

State University of New York College at Buffalo - Buffalo State University

## Digital Commons at Buffalo State

---

Pamphlets and Commemoration Material

Lincoln Memorial United Methodist Church

---

1-27-1987

### 1987-01-27; Pamphlets; Thyra Merriweather Charles

Lincoln Memorial United Methodist Church

Follow this and additional works at: [https://digitalcommons.buffalostate.edu/lm\\_pamphlets](https://digitalcommons.buffalostate.edu/lm_pamphlets)



Part of the [History Commons](#), and the [Religion Commons](#)

---

#### Recommended Citation

"1987-01-27; Pamphlets; Thyra Merriweather Charles." Pamphlets and Commemoration Material. Lincoln Memorial United Methodist Church. Digital Collections. Monroe Fordham Regional History Center, Archives & Special Collections Department, E. H. Butler Library, SUNY Buffalo State.  
[https://digitalcommons.buffalostate.edu/lm\\_pamphlets/7](https://digitalcommons.buffalostate.edu/lm_pamphlets/7)

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Lincoln Memorial United Methodist Church at Digital Commons at Buffalo State. It has been accepted for inclusion in Pamphlets and Commemoration Material by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons at Buffalo State. For more information, please contact [digitalcommons@buffalostate.edu](mailto:digitalcommons@buffalostate.edu).

# **Funeral Services**

— For The Late —

June 6, 1919

Jan. 16, 1987



**Thyra Merriweather Charles**  
**Wednesday, January 21, 1987**

11:00 A.M.

— At —

LINCOLN MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
641 Masten Avenue  
Buffalo, New York

The Rev. Melba Chaney, Pastor - Officiating

## Obituary

Mrs. Thyra Merriweather Charles, third of four children of the late Mr. Frank E. Merriweather, Sr., and the late Mrs. Carmelita Mitchell Merriweather, was born in Houston, Texas, on June 6, 1919.

She attended Public School No. 32 and Hutchinson Central High School, received a college entrance diploma in 1935; received a diploma, June 1941, from the Edward J. Meyer Memorial Hospital School of Nursing; attended the State University of New York at Buffalo (SUNYAB), received a B. S. in Public Health Nursing, Feb. 1949; attended New York University; and received a M. A. degree in Supervision and Administration of Public Health Nursing, June 1950.

Mrs. Charles received her Christian Experience as a child at Lincoln Memorial United Methodist Church. She became a member of St. Philip's Episcopal Church, along with her husband, Clifford Charles, Sr., and was a parishioner there until his death in 1968.

After his death, Mrs. Charles returned to Lincoln Memorial, where she was an active member, until her death.

She was united in Holy Matrimony to the late Clifford Charles, Sr., and to this union, two sons were born, Clifford H. Jr., and the late Earle Charles.

Mrs. Charles departed this life suddenly in the Erie County Medical Center, Friday, January 16, 1987.

She is survived by a son, Clifford H. Charles, Jr.; a brother, Frank (Evelyn) Merriweather; and a sister, Barbara (William) Sims. She is the sister of the late (Hulit (Robert) Curry; an aunt, Mrs. Lottie Moore; an uncle, George Perkins; nieces; nephews; cousins and friends.

Other relatives are: Florence Hendrix and Camille Charles, of New York City; and Ethel Forbes, of Los Angeles, California.



## — Acknowledgement —

The Family of the late Mrs. Thyra Merriweather Charles wishes to express their gratitude for the many acts of kindness shown during their time of sorrow.

### Crossing The Bar

Sunset and evening star  
And one clear call for Me!  
And may there be no moaning of the bar  
When I'm put out to sea,

But such a tide as moving seems asleep,  
Too full for sound and foam,  
When that which drew from out the boundless deep  
Turns again home.

Twilight and evening bell,  
And after that the dark!  
And may there be no sadness of farewell  
When I embark.

For though from out our bourne of time and peace  
The flood may bear me far,  
I hope to see my Pilot face to face,  
When I have crossed the bar.

### 23rd Psalm

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; he leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul: He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness, for his name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

## Service Of Thanksgiving

— For —

### Mrs. Thyra Merriweather Charles

Prelude . . . . . Mrs. Mamie Johnson

Procession of the Family

Congregational Hymn . . . . . 445  
"I Know That My Redeemer Lives"

Prayer of Hope

Scriptures —  
Old Testament . . . . . Psalms 31:10-31

Solo . . . . . Juanita Terrell Murray

New Testament . . . . . John 14:1-11; 18-19

Silent Reading of the Obituary

Special Acknowledgement . . . . .  
Mrs. Olive Benjamin Glascott, R. N.

