

# Acknowledgements

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      - Andy Russell - Video Tribute



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2021 • 12:00 NOON

SLIGO SDA CHURCH

7700 Carroll Avenue  
Takoma Park, Maryland 20912

Pastor Damien Johnson, *Officiant*

In lieu of flowers, donations to the Lourie Center for Children's Social and Emotional Wellness are appreciated. [www.louriecenter.org](http://www.louriecenter.org)



FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS

*Celebrating the Life of*

*Carol Yvonne (Lindsey) Wright*

SUNRISE - FEBRUARY 21, 1946 • SUNSET - SEPTEMBER 9, 2021

## A LOVING TRIBUTE

# Carol Yvonne (Lindsey) Wright

LOVING, WITTY, GRACIOUS, CLASSY, PRECIOUS – UNFORGETTABLE!

**H**er smile lit up a room. “What an awesome lady who consistently radiated grace and charm with a ready smile and a spontaneous laugh for as long as I’ve known her since we were little kids,” is how a friend remembered her. Carol left an indelible impression on those whose lives she touched, not only because of who she was, but Whose she was.

Carol was born into the loving family of Elder Harold and Corinne Lindsey on February 21, 1946 in Pasadena, California joining her brother, affectionately known as “Ronnie.” It wasn’t long before her sister, Elaine joined the family. For eight years it was the three of them as stairstep siblings, until sister Janice became the last child. Carol was the wise, and unassuming older sister, but at the same time she was full of laughter and fun.

From early childhood Carol demonstrated a simple understanding and love for Biblical teachings. She not only spoke of her commitment to God, but lived it, impressing a friend unknowingly who saw her Bible sitting on the front passenger’s seat of her car. In spare moments she would read it. It served as her daily bread—she loved the Word. These were the roots for her being recognized as a strong woman of faith in her adult years.

Her teenage years were spent in Oakland, California, where she attended Golden Gate Academy (GGA). Comments of her GGA classmates reveal the impact she made, even in the tender years of her life.

“I lived with the Lindsey family a short time as a teenager. Carol was a dear sweet person who truly loved the Lord.” Love for her was a recurrent theme: “Loved that lady—she was a role model of mine.” “Such a beautiful person inside and out.” “I have wonderful memories of Carol from our days at GGA. She always had a beautiful smile and a warm heart.” “We reflect on how God has touched her life and how she has blessed us through the years.” Long-time family friend, Adrian Watkins, shared his experience. “I worked for Carol on the Anchor (school yearbook) campaign as an assistant in charge of advertising. What a HOOT! Meetings were a laugh fest! We even rode to GGA together for a year. She drove. I didn’t have a license. There’s sooooo much more.”

Carol loved her family. Childhood friend, Eleanor Johnson shared, “During her teenage years she would curl her arms around her father’s shoulder and declare to onlookers, “This is MY Daddy! My Daddy.” From childhood onward she sought his wisdom on life and Biblical issues.”

She cried when “Ronnie” left to go away to college, and she and Elaine spent many a day laughing in their upstairs bedroom as they went about daily life. When it was her turn to go to college. Carol attended Oakwood College (now Oakwood University). Her classmates remember her fondly, one saying she was the only friend he wrote a letter to over summer after that first year and another stating his fond memories of Carol as his Freshman classmate at Oakwood. While those guys were friends, the beginnings of a romantic seed had already been planted the Spring of 1963 just prior to her attending. The Oakwood College Choir was on their first West Coast Tour to perform a concert was at the Grand Avenue Seventh-day Adventist Church (SDA) in Oakland. Elder Lindsey (“MY Daddy!”) who pastored the Market Street SDA Church in the area was, along with his wife a host family. In those days choir members were spread out amongst the homes of church members to stay while on tour. A young man by the name of Henry Wright, being a friend of her brother, who was also in the choir, stayed at the Lindsey’s home. Their friendship began that weekend.

