

Life Sketch of Evangeline Baromietta Morris Dennis

November 9, 1933 – October 3, 2020



The late Evangeline Baromietta Morris Dennis was born on November 9, 1933, at 35 Morris Hill, Clay-Ashland, St. Paul River, Liberia, West Africa, unto the union of Daniel W. B. Morris, Judge, Senator, and well-known musician and Catherine “Kate” R. Ricks, a gifted seamstress and quilt-maker. Both parents predeceased her. Evangeline “Evan,” “Vangeline,” Baromietta Morris Dennis went to be with the Lord, peacefully, in the early morning hours of Saturday, October 3, 2020, in Falls Church, at the residence of her daughter, The Rev. Dr. Beryl E. Dennis.

As a young child, she began her educational journey in pre-school and first attended high school at Central High School in Clay-Ashland. Later, she she continued her education in Monrovia, where she attended St.Teresa’s Convent and the College of West Africa (CWA).

Young “Evan” loved sewing. When it was playtime in the neighborhood on Benson Street, she used to be the leader in sewing doll clothes and helping other friends to sew. She also loved cooking and baking. All of these skills continued to be of interest to her throughout her life, and served her well.

Evangeline became saved in January 1949. She was a member of Trinity Pro-Cathedral Episcopal Church, which is now known as Trinity Cathedral Episcopal Church, located at 33 Broad Street, Snapper Hill, Monrovia, Liberia. Evangeline was joined in Holy Matrimony to Francis A. Dennis, Sr., on December 17, 1952, in Monrovia, Liberia. He preceded her in death on September 20, 2008, having been happily married for over 55 years.

Accompanying her husband, Ambassador Francis A. Dennis, Sr., on his assignments, Evangeline joined the diplomatic arena. He served Liberia in several Foreign service positions in various countries in this order: France; The United States; The United Kingdom of Great Britain; Cote d’Ivoire (The Ivory Coast); The former Soviet Union, the neighboring Scandanavian countries of Norway, Sweden and Denmark, and also Poland; back to the United States, this time with the addition of Canada; and back to the United Kingdom of Great Britain before their retirement. Evangeline was a mother-figure to the Liberians in each of these countries and was a special Guardian to many of

the students, especially some of the students attending boarding school in England, who lived with her family in London, during their school vacations.

Francis and Evangeline Dennis loved Liberia so much and wanted their children to experience the Liberian culture. So, after Francis, Jr. ("F.A.") and Florence completed high school in England, they enrolled them in college in Liberia where they both graduated from Cuttington College and Divinity School in Suakoko, Bong Country. Beryl completed her freshman year of college at Cuttington College. Baromi also had varied experiences in Liberia and in the Ivory Coast where he was born. These were valuable experiences intended to help their children develop an appreciation for African culture in general and Liberian culture in particular, as well as encourage a balanced perspective of the world while their children were still young.

She loved God, and in every country she went to she found a church in which she became very involved and served on many ministries. Through her kind, and compassionate spirit, Evangeline always shared the love of God with others.

Evangeline was a fashion Icon and a designer - she designed her own outfits and for people in her church and for her children. Her signature look were the beautiful hats that she wore. She loved hats and wore them very well.

After the Civil War in Liberia in 1980, Mrs. Dennis received accreditation in Early Childhood Education in the United States. As a teacher, she exhibited her motherly touch to the students and was recognized as "Most Loved" teacher at the schools where she worked – first Children's International School, then Happy Homes School, both in Alexandria, Virginia (USA).

Evangeline was a very calm-natured person with little words but was she was a GIANT! She could discipline without saying a word. Her right finger and eyes said everything she had to say. She had a sense of humor that most people did not, but we enjoyed her and she would have us laughing all the time. We will surely miss her.

In 2011, upon the initiative and leadership of Evangeline, the Ambassador Francis A. Dennis, Sr. Memorial Library was established at the Foreign Service Institute of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Monrovia, Liberia. It was her goal to honor the life and accomplishments of her husband and support initiatives in the areas of Faith, Academics and Diplomacy, key areas where they made significant contributions in their lives. The library hosts several books, photographs and historical records.

The Legacy of the Late Evangeline B. Morris Dennis could be described in three words: Courage, Strength, and Love. **Love** being the greatest of the three. During her birthday celebration on November 9, 2019, she admonished us to love on another. She did not want us to say, "I was the last one to call" or did whatever one did. "Do whatever you are able to do, and uphold each other." She was talking about togetherness. The King James edition of the Bible used the word "love" 310 times. Other versions of the Bible even exceeded that count. Through her journey, she spoke of love and exhibited it to family, friends and people.

Evangeline enjoyed spending time with her grandchildren to whom she gave many life lessons. Two of the most important values in life that she instilled in them were perseverance and extending love to others. During her years in Virginia, she enjoyed hosting parties and celebrations that would attract family and friends from all over the country. Although people came to celebrate with her, they would leave having made new friends.

In the passing of Evangeline, her family, relatives, and friends have lost a supportive loved one. She will be *greatly* missed. She constantly stressed the importance of Kindness, Togetherness, and Service to others.

“And let us not be weary in well doing:
for in due season, we shall reap,
if we faint not”.
-Galatians 6:9 KJV

Evangeline is survived by her precious Jewels – her four children: Francis A. Dennis, Jr., (Christine), Florence C. Dennis-Huskin (Lawrence), Beryl E. Dennis, and Baromi A. Dennis (Sharon), who shared her with many family and friends. We must pray for them and ask God to guide them.

Also, she is survived by several grand- and great-grandchildren, sisters-in-law, and brother-in-law, nieces, nephews, and a host of other loving relatives and friends.

We will miss her sorely, but our love for her will *forever* remain within our hearts. May she rest in peace and may perpetual light shine on her.