Sermon . . . . . The Rev. Melba Chaney

Congregational Hymn . . . . . 143  
"My Faith Looks Up To Thee"

Benediction

Recession of the Family

BUFFALO MEMORIAL CHAPELS, INC.

In Charge  
66 E. Utica St. - Buffalo, N. Y.

### PALL BEARS

Robert S. Curry	Bruce C. Merriweather
Ronald W. Curry	William Sims
Frank E. Merriweather, III	Frank W. Sims



# Thyra M. Charles

C - Counselor  
E - Educator

H - Humanitarian  
R - Role Model

Thyra Merriweather Charles was truly a Mother's Mother, a Nurses' Nurse and a Leader's Leader. For sixty-seven years, our departed sister grew, worked, loved, fought, remembered and challenged each one she touched to excel and to overcome barriers to self-fulfillment.

As a nurse, she was a trail blazer and set the example by achieving many firsts, among which were: first Buffalo Black to graduate from the State University of New York at Buffalo School of Nursing; first Black to be employed as a qualified public health nurse by the Erie County Department of Health; first Black from Western New York to earn a Masters Degree in Nursing and first Black to teach in a collegiate institution in Buffalo.

Her professional life demonstrated her commitment to professional nursing and the uplifting of people through quality health care. Early in her career, Thyra worked as a public health nurse in Buffalo. After receiving her Masters Degree from New York University, she returned to Buffalo, and began an unprecedented career in public health nursing and education. In 1952, she was appointed to the position of Associate Director for Public Health Nursing, at the Edward J. Meyer Memorial Hospital and Clinical Associate Professor of Community Health Nursing at the State University of Buffalo.

The foundations for the current discharge planning programs for home care, were developed through the leadership and future orientation of Thyra Charles. She held that position for eighteen years. Her later employment included Assistant Director at the Visiting Nursing Association and Assistant Director of Public Health Nursing at the Erie County Health Department.

# Thyra M. Charles

Thyra retired in 1979 as a Hospital and Nursing Home Consultant and Surveyor, however continued to remain actively involved in nursing education at Daemen College. Her professional career was brilliant, creative, controversial, imaginative and inspiring.

Long to be remembered will be her dedication to Black nursing students and her zealous never tiring efforts to secure scholarships for those students to enter collegiate programs and her continued personal interest and involvement in providing mentor relationships for all those willing to accept her assistance.

Her quest for education was insatiable and she demanded that same commitment from others. Her dream of freedom for Black people was rooted in the belief that the "Truth will make you Free". In her view, there were no limits.

Thyra demonstrated a true love of her fellowman through the work and community activities. She always assumed the responsibility for reaching out to people of all races, creeds and nationalities. She willingly sought out opportunities to serve humanity and to promote educational, social and cultural changes.

She was Co-founder and first President of the Negro Registered Nurses Club of Buffalo; the forerunner of the Practical-Registered Nurses Club. Her involvement in such organizations as Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority; Buffalo Negro Scholarship Foundation; the Community Advisory Council of the State University of Buffalo; and the former Model Cities of Buffalo, are just a few examples.

Thyra was a member of the New York State Nurses Association, District I, and first chair of that group's Human Relations Committee. She was also former member of the New York State Nurses Association and the American Nurses' Association. In 1974, Thyra was a finalist for the American Nurses' Association Mary Mahoney Award. This nomination was supported by the New York State Nurses.



## Thyra M. Charles

Other honors, awards and citations include: Alpha Kappa Alpha Community Service Award; Practical-Registered Nurses Club, Distinguished and Devoted Service Award; Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs' Inc., of Buffalo; Sojourner Truth Award and the State University of New York at Buffalo School of Nursing 125th Anniversary Award for Teaching Excellence.

This dedication, love and commitment has been equally evident in the development of Clifford H. Charles, son of Thyra. A shining light in her life, Thyra was incomparable as Mother, and provided a high moral example to her son, through educational opportunities, cultural activities and travel.

### A Poem

He has achieved success who has lived well, laughed often, and loved much... Who has gained the respect of intelligent men, and the love of little children... Who has filled his niche and accomplished his task... Who has left the world better than he found it, whether by an improved flower, a perfect poem, or a rescued soul... Who has never lacked appreciation of earth's beauty, or failed to express it... Who has always looked for the best in others and given the best he had... Whose life was an inspiration... Whose memory a benediction.

— Bessie A. Stanley