



## Ms. Valaida Grimes

July 14, 1954 - February 19, 2023

God saw the road was getting rough,  
The hills too hard to climb  
He gently closed her loving eyes, and whispered,  
Peace of mind

Valaida Edora Gerald Grimes was born in Lumberton, NC on July 14, 1954 to the late Wilson and Thetis Gerald. She gained her heavenly wings on February 19, 2023, at ECU Health in Greenville, NC surrounded by her loving family.

Valaida was a graduate of Orrum High School, in Orrum, North Carolina. After graduating, she attended North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, Greensboro, North Carolina where she received a Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education. She later enlisted into the Army Reserves, where she served for four years. Her professional career began in Robeson County Public Schools in Lumberton, North Carolina and later relocated to Pitt County Schools where she taught for 30 years until her retirement. She was a passionate educator who created a classroom full of pride and recognition. Her influence impacted the lives of so many students, parents, and colleagues as she was most known for making learning fun.

Valaida was full of life and enjoyed sewing, home decorating and gardening. She was a devoted “Granny” to Brion, Langston, Peyton and Alexander. She could always brighten a room with a smile.

Valaida was a member of Cornerstone Missionary Baptist