rest well. We will meet one day and eat more sea sault popcorn and chicken cheeseburgers again.*

*Always Love
Kasun S. Millawithanachchi, Ph.D.
Howard University 2015- 2020
(your alien son)*

Kasun Millawithanachchi - February 15, 2021 at 08:27 AM



“ *Nana Danso lit a candle in memory of Saphronia A. Drake*



Nana Danso - February 15, 2021 at 05:10 AM

CR

“ To Paul, Jessica, and Winston,
I extend my deepest heartfelt condolences on your loss of your dear wife and loving mother. I will always remember Annette's beautiful smile and her contagious laugh. She was someone who never met a stranger and always made you feel at home in her presence and in her home. Family meant everything to her and her family was the cornerstone of her life! I know she will be greatly missed by all who were touched by her friendship! No words can hurry you and the family through this loss, but please know how deeply you are wished the gently comfort of sweet memories.
With deepest sympathy,
Carol Reed

<https://s3.amazonaws.com/storage.lifetributes.com/Candles/new/candle-9.png>

Carol A Reed - February 14, 2021 at 09:41 PM

DS

“ Growing up as a child/teenager, I have so many fond memories of my cousin. From making my infamous middle school prom dress to sitting at her table eating world's strawberry or blueberry pancakes. But what I miss MOST of all was her WONDERFUL LAUGHTER and the AMAZING smile that would brighten anyone's day. You could sit and talk to Cousin Annette about ANYTHING...and she never bit her tongue. You knew exactly what she was trying to say and most importantly, she said it with LOVE.



A beautiful Angel Indeed. SHINE Bright In Heaven as You SMILED Bright with Us.

*With Love
-Cousin Dee (Delores)*

Delores Smith - February 14, 2021 at 09:12 PM



“ Sweet Liberty was purchased for the family of Saphronia A. Drake.



February 14, 2021 at 08:17 PM

RS

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



RSPerkins - February 14, 2021 at 04:15 PM

HM

“ There are no words that can truly express how deeply I feel for you and your family during these times. I will continue to lift you up in prayer for healing and peace in your heart. I will always be there for you if you ever need me.
Love--Aunt Izzy

Harleen Matthews - February 14, 2021 at 09:57 AM

SA

“ Sonia Adams lit a candle in memory of Saphronia A. Drake



sonia adams - February 14, 2021 at 09:46 AM

GD

“ Family,

Make known your sorrow unto God. He will comfort you, and give you peace.

Geraldine Drake (Grandma)

Geraldine Drake - February 13, 2021 at 01:03 PM

GD

“ *Geraldine Drake lit a candle in memory of Saphronia A. Drake*



Geraldine Drake - February 13, 2021 at 12:43 PM



“ *Jessica Edwards lit a candle in memory of Saphronia A. Drake*



Jessica Edwards - February 11, 2021 at 10:49 PM

JS

“ *Nette was always the good daughter. She was always a loving sister. We went to see Whatever Happened to Baby Jane as children. She hated scary movies but went because I wanted to. She was Hallmark and I was Horror. Her unconditional love shined through even then. This world was blessed by her presence and will be sadder without her. Some profess to be Christians but my baby sister was The Real Deal. I Miss you Nette!*

Janice Scott-Ataiyero - February 11, 2021 at 10:46 AM



“ *Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant was purchased for the family of Saphronia A. Drake.*



February 09, 2021 at 02:01 PM



“ *Mrs. Drake took care of me; she cared for me. She saw me as a son, and I called her mum. Mum helped me develop spiritually, professionally, and academically. I will forever cherish the moments we spent together--eating our usual Jamaican lunch on Fridays, enjoying the delicious pumpkin bread, encouraging me to celebrate success, or inspiring me to achieve greater heights.*

Our last conversation was excellent as usual. I was looking forward to driving you again around to talk about any and everything (from the ladies, only you could tell were admiring me to the job search). Thank you once again for the Christmas gifts, thank you for the love and comfort. Thank you for the bills you paid and the groceries. Thank you for being Mrs. Drake. I will miss your hugs.

I am heartbroken but comforted in knowing that you are with the Lord, whom you adored soo much.

Rest well, mum; I miss you everyday!! Sing with the angels and be happy. You played your earthly role well.

*Richmond Danso, Ph.D.
Howard University 2020*

February 09, 2021 at 11:12 AM

DD

“ *Wife, Mother, Grandmother, Sister, Aunt,
Daughter/Sister-in-law*

*Into your hands, oh Lord, we humbly
entrust our dear one.*

*In this life you embraced her with your
tender love.*

Deliver her now from every evil and bid her eternal rest.

