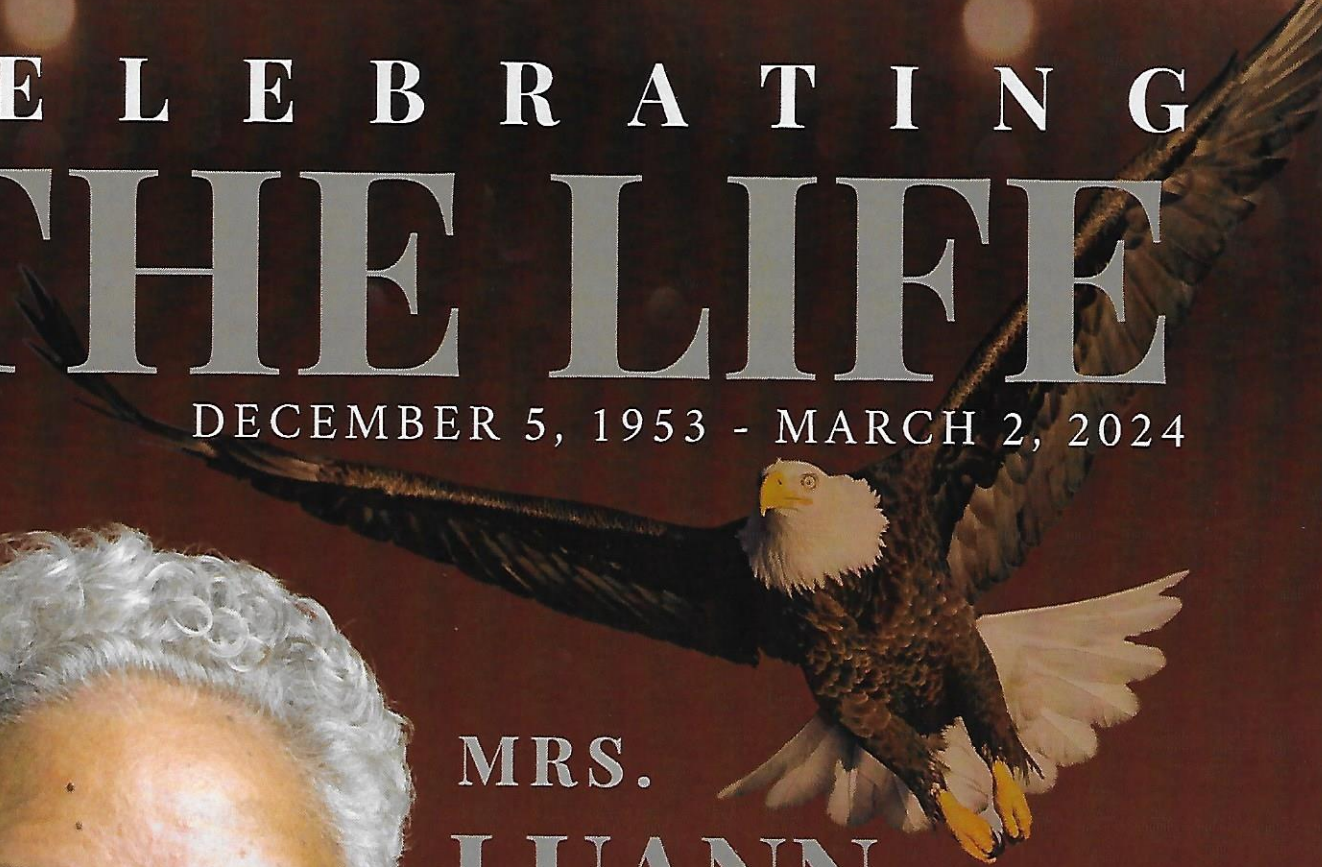


# CELEBRATING THE LIFE

DECEMBER 5, 1953 - MARCH 2, 2024



MRS.  
LUANN  
EDMONDS - HARRIS  
RALEY

“  
*For to me, to live is Christ  
and to die is gain. - Phil. 1:21*  
”

SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 2024

5:00 PM

MCDUGALD-MCLENDON ARENA  
NORTH CAROLINA CENTRAL UNIVERSITY  
700 E. Lawson St., Durham, NC 27701

PROCESSIONAL	"Hold My Hand"	
WELCOME/GREETING		Dr. Rico Wagner Mistress of Ceremony New Foundation Church, International
INVOCATION		Dr. Michael Page
SCRIPTURE READINGS	Old Testament (Psalm 46)	Dr. Annie Woody
	New Testament (St. Luke 4:18-21)	Dr. Michael Page
PRAYER		Minister Rachel Blakney
WORDS OF COMFORT		Minister Rebecca Seegars
SONG	"I Won't Complain"	Evangelist Priscilla Covington
OPENING REMARKS		
NC Central University		Dr. Rico Wagner
MEMORIAL ACTIVITIES		
Reading of the Obituary		Mrs. NeQueela Deas-Blanton
SONG	"Amazing Grace"	Minister Promise Woody
RESOLUTIONS & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:		
<i>(Please keep all acknowledgements and remarks 3-5 mins.)</i>		
Hillside High School Alumni		Ms. Geraldine Burrows
<i>Reading of the Resolution</i>		<i>Hillside High School Class of 1971</i>
NC Central Alumni Association		Mr. Andre' Vann, NCCU Historian
<i>Reading of the Resolution</i>		
Durham Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.		Mrs. Maxine Turner Fitts
<i>Reading of the Resolution</i>		Ms. Dorothy Brower
Durham Public Schools		Ms. Angelique Witherspoon
NC Central University		
Admissions Department	Dr. Terri Rowland, <i>On behalf of the late Nancy Rowland</i> <i>Former Director of Admissions</i>	
	Mr. Michael A. Bailey, <i>NCCU Director of Admissions</i>	
Cheerleaders	1991 Cheerleaders ( <i>LuAnn's First Squad</i> )	
	Mrs. La'Tasha Bynum	
	<i>Former Cheerleader &amp; Current Cheerleading Coach</i>	
Department of Athletics	Dr. Ingrid Wicker McCree and the 2008-2022 Athletic Department Team	
	Dr. Louis "Skip" Perkins, <i>Current Athletic Director</i>	
POEM		LaToya Funderburk
REMARKS <i>On Behalf of the Family</i>		Ms. Frankie Perry
<i>(Please keep remarks 3-5 mins.)</i>		Daeshawn Stevens
CLOSING REMARKS		Dr. Rico Wagner
RECESSIONAL	"Because You Loved Me"	

## REMEMBER ME

To the living, I am gone,  
To the sorrowful, I will never return,  
To the angry, I was cheated,  
But to the happy, I am at peace,  
And to the faithful, I have never left.

I cannot speak, but I can listen.

I cannot be seen, but I can be heard.

So as you stand upon a shore gazing at a beautiful sea,  
As you look upon a flower and admire its simplicity,

Remember me.

Remember me in your heart:

Your thoughts, and your memories,

Of the times we loved,

The times we cried,

The times we fought,

The times we laughed.

For if you always think of me,

I will never have gone.



## *To My Wife*

Thank you for your endless love.  
That will help me through each day.  
And thank you for the memories  
that will never fade away.

You're the woman I loved and  
I was proud to be your husband.  
And everyday – In some small way,

I will celebrate your life.  
As long as memories last,  
you will stay in my heart.

Your loving husband,

Larry



# OBITUARY

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LuAnn Palmer Edmonds-Harris Raley was born December 5, 1953 in Durham, NC to the late Harry J. Edmonds, Sr. and Rebecca Palmer Edmonds. She was the second of two children. Her brother, Harry J. Edmonds, Jr, and both parents preceded her in death.

