



Bernardine Mays Lacey

July 28, 1932 - March 26, 2021

Dr. Bernardine M. Lacey, 88, of Grasonville, passed away on March 26, 2021 in Grasonville, MD.

Dr. Bernardine M. Lacey was born Vicksburg, Mississippi to Leroy Jackson and Katie Mae Williams on July 28, 1932. She earned her diploma in Nursing from the Gilfoy School of Nursing, Mississippi Baptist Hospital in Jackson, MS; her BSN from Georgetown University in Washington, DC; her MA from Howard University and her Doctor of Education Degree from Teachers College at Columbia University in New York, NY.

She married Dr. Wilbert Lacey (deceased) from Howard University a psychiatrist for the Howard University Counseling Center. Dr. Lacey has held many positions in nursing from the bedside to the boardroom. She has served in many institutions including Howard University, Western Michigan University, Prince Georges Community College, Children's National Medical Center, Bowie State University, and Delaware State University.

Over the course of her career, Lacey has held leadership positions, including founding dean and professor at Western Michigan University's school of nursing in Kalamazoo. She has served as special assistant to Marian Wright Edelman at the Children's Defense Fund in Washington, DC, and received numerous awards, including an endowed chair named in her honor at

Western Michigan University. Lacey became a fellow of the American Academy of Nursing in 1990 and a Living Legend of that organization in 2014, and she was awarded the prestigious R. Louise McManus Medal from the Nursing Education Alumni Association of Teachers College, Columbia University, in 2015. She has also received well over \$2 million in grants to develop programs such as nurse-managed centers for those living in homeless shelters and for educational support of diverse students in nursing.

Dr. Lacey is survived by her children Amando Gomes and his wife Dorothy Gomes, Elthon Mays, and Jacinta Mays: her grandchildren Sean Mays and his wife Cassidy Mays, Jordan Bates and her husband Les Bates: and her great-grandchildren Sean Mays Jr., Caysen Mays, Austin Bates and Brixton Bates.

At this time there are no funeral services scheduled. A funeral service will take place in the future, with burial at Arlington National Cemetery.

Tribute Wall



“ *Bernardine Mays Lacey*

October 26, 2023 at 06:42 PM



“ *Bernardine Mays Lacey*

January 28, 2023 at 12:44 PM



“ *Bernardine Mays Lacey*

January 28, 2023 at 08:03 AM



“ *I was wondering why dr Lacey did not respond to my email... she is normally very prompt to response. Something told me to check google. I'm in tears... because I never got a chance to tell her... I finally passed my NCLEX! I am saddened that you are gone! You was my mentor for so many years, with the biggest heart. I am sorry we didn't connect sooner. Dr Lacey, I will always remember you believing in me and encouraging me through my years in Delaware and Baltimore. I will always love you. Xoxo*

LeRhonda Mills - August 08, 2021 at 09:33 AM

EM

“ It is with deep sorrow that I express my condolences to the Family of Dr. Bernadine M. Lacey. Dr. Lacey has been a great friend and mentor for several years. I would speak with her 2-3 times a week. She made sure to advise me on many issues. I will miss her and her expert counsel to me professionally and personally. I taught nursing at Howard University while Dr. Lacey ran the Student Health Services at Howard. She was always organized and caring. Thank you family for allowing others to share her time. RIP in perfect peace Bernadine. Love Dr. Earlene Merrill

Earlene B Merrill - May 01, 2021 at 03:13 PM

DB

“ Condolences to the family and friends of Dr. Lacey, May GOD give you strength to make it through this sorrowful time. Soror Bernardine and I pledge Delta Sigma Theta Sorority in May, 1979 (Omni Tri Octa); she was always so supportive, caring and such a beautiful spirit. I was looking forward to visiting her this summer. May she rest in eternal love and peace.
Dr. Brenda L. Belton
Washington, DC



Dr. Brenda Belton - April 29, 2021 at 04:36 PM

DM

“ *Dr. Harold Minus purchased the Basket Full of Wishes for the family of Bernardine Mays Lacey.*



Dr. Harold Minus - April 29, 2021 at 11:39 AM

AC

“ *Thank you Dr. Lacey for your courage, wisdom and your wonderful contribution to Nursing and the world. My prayers and condolences to the Lacey family and loved ones. Alethea R. Callier*



Alethea Callier - April 29, 2021 at 11:05 AM

JS

“ *Janice Stark lit a candle in memory of Bernardine Mays Lacey*



Janice Stark - April 08, 2021 at 12:41 AM

JS

Dr. Lacey was an accomplished woman who travelled the world, and was a role model to the nursing community. She was recently addressing nursing audiences via zoom conferencing. She had an engaging personality, a thirst for knowledge, a zest for life and a deep and abiding love for her family. I was honored to have her as my friend. Bernardine, I will so miss our chats.

Janice Stark - April 08, 2021 at 01:15 AM

LT

Thank you for your contributions to the field of Nursing. I stand on your shoulders Dr. Lacey. Rest well, you accomplished so much during your time on this earth. I appreciate what you went through so that my time in nursing would not be as harsh as it was when you were in nursing school. May condolences to your dear family. Soar high where only angels and eagles trod.

Iana Thomas - April 17, 2021 at 10:07 AM

JP

Dr. Lacey was such an inspiration to me and so many others in nursing. I am so glad I had the privilege of inviting her to speak to our nurses in December 2020 about her oral history on Racism in Nursing. She overcame so much and became one of nursing's outstanding nurse leaders. I will miss our conversations and her ongoing love and support for me. Our loss is heaven's gain. My sincere condolences to her family and loved ones.

Janice Phillips 4/29/2021

Janice Phillips - April 29, 2021 at 08:59 AM



“ *One of the sweetest and kindest human being I’ve ever met.*



Jordan Melvin - April 01, 2021 at 10:02 PM


Cynthia
Dill

“ *Cynthia Dill lit a candle in memory of Bernardine Mays Lacey*



Cynthia Dill - March 30, 2021 at 03:44 PM