The old order has passed away.

Welcome her into paradise,

Where there will be

No sorrow, no weeping or pain,

But fullness of peace and joy with

Your Son and the Holy Spirit

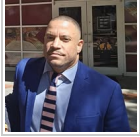
Forever and ever.

Amen.

The Drake Family



Donna Drake-Clark - February 07, 2021 at 10:57 AM



“ I've been heartbroken. Mrs. Drake was the Senior Administrative Assistant in the Howard Political Science Department that I now have the privilege to lead. Her primary responsibility was as the Assistant to the Chair. Since August 2019, that Chair has been me. Mrs. Drake truly was everything. We spoke every day. She prayed through and through for me regularly; she prayed for Mom fiercely while my Mom was hospitalized in December.

Pre-COVID, each and every morning, when we would often be the only people in the office early, I would relish the quiet time to just sit and talk with Mrs. Drake about life. She grounded me, especially as a new kid on the block in a new city. She was a proud Washingtonian and the true definition of a Christian. She strongly supported my entry into Divinity School and noticed a calling on my life early.

I can't count the number of laughs and smiles I've selfishly enjoyed because Mrs. Drake made sure that I wasn't just ok, but that I was good and that I always remembered that I am a child of God. Often, she would call me early in the mornings just to make me smile (and to make sure I was up and at it!)

Every success we accomplished as a unit, the credit goes to Mrs. Drake. Every effort I made as Chair is because of Mrs. Drake. As a Chair, nothing ever happened without her leadership and expertise. Mrs. Drake would also always tell me the cold, hard, truth. As a Chair, everyone doesn't tell me everything; but everyone told Mrs. Drake. And Mrs. Drake, ever the guardian of the Department, would ensure I knew what I needed to know.

On difficult days (and as a Chair, those are many), Mrs. Drake was my center point, she reminded me of the bigger picture. She defended me; was patient with me while I was frustrated with process. She adored the students and would light up when anyone stopped by. She'd give students her undivided attention, tend to their needs, and hug them with faith.

In my last conversation with her, she told me not to worry and that God is in control. Simply put, I miss her terribly. I didn't know her as long as so many affiliated with our department, but she knew me. She saw me for me. And for that, I am eternally grateful. Godspeed and Blessings to Mrs. Drake's beloved family.

- Ravi Perry, Ph.D., Current Chair of the Department of Political Science at HU

Ravi Perry - February 07, 2021 at 10:39 AM

MH

“ *Dear Members of the Drake Family,*

Mrs. Drake made a huge difference in the lives of the students and faculty of the political science department. We were lucky to have her really. When it was very clear there was little to be done in the most difficult situation, which was very often, her smile and/or sound advice made things seem less gloomy or at least manageable.

She loved people and she thought the best of everyone. She was also a great judge of people and character. All these amazing qualities she generously shared with those who were willing to listen.

I have been retired for 4 years now, but I am going to miss her. She will live, however, in the best memories that I have of Howard University's political science department.

*Mervat Hatem
Professor Emerita
Department of Political Science*

Mervat Hatem - February 05, 2021 at 09:47 AM

ML

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Marilyn Lashley - February 05, 2021 at 09:31 AM



“ Nana Danso lit a candle in memory of Saphronia A. Drake



Nana Danso - February 05, 2021 at 09:21 AM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Jessica Edwards - February 04, 2021 at 09:09 PM

ML

“ DEAR DRAKE FAMILY,

Thank you for sharing your loving wife and mother with our Howard University Family, especially the political science department students and faculty. I am truly sorry that I cannot be present with you when you commemorate and honor her, but I want you let you know that your Mom was also my ROCK and our anchor. She kept me sane and centered on the days I was truly tested. She demonstrated compassion and wisdom when I was at my lowest points and cheered my successes. She helped me navigate workplace challenges and made teaching and mentoring students easier--I will miss her dearly while comforted by the knowledge that our Mrs. Drake was loved and liked by us all.

*Marilyn E Lashley,
Professor Emerita
Department of Political Science*

Marilyn Lashley - February 04, 2021 at 08:25 PM



“ We the March Family and Marshall-March Staff wish to extend our deepest and heartfelt sympathy in the passing of your loved one. Our prayers go out to you and your family in your time of loss. We know and understand that you have received many expressions of love and we will continue to lift you up in prayer. May the memories you cherish of brighter and happier days help to ease your sorrow and comfort you always.

Marshall-March Funeral Homes - February 02, 2021 at 04:41 PM