Henry recalls, “The next year she came to Oakwood as a freshman. Our friendship grew over the school year which was my senior year. Our first date was a taco party hosted by the California students of Oakwood in the Spring of 1964. Each west coast student invited an east coast student who had never had tacos. Carol invited me.... We were stuck on each other from that date forward.”

Carol also attended Pacific Union College and her roommate, Vicki Jackson, shared: “Carol and I were roommates at PUC our junior year of college. We also had a third “bestie”, Judy, and she shared the room next to ours. The three of us were very close and had many fun times during our year, taking walks, going to social events, getting to know each other—Carol was also up for engaging in various activities including vespers. It was a very active, fun time. Carol invited me home on some weekends, since I was far away from my home in Detroit, Michigan. I felt so welcomed at the Lindsey’s. My fondest memories include shopping for Christmas gifts for the entire family. As an only child, there seemed to always be so much going on with the siblings, and Carol’s family readily accepted me as a member. Carol was such a friendly person, always thinking of ways to make people feel welcomed and comfortable, so caring. I will always remember her lovely personality and outgoing manner of making people feel comfortable in her presence. She was so happy planning her wedding, which was fantastic.”

One of the other wedding participants commented “I had the honor to be in their wedding 55 years ago, that fabulous celebration...the singing wedding! “Aunt Eleanor”, of the Blendwrights, wrote a song entitled “Take My Hand” and the entire wedding party learned and sang that song at their wedding.

“After marrying August 21, 1966, Carol and I lived in Greenville, Mississippi. I pastored four churches in the delta area. She became the first African-American employed as a secretary in City Hall, and worked for the City Engineer. Carol was the pianist in my first two tent crusades

“These were the ‘firsts’ of our lives—our first two sons were born, Henry Monroe Wright II (Hank) and Harold Michael Wright (Mike) after we moved to Jackson MS. We had the joy of owning our first new home. Carol was an attentive, caring mother, and she decorated it with such joy and good taste! I had a four-church district which grew to six churches due to evangelism. Carol never complained. She stuck with me. In those early years Carol shared with a dear friend by letter: ‘My sorrows are cut in half and my happiness doubled.’

“We moved in 1972 to our first big church—Ephesus SDA Church in Columbus, Ohio. It was the Allegheny West Conference’s largest congregation. We were the youngest pastor and first lady in the history of the church. I was 29. She was 25! All of the church elders were old enough to be our father or grandfather. Carol was totally un intimidated. The members adored her and our two energetic boys. Hank was 3, Mike was one. She gave birth to our third son Herbert Marcel Wright (Herbie) in Columbus, Ohio.”

Carol was a wonderful mother to her sons. These words describe their relationship: her sense of discernment; loyal, honest feedback but never judgmental; loyal, their biggest fan, and enough love for all of them.

The role of “First Lady” was one Carol handled with grace and poise. She and Henry served at both Community Praise Center SDA Church (CPC), Alexandria, Virginia and Takoma Park SDA Church, Takoma Park, Maryland. She was a tremendous support to Henry and a bright and shining light in the lives of the members. Their accolades are filled with respect and admiration:

“We loved having her as our First lady!!!! She was poised, Godly and down to earth!!! She was gracious and kind—the epitome of a First Lady!!” “She was my beloved First Lady for many years. Wonderful memories started coming about their tenure at Ephesus in Columbus, Ohio. She always was so sweet and had a smile and a quick squeeze or hug.”



“Lady Carol Wright—a very pleasant, beautiful and Christian woman. “She was a model of God’s love, a model First Lady, a classy, warm and loving person who I always wanted to see, speak to and hug! Someone I felt I could learn so much from.” “She always demonstrated the miracle of God’s love.” “She’s been such a strong and positive influence within the Church. I’ve admired her for years!”