LuAnn was a very spunky youngster who welcomed challenges, risks, and even mischief, traits of high energy and playfulness that she inherited from her father. LuAnn (Lu) participated in safety patrol and Girl Scouts and learned to play the clarinet. She attended Durham public schools. At J.A. Whitted Junior High School, LuAnn became a member of the concert band and volunteered as a candy striper at the old Lincoln Hospital. She attended Hillside High School where she was a Majorette. She was gregarious, popular, and outspoken from the start. Gifted with high spirits and confidence, LuAnn was a natural leader, even in high school. Upon graduation from Hillside in 1971, she enrolled at North Carolina Central University (NCCU), and majored in Theatre Arts, pool billiards and card games. LuAnn enjoyed building relationships and the sense of family she felt at NCCU. While in college, LuAnn began a relationship with her first husband, Andrew E. Harris, Jr. After her college graduation the couple married and was blessed with a son, Andrew E. Harris, III, affectionately known as "Trei," born on New Year's Day, 1979.

LuAnn continued her family legacy and was initiated into Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., in the Durham Alumnae Chapter in the Spring of 1982. She appreciated the sisterhood and the service opportunities the organization promoted, and she had an excessive appreciation of elephants, one of the symbols of the "Deltas" organization.

LuAnn began her professional journey serving in the Durham City School System, however, this did not last long, as Lu found herself following in her family's footsteps again. In 1986, she began working as a recruiter for the Admission's Department at NC "Central" University. LuAnn had witnessed firsthand, how her family's influence, favor and allegiance aided in the growth and flourishing of her alma mater. She was proud of the success gained by her family, while working on the campus of NCCU.

The Edmonds family's rich history impacted the sloping hills and verdant greens of dear old NCC greatly, with LuAnn's Aunt Dr. Helen G. Edmonds who worked at North Carolina College (now North Carolina Central University) as a Professor from 1941 until 1977. Dr. Edmonds served as Chair of the Department of History and Dean of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. Subsequently, in 1989, a classroom building on the campus was named in her honor.

LuAnn's Father, Harry J. Edmonds, Sr. better known as "Choker," worked in the Athletics Department at NCCU as both the tennis and basketball coach. He was a two-time Hall of Famer having been inducted at both Florida A&M and North Carolina Central University. Mrs. Rebecca Palmer Edmonds ("Mi-Mi") LuAnn's elegant and regal mother, held a series of positions with the college, as well, including Secretary to the Chair of the of Home Economics Department, Secretary to the Dean of Students, Director of Campus Housing, and the university's Purchasing Director.

Big brother, Harry J. Edmonds, Jr., did not miss the opportunity to stamp his history on the hallowed grounds of NCCU either, as he was an educator and Director in the Audio/Visual Department at Central.

Hence, LuAnn, was destined for greatness at the university, having stood on the backs of trailblazing Eagles. She, alongside her favorite 5th grade teacher, girl scout troop leader and then boss, Mrs. Nancy Rhice Rowland, Director of Admissions soared in their recruiting efforts to bring the brightest and best students to NCCU. LuAnn understood "excellence, without excuse"; citing, "The Eagle is No Ordinary Barnyard Fowl." It was here that LuAnn made her greatest impact on the students and for the university. She became known as "The Reason" many of the students came to the university. They could recite her inspirations verbatim and shared memories of their meeting during her recruitment tours. It was these efforts that earned LuAnn a Chancellor's Award for Truth and Service. And serve NCCU, she did!

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# LUANN P. EDMONDS-HARRIS RALEY

DECEMBER 5, 1953 - MARCH 2, 2024

In 1991, LuAnn recruited her first team of extraordinary Eagle Cheerleaders, and it was clear to the tryouts, that she was seeking excellence. Serving as the new Head Cheerleading Coach LuAnn recruited Ms. Dorothy Brower (Dot) to take the ride on the Eagle Train with her, as Assistant Cheerleading Coach and something beautiful, meaningful, and spectacular was born that will live on through future Champagne and Silhouette squads forever. "Miss" LuAnn, "Miss" Dot and the 1991-92 NCCU Eagle's Maroon and Grey Squads transformed North Carolina Central University's campus climate with calls like "E-Funk and U-Know" and flew high on top of CIAA with the stomp and shake style of cheerleading and uniquely designed uniforms, never seen before. LuAnn adored being a Cheerleading Coach, Mother, Sister, and friend to her cheerleaders, many of whom became family to her and Tre'. Cheerleading became her passion. She wanted to make certain that her squads were seen as athletes. She fought tirelessly for this and in time, saw a return on her investment.

