



Frances Lugene Miles

SEP 11, 1933 - JAN 13, 2023



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Frances Lugene Miles

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Frances Lugene Winfield Miles was born on September 11, 1933, in Fort Worth, Texas.

She was the fourth of five children born to Daniel and Jessie Winfield. God, church and

impeccable character played important roles throughout her life.

During her youth, Frances was very inspirational and was looked to as a role model by

many. She started teaching Sunday School at the age of twelve. She won prizes and honorable

mention for her essays, short stories, and poems. She was a leader and an honor student.

When she graduated from high school, she was voted “most versatile” by her classmates and

selected by the school’s faculty as the recipient of the Good Citizenship Award.

After graduating high school, Frances attended Prairie View A&M University in Texas. As a

freshman, she was named Editor of the college’s creative writing magazine and she received an

award for the Most Outstanding Freshman in English. During her time at Prairie View A&M, she

also placed first in an English Department poetry contest, and she was a reporter for the main

campus newspaper.

While in college, Frances was selected as a debutante in her hometown of Fort Worth.

Debutantes were selected by the Fort Worth Assembly based on character, education,



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leadership, and other qualities. She met her future husband, Elijah Walter Miles, who Frances would eventually refer to as “E.W.,” while attending Prairie View A&M University. She graduated from Prairie View A&M University in 1955 with a Bachelor’s Degree in English.

Frances earned a permanent Texas teacher’s certificate and began teaching in Fort Worth shortly after graduating from college. She taught in Texas for a few years and then

married E.W. on June 4, 1958. Frances and E.W. moved to Indiana so E.W. could attend

graduate school at Indiana University. Frances gave birth to her first child while living in

Indiana. After E.W. obtained his doctorate degree, the family moved back to Texas, then to

North Carolina, and finally settled in San Diego in 1966. Shortly after arriving in San Diego,

Frances gave birth to her second child.

Both Frances and E.W. enjoyed long and distinguished teaching careers in San Diego.

Frances taught in San Diego public schools while E.W. was a professor at San Diego State

University. During Frances’s more than twenty-five years of service as a teacher in San Diego,

she was among California’s first mentor teachers, she was a certified GATE (Gifted and Talented

Education) teacher, and she developed the innovative and award winning student success

program SEEDS (Self Empowerment, Esteem, Determination, Success).

Frances’s career in the San Diego Unified School District began in 1967. Her first assignment was at O’Farrell Junior High School where she taught until she was recruited to

teach at the new Bell Junior High School. She was chosen to be the English



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Department Chair

during her second year at Bell, a position she held for six consecutive years. Under her

leadership, Bell had one of the best English departments in the district. She also wrote many

inspirational and character building skits that were performed by her students for the benefit of

the entire student body while she taught at Bell.

Determined to increase her impact on the education of our youth, Frances enrolled in

graduate school at San Diego State University. She concentrated her studies in the field of

Educational Administration and, in 1984, she earned a Master's of Arts in Education.

After

obtaining her Master's Degree, she taught at Serra High School and Gompers Secondary School.

At Gompers, she was the Resource Coordinator for various programs including the Academic

Achievement Program, the After School Tutoring Program, the Motivation and Maintenance

Program, and SEEDS. She was the faculty advisor for the school newspaper and she worked

tirelessly serving underprivileged students through the Chapter 1 program.

Frances's other contributions to the educational community included serving on the Editorial Board of the school district's Quest Magazine, providing consultation for a literature

textbook published by McDougal, Littell & Co., participating on the advisory committee for

district curriculum, serving as a district curriculum writer, and being a member of the San Diego

Teachers' Association. She also wrote a three-act musical, "Two Against the World,"



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which was performed at the Educational Cultural Complex in San Diego. During her many years as an educator, she always sought to build character in her students, a trait that was profoundly important in her own personal life. She sought to inspire her students, to encourage them to stretch their minds to the outer limits of their potential and to strive for academic excellence. She believed as the poet, Robert Browning, did that “man’s reach should exceed his grasp, Or what’s a heaven for?” In her free time, Frances enjoyed reading, writing, and the performing arts. She is the author of *Yesterday, When I Was Young*, which is a published book of poems. She was actively involved in a book club for about twenty years that consisted of educators and other professional women. She was a member of Calvary Baptist Church under the leadership of its former pastor, S.M. Lockridge, and Bayview Baptist Church. She was also a member of Jack and Jill of America, a national Black family-oriented organization. Frances was also a devoted wife and mother. She was always available to offer guidance, encouragement, inspiration, and support to her family. Her surviving family members have fond memories of their time with Frances. She will be greatly missed by her family and friends. Frances Miles is survived by her sons and their wives, Christopher and Donna Miles, and Tony and Maisha Miles; a grandson, Brayden Miles; sister, Kathleen Lauderdale; sisters-in-law, Ella Lindsey and Ann Miles; brother-in-law, Edgar Miles; and many nieces, nephews



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and other
relatives.

<http://webcast.funeralvue.com/events/viewer/84252/hash:E0E9CC88CCD7D4E4>




Events


Frances Lugene Miles

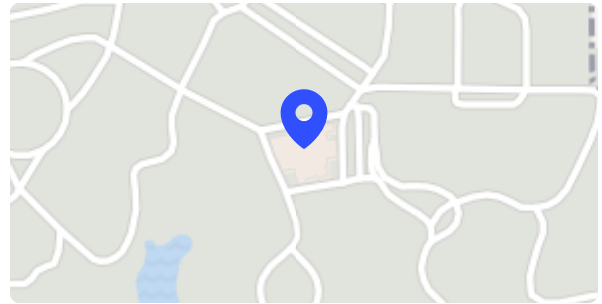
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VIEWING

 **Friday**, February 3, 2023

 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM PT


 **Greenwood Memorial Park - Garden Chapel**
4300 Imperial Ave., San Diego CA 92113

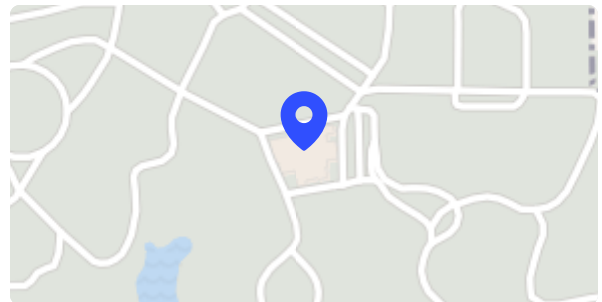


FUNERAL SERVICE


 **Saturday**, February 4, 2023


 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM PT


 **Greenwood Memorial Park - Garden Chapel**
4300 Imperial Ave., San Diego CA 92113

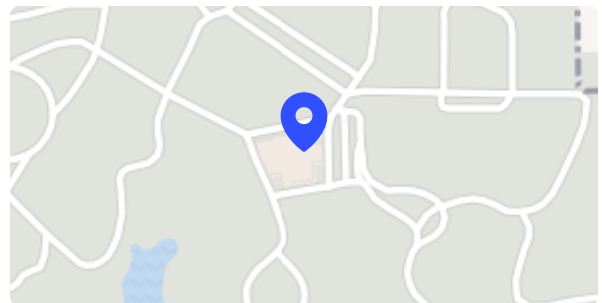


Reception

 **Saturday**, February 4, 2023

 1:30 PM - 4:30 PM PT

 **Greenwood Mortuary - Garden Chapel Courtyard**
4300 Imperial Ave., San Diego CA 92113





Tribute Wall

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Anonymous sent a Your Light Shines to the Miles family.



February 2 at 3:34 AM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Frances by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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