After devoting her life to supporting Henry and her boys, Carol went back to school, earning an AB degree from Howard County Community College in 1992; a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Columbia Union College (now Washington Adventist University) in 1994; and, ever in the pursuit of excellence, she achieved her CPA in 2001.

Carol served in various capacities for the Seventh-day Adventist Church for 39 years. Several years were spent working in the Finance Office at Oakwood College (now University), and she later was awarded Alumnus of the Year for in 2012. For 28 years, from 1989 – 2017, Carol served the Columbia Union, working in the Treasury Department. Her last position prior to retirement was Under-treasurer for Columbia Union Conference.

On the occasion of her retirement—“Carol has given stellar service to the Columbia Union,” says Dave Weigley, Columbia Union president. “She has contributed in moving the mission forward in so many ways—from her expertise in finance, to her cool, calm demeanor as the Human Resources leader for our office team. She helped create an incredible culture of support and care in the Columbia Union office team. She is a professional, full of poise and wisdom. She is one of the finest women lead-

ers in the Seventh-day Adventist Church and an incredible Christian, an inspiration to all. Her friendship was very meaningful to me and many others. She will be deeply missed.”

Seth Bardu, former Treasurer stated, “I am eternally grateful for her role at Columbia Union. She saw people before policies. She always saw people as people and not as objects. I may have been her boss, but I learned much from her.”

“I’ve enjoyed the camaraderie, I’ve enjoyed the spiritual emphasis, never taking our eyes off our mission, why we do what we do. ... Thank you for the privilege of allowing me to serve you and to work here at the Columbia Union Conference. It has been my joy, it has been my pleasure and I’m very very grateful!” Carol stated at the conclusion of the occasion.

Carol touched so many lives positively, quietly moving about. Upon meeting a young couple while visiting Soquel Camp Meeting where Henry was guest speaker, she learned of the grave health diagnosis of the husband. According to those who witnessed this, Carol stopped everything to pray and touch God on their behalf! When a dear family member was battling a severe health challenge, it was shared that Carol drove some distance each week to give her instrumental and emotional support. Carol, the epitome of sharing the gospel through action. Her unwavering faith in God shone through in the deepest of life’s disappointment, the death of her son, Mike. Her friend was visiting the DC/MD area not long after and struggled over what words of comfort to share with Carol. “I visited CPC and when she sighted me standing, she summoned an usher to make room for me

to sit next to her. Before I could say a word, she said: ‘I miss my son, I miss my son! But God is just, loving, and faithful!’ Her unshakable faith shook me.” Her life exemplified faith and grace—even in the face of hardship.

Carol and Henry celebrated 55 years of marriage and are loved by an innumerable amount of people. She lived a beautiful life following God’s lead. All these words describe her: kind, gentle spirit, grace, genuine, warm, special, caring, sweet, down-to-earth, profound, humble, non-judgmental, friendly, elegant, beautiful inside and out. And—FUNNY!!! She passed away on September 9, 2021 at the age of 75 after an extended battle with Dementia and Parkinson’s disease, surrounded by loved ones. Her family will continue to honor her legacy by living their lives to the fullest. We can’t wait to meet her in heaven when Jesus’ comes and hear her laugh. Won’t that be glorious?!