Eventually, Lu invested in love again, as well and, on December 31, 2000, she married her current husband, Larry J. Raley. Through this union LuAnn gained two stepchildren, Mr. Larry J. Raley and Mrs. LaToya Shantay Funderburk.

LuAnn built close relationships with the athletics staff at NCCU, and desired to invest further in student- athletes in general, so she transitioned into the athletics department as an Assistant Athletic Director (AD) for Administration. She continued to soar here by utilizing her exquisite creativity for marketing and promotional campaigns and event coordination. LuAnn served the university for over 30 years and gave her best to NCCU. She announced her retirement in October 2022.

On September 30, 2023, the university administration inducted LuAnn into the NCCU Alex M. Rivera Athletics Hall of Fame for meritorious service. Unfortunately, shortly after having been inducted she suffered a significant decline in health and fought bravely over the past few months, yet ultimately, succumbed to her illnesses.

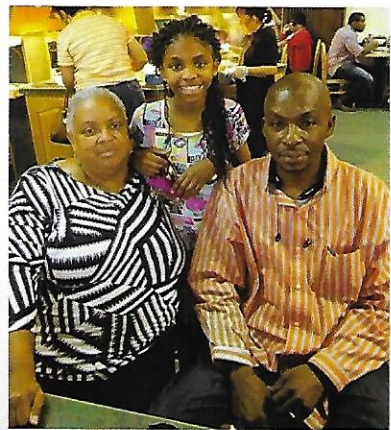
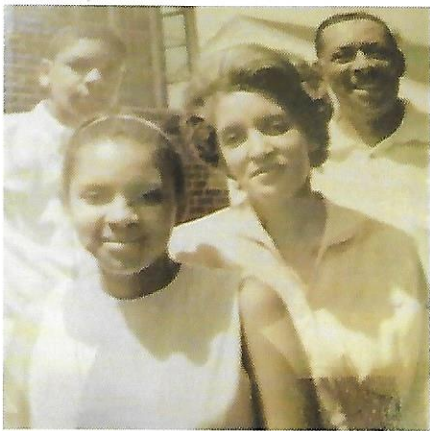
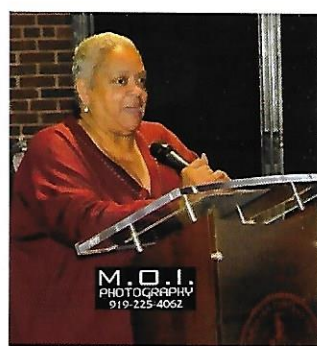
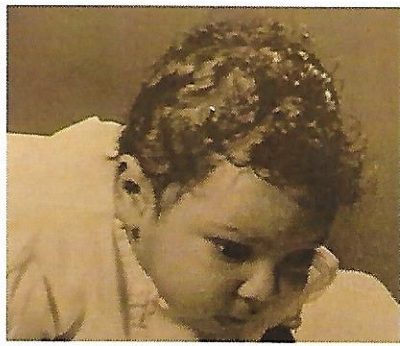
On March 2, 2024, LuAnn Palmer Edmonds-Harris Raley passed away peacefully at her home. She leaves to cherish her memory her husband, Larry J. Raley, her son Andrew E. Harris, III "Tre'," two step-children, Larry J. Raley, Jr. and LaToya Shantay Funderburk (Larry Funderburk) eleven grandchildren, two brother's-in-law, Rudy Raley (Mildred), four sisters-in-law, Priscilla Covington (Wayne), Rebecca Seegars (Harold), JoAnn Raley and Ann J. Edmonds, one niece Yvette "Missy" Jones, cousins: Kyle Edmonds, Kara Edmonds, Joyce Edmonds and Oralia Washington. Other survivors include LuAnn's very special students, athletes, and staff that she and Tre' viewed as family: NeQueela Deas-Blanton, Phyllis A. Thompson, Kristi Williamson, Dr. Rico A. Wagner, Regina Nixon Halyard, Ramirra Stackhouse, La'Tasha Bynum, Ingrid Wicker-McCree, LeVelle Moton, Melissa Craig, Michelle Lee, Ray Cook, Ryan Wolf, Jeremy Ardrey, and Trei' and Yvette Oliver.

