



Carolyn M. Townsend

February 14, 1937 - January 30, 2019

Carolyn M. Townsend of Anchorage; loving mother, grandmother, sister, and friend; departed peacefully from this life in the presence of her family on January 30, 2019. She passed away at the age of 81 following complications from a stroke. She will be remembered for her love of family and friends, her sense of humor, her intellect, her faith, her tremendous work ethic, and for the positive impact she had on generations of former students.

She was born in Miami, Florida on February 14, 1937 to the late Basil Matthew Bain and Emma Lu Nelson Bain. Carolyn was salutatorian of the class of 1954 at Miami's Booker T. Washington high school and earned an elementary education degree from Florida Memorial University, graduating summa cum laude. She taught for several years in the Miami-Dade County Public School District, before moving to Alaska in 1969. She was pleasantly surprised to find the dire warnings she had been given to expect year-round snow were untrue. She taught at John F. Kennedy School on Fort Richardson until being hired by the Anchorage School District to teach at Scenic Park Elementary starting with the 1976-77 school year. In addition to teaching, Carolyn 'moonlighted' at several other jobs during her working years, including several years each at the Hotel Captain Cook (where she was recognized as the 1980 Employee of the Year), Snow White Cleaners, and the Anchorage Daily News. She retired from teaching in 1994 and retired completely a few years later.

"Miss Carolyn", as many in her church community knew her, committed her life to Christ at an early age and was active in her faith. Over the years she served her church homes in many capacities including teaching Sunday School and Vacation Bible School, and singing in the choir. She also supported several ministries including GraceWorks Alaska, and undertook correspondence in support of a card based ministry. She joined her final church family at Grandview Baptist Church in March 1997.

Carolyn enjoyed spending time with her children and grandchildren; reading; starting each day by completing the New York Times crossword puzzle; keeping in touch with friends via cards, letters, and telephone conversations; playing along while watching Jeopardy on TV; room temperature drinking water; and monthly lunches with her retired teachers' group. She leaves behind to cherish her memories her daughter Chairi Sims (Kenton) of

Anchorage; her son Skip Townsend (Nicole) of Oxford, Michigan; five grandchildren, Timothy and Tatiana Agnew of Anchorage and Trey, Zachary and Rachel Townsend of Oxford, Michigan; her brother, Clarence Bain of Miami, Florida; two nieces, Althea Finley of New York, New York and Renee Hunter of Charlotte, North Carolina; and a host of friends.

A celebration of life will be held on Thursday, February 7, 2019, at Grandview Baptist Church in Anchorage. The viewing will begin at 11 a.m., with the service following at noon. Interment in Miami, Florida will follow at a later date.

With much love and many cherished memories, we celebrate her life.