

# *Celebrating the Life of*



## *Mary Knowles Jones*

*September 23, 1933 – November 4, 2021*

Tuesday, November 16, 2021  
Visitation: 10:00 A.M. – 10:50 A.M.

Funeral Service: 11:00 A.M.  
Wade Funeral Home Twin Chapel  
4800 Natural Bridge Avenue  
St. Louis, Missouri 63115  
The Rev. Renee Fenner, Officiant



**Mary Knowles Jones**, the second daughter of Marshall and Lillian Knowles, was born on September 28, 1933, in Birmingham, Alabama. She was preceded in death by her parents and her sisters, Dorothy Knowles Patterson and Marguerite Knowles Townsend.

Mary's early education was in Birmingham and after graduation from A. H. Parker High School she attended Tennessee State University (TSU), where she earned a bachelor's degree in Business Education. During her time at TSU, she also became a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Now armed with a wealth of knowledge in the field of business, Mary was employed in the Office of Admissions and then as Registrar at Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee.

Mary met her future husband, Paul Irvin Jones, while attending Tennessee State University. They reconnected many years after they both had graduated and established their chosen careers. This reconnection at a class reunion led to their subsequent marriage on May 16, 1969. Mary relocated to St. Louis, Missouri and became Registrar of the former Harris Teachers' College, now Harris Stowe State University, from 1970 until her retirement in 2000. Paul predeceased Mary on February 25, 2008, after 36 years of marriage.

**Mary K.**, as she is affectionately known, was a loyal and beloved alum of Tennessee State University and her sorority, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Therefore, when she returned to Nashville, Tennessee for employment, she joined the Nashville Alumni

Chapter of TSU and the Nashville Alumni Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta. She served on numerous committees for both organizations and was elected to a term as President of the Delta Sigma Theta Alumni Chapter in Nashville. After St. Louis became her home, she again served on numerous committees in both organizations. This dedication to duty and service resulted in Mary's election as President of the St. Louis Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc from 1979-1981 and as the 17th National President of The Tennessee State University Alumni Association. In addition to these positions Mary also found time for mentoring and supporting Harris students, as well as being an encouraging and supportive voice for faculty and staff. She was a devoted aunt to her nieces and nephews and maintained family connections to distant relatives as well.

Although Mary's early church life began in the Baptist Church in Birmingham, she later joined The Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Nashville and remained there until her move to St. Louis. At this time, she became a faithful member of All Saints Episcopal Church, where she was very active with the Episcopal Churchwomen (ECW) until May 2019 when she relocated to Alabama to reside with niece, Yolanda and her husband.

Mary Knowles Jones is survived in loving memory by an aunt Annie Lou Peevy of Birmingham, AL; her nieces and nephews: Dr. Yolanda Patterson Seawright (Darryl) of Pike Road, AL, Veneesa M. Jones, Vance M. Jones (Rebecca) and Vickie M. Jones of St. Louis, MO and a host of other nephews, nieces and cousins including Jemmie Peevy Hawkins, EdD of Pelham, AL and Susan Peevy of Washington, DC. Many friends and colleagues across the country, whose lives she touched both personally and professionally, mourn her loss, but they will always cherish the memory of Mary Knowles Jones and hold her near and dear in their hearts.

### **Acknowledgement**

*The Family of Mary K. Jones would like to express its sincerest gratitude to all the friends and colleagues that kept in touch with her after she left St. Louis these past 2-1/2 years. It meant the world to her. We also would like to thank the following for their loving care and support during her time with us in Alabama: Extended Arms Physicians of Montgomery, Alabama, Ms. Doritia Jones, Ms. Lora Gray, Answered Prayer Home Care and Southern Care/New Beacon Hospice. You were a blessing to her as well as to us. May God give you all peace.*

### **Pallbearers**

*Family & Friends*

### **Interment**

*Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery  
St. Louis County, Missouri 63125*



*Wade Funeral Home & Florist*

*One Wade,  
One Location*

**4800-4828 NATURAL BRIDGE  
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI 63115  
(314) 385-4800  
[www.wadefuneralhome.com](http://www.wadefuneralhome.com)**

# Order of Service

Wade Funeral Home

Tuesday, November 16, 2021

11:00 am

Delta Sigma Theta Omega Omega Ceremony

## Musical Interlude

**Anthems (BCP\*)** ..... *The Rev. Renee Fenner*

**Prayer** ..... *The Rev. Renee Fenner*

## Scripture Readings

*Old Testament* ..... *Job 19:21-27*

*Psalm 46*

*New Testament* ..... *Revelation 7:9-17*

**Gospel Reading** ..... *The Rev. Renee Fenner*

**Eulogy** ..... *Mrs. Relda D. Owens-Mattheus*

*President of the Missionary Baptist State Congress  
of Christian Education of Missouri*

**Life's Reflections** ..... *Read Silently*

**The Lord's Prayer** ..... *In Unison*

**Prayers of the People** ..... *The Rev. Renee Fenner*

## Reflections/Condolences

*Ms. Valerie Beeson* ..... *Retired Director of Admissions  
and Academic Advisement*

*Dr. Latonia Collins Smith* ..... *Interim President  
of Harris Stowe State University*

*Ms. Katrina Kerr* ..... *President, Greater St. Louis Alumni Chapter  
of Tennessee State University*

**Final Prayers** ..... *The Rev. Renee Fenner*

**Final Blessing and Dismissal** ..... *The Rev. Renee Fenner*

**Closing Hymn** ..... *Going Up Yonder*

*\*Anthems and Prayers are taken  
from the Episcopal Book  
of Common Prayer*