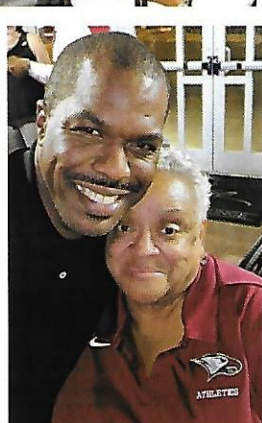
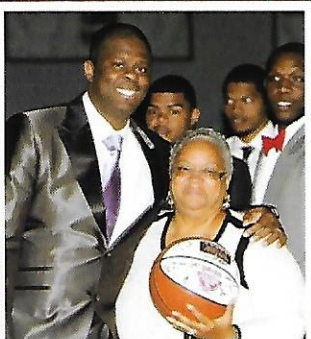
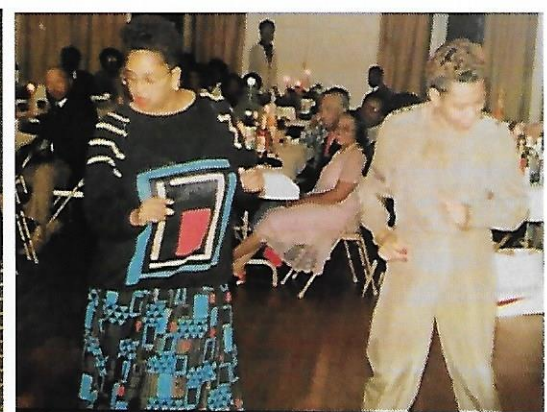
LuAnn had a host of lifetime friends that remained dedicated to her until her passing: Coach Greg and Terri Jackson, Gerald Spence, Angela Parker, Dorothy Brower, Marsha Newby, Marsha Kee, Helen Coleman, Claudette Free and many, many more.

LuAnn's big heart and cheerful spirit fortunately made a way for us all to be, feel and grow together as one enormous family. She will forever live on in all who she touched as a Delta, Recruiter, Cheerleading Coach, Marketing/Event Coordinator, and genuine extraordinary soul.



# MEMORIES





# MEMORIES

# our deepest Gratitude

The family of LuAnn Edmonds-Harris Raley would like to express our heartfelt appreciation for your kind expressions of love and sympathy during the loss of our beloved. Your prayer, visits, calls, flowers and every act of kindness, have given us strength and inspiration for the facing of this hour.

We would like to extend a special thank you to  
North Carolina Central University Administration, Faculty and Staff  
Mr. Dexter Scott, Earthquake Productions for providing the media/sound Productions  
Progressive Business Solutions, Raleigh, Owner Tim Catlett  
Holloway Memorial Funeral Home  
Duke Health Hospice Care  
Never more than now was your kindness needed and more appreciated.

Lovingly submitted,  
The Family of LuAnn Edmonds-Harris Raley



“On behalf of our family, we extend our deepest gratitude for your presence and support during this difficult time. Your kind words, gestures, and condolences have provided us comfort and strength. Thank you for honoring the memory of my beloved Mother.”

- Trei Harris



Click here to learn more about  
The LuAnn Edmonds-Harris Raley  
Endowed Scholarship

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