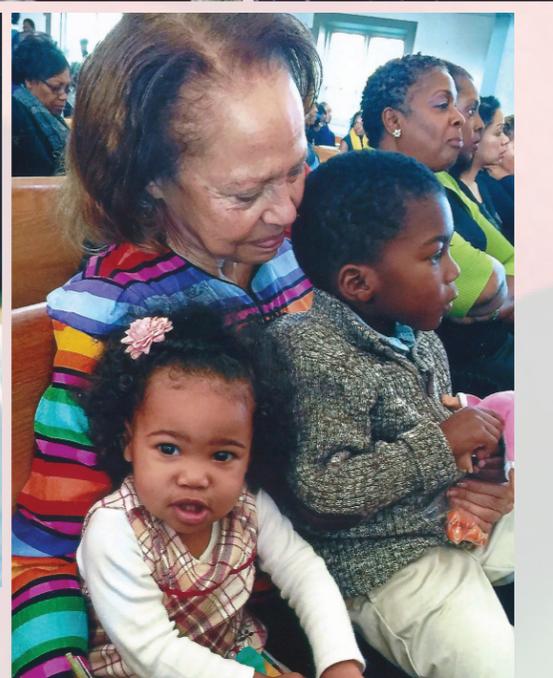
Carol is survived by her loving husband, Henry Monroe Wright; her sons, Henry Monroe Wright II and Herbert Marcel Wright; Stacia Dulan Wright; grandchildren Henry Monroe Wright III, Mikelah Jeanne Wright Bur, Jonathan Marcel Wright, Gineh Michelle Wright; siblings Elaine Arthur, Janice A. Willis and James Preston (J.P.) Willis II; nieces, nephews and their families, Michelle Lindsey Buckmire and Paul Buckmire (son Aidan); Ronald A. Lindsey II; E. Neal and Kelly Arthur (children Dash and Maceo); Lindsey Arthur; Deanne Arthur (son Titus); Carol Janae (C. J.) Willis, James Preston Willis III and Jocelyn; and numerous cousins, family and friends. Carol was predeceased by son Harold Michael Wright, brother Ronald A. Lindsey, and parents, Elder Harold and Corinne Lindsey. ✨



**Isaiah 43:1-3**  
*New King James Version*

**The Redeemer of Israel**

1 But now, thus says the Lord, who created you, O Jacob, And He who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name; You are Mine.  
2 When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; And through the rivers, they shall no overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, Nor shall the flame scorch you.  
3 For I am the Lord your God, The Holy One of Israel, your Savior; I gave Egypt for your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in your place.





# *Celebration of Life*

## *Carol Yvonne (Lindsey) Wright*

### **PROCESSIONAL**

Opening Hymn "Tis So Sweet"  
Anwar Ottley - Pastor for Worship, Takoma Park SDA Church

### **DAMIEN JOHNSON, OFFICIANT**

Senior Pastor, Seabrook SDA Church  
Welcome and Opening Remarks

### **PRAYER OF COMFORT**

Ivan L. Williams, Director, Ministerial Association, NAD (Cousin)

### **SCRIPTURE READING**

Josant Barrientos, Youth Director, Potomac Conference - Isaiah 43:1-3

### **MUSICAL TRIBUTE**

Anika Sampson-Anderson, Soloist - "We Shall Behold Him"

### **COLUMBIA UNION CONFERENCE TRIBUTES**

Video - Dave Weigley, President  
Tabitha Martinez, Undertreasurer

### **VILLAGE TRIBUTES**

Judith Hawkins (Friend)  
Dionne Crawford, Women's Ministry Leader, Community Praise Church (CPC)

### **MUSICAL TRIBUTE**

Daryl Hunt, CPC Musical Director with Band, Instrumental Medley

### **FAMILY TRIBUTES**

Henry Joseph Fordham, IV (Cousin)  
Janice A. Willis, Elaine (Lindsey) Arthur (Sisters)  
Henry Monroe Wright, II, Herbert Marcel Wright (Sons)

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Michelle E. Buckmire (Niece)

### **MUSICAL TRIBUTE**

Denise Barclay-Thompson, Soloist - "Jesus Led Me All The Way"

### **EULOGY**

Damien Johnson, Senior Pastor, Seabrook SDA Church

### **MUSICAL TRIBUTE**

Nathalene McMillan-Moore, Soloist - "Better Day"

### **SPECIAL REMARKS**

Henry M. Wright (Husband)

### **BENEDICTORY PRAYER OF CONSOLATION AND ENCOURAGEMENT**

Clifford Wright, Jr. (Nephew)

### **RECESSIONAL**