

# Order of Service

Organ Prelude

Scripture: Marcia Brown

Musical Selection: Arthur Johnson

Prayer: Reverend AE Knighten

Acknowledgments/Obituary: Kim Caldwell

Tributes: State Representative Elgin Rogers, Jr., Jerelyn Warnsley,  
London Weathers, Gabrielle Knighten

Reflections: (2 minutes please) Family and Friends

Musical Selection: Arthur Johnson

Word of Encouragement: Reverend AE Knighten

Final Viewing: Family

Recessional

Pallbearers

Matthew Collins II

Jordan Collins

Jada Collins

Sal Richards



## Acknowledgments

God saw the road was getting rough the hill was hard to climb, He gently closed those loving eyes and whispered, "Peace be thine". We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to our family, friends, and neighbors for their unwavering support, comforting words, and acts of kindness during this difficult time. May God hold us together as we march into the future without our mother, grandmother, sister, aunt, and friend. Special thanks to the Hospice of Northwest Ohio team for their compassionate care and support.

Final Arrangements Entrusted To

**THE**  
*House of Day*  
FUNERAL SERVICE  
A Standard of Excellence

2550 Nebraska Ave  
Toledo, OH 43607



Program Design By:

**Memento**  
TRIBUTES  
@mementotributes

# Celebrating The Life Of



Dr.

*Frances L.*  
*Coleman Collins*



*Sunrise*  
February 2, 1951

*Sunset*  
August 2, 2024

Friday, August 23, 2024  
Tribute Service: 2:00  
Celebration of Life Service: 3:00

House of Day Funeral Services  
2550 Nebraska Ave  
Toledo, OH 43607

## REFLECTIONS OF LIFE

*Dr. Frances L. Coleman Collins*

**Dr. Frances L. Coleman Collins**, a devoted educator, fierce and outspoken community leader, and beloved family matriarch, departed this life peacefully at home surrounded by family on August 2, 2024. Frances was born in Jacksonville, Florida, to the late Johnnie Coleman and Geneva Vickers on February 2, 1951. She was raised in Forkland, Alabama, by her aunt and uncle, the late George and Carrie Bell Lewis. Frances lived a life that was nothing short of extraordinary—a life woven with love, curiosity, dedication, and an unwavering commitment to education, community, and family.

Frances showed a remarkable drive from a young age, graduating high school at the impressive age of sixteen. Her pursuit of knowledge and ambition led her to Alabama A&M University, where she earned her Bachelor of Science in History and Political Science. It was there that she met her future husband, Matthew. They wed on December 20, 1970, and together, they embarked on a new chapter in Toledo, Ohio, seeking greater opportunities for their future. Frances continued to advance her education at the University of Toledo, obtaining a Master of Education Degree and ultimately achieving the highest academic accomplishment, a PhD in Educational Administration and Supervision from Bowling Green State University.

Dr. Collins didn't just speak about the importance of education—she lived it every day. With over three decades of service in Toledo Public Schools, she devoted her life to shaping young minds as an educator and an administrator. Her impact was felt across multiple schools, where she taught at Libbey, Levere, and Scott and later served as Assistant Principal at Old West End and Woodward. She fervently advocated for her students, inspiring them to reach their full potential to graduate and aspire to post-secondary education. She arranged trips to historically black colleges and universities for her students. She was often the catalyst for special guest appearances at her schools, one of the most notable being General Colin Powell. Though Dr. Collins was honored with numerous awards and recognitions, including the 1998 Mary McLeod Bethune Outstanding Teacher Award from the National Alliance of Black School Educators, her true legacy lies in the lasting impact she made on the countless young people she taught, mentored, and befriended. Her influence continues to resonate in the lives she touched, far surpassing any accolade.

Beyond the classroom, Dr. Collins stood as a pillar of strength and service within her community. A woman of faith, she was a long-time member of Family Baptist Church and later attended Warren AME Church. She also tirelessly dedicated herself to her family, students, and the many organizations and committees that benefited from her leadership and vision. Among her many contributions, Frances was a devoted Life Member of the Toledo Chapter of the National Association of Negro Business & Professional Women's Club. Her leadership was evident as she served as President not once but twice and took on the roles of Youth Advisor and District Youth Assistant. She was an alum member of The Toledo Chapter of The Links, Incorporated. Frances also volunteered for Read for Literacy and Crittenden House and served on the Art



Tatum Center and YWCA of Northwest Ohio Board of Directors.

But among all her commitments, there was one that held a special place in her heart: her sorority. Anyone who knew Frances knew of her unwavering love and commitment to her sorority. She was a Golden Soror and Life Member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., where she was initiated into the Gamma Mu Chapter at Alabama A&M University on April 20, 1969. She later reactivated into the Zeta Alpha Omega Chapter in Toledo and served as its 23rd President from 1996-1997. Under her leadership, the chapter received the Outstanding Graduate Chapter award for two consecutive years, and she won the Outstanding Basileus Award. She also served on several committees and established the Mentoring/Shadowing Program for chapter officers.

More than any of her professional achievements, Frances cherished her family above all else. She was a devoted spouse to Matthew Collins and a loving mother to her two children, Alexii and Matthew Collins II. Her grandchildren, whom she adored, brought her immense joy and pride. Her favorite thing to do was share photos and accomplishments of her children and grandchildren. She instilled her passion for history, travel, and the arts with all of them, laying a strong foundation of culture that would serve as the blueprint for their lives.

So, what else can be said about this incredible woman? Let's talk about her sense of style! Frances was known for her impeccable taste and love for fashion. Frances was a fashion enthusiast and took great joy in finding unique outfits and jewelry that often came with funny and unique stories of finding just the right piece. Later in her life, she developed a passion for landscaping and could constantly be seen working in her yard. She lived in her home for over 40 years, where expressions of her passions are displayed in her collections of books, family photos, stamps, dolls, and AKA paraphernalia.

Dr. Collins' life was a testament to the power of love, education, service, and unwavering determination. She leaves behind a legacy of inspiration and excellence that touched many lives. She will be remembered for her warmth, intelligence, and generosity. Her legacy lives on through the lives she touched and the lessons she imparted.

She was preceded in death by her loving husband, Matthew; her grandson, Dontai Robinson II; her sister, Claretha Long; her nephew, Wayne Fikes; her sister-cousin, Loretta Price; her brother-cousin, Lorenzo Lewis; and her brother, Ricky. She leaves to cherish her precious memory: her daughter, Alexii Collins of Toledo, Ohio; her son, Matthew Collins II (Courtney) of Atlanta, Georgia; her grandchildren: Isis (Sal) Richards and Jordan Collins of Brooklyn, NY; Jada Collins of Toledo, Ohio; Bree and Brooke Collins of Atlanta, Georgia; her great-grandchildren: Aria and Aerie Richards of Brooklyn, NY; her niece, Toya Fikes (Jennifer); her great-nephew, Markelle Andino; her bonus granddaughter, Gabrielle Knighten; and a host of other relatives and friends.

Condolences may be sent to the House of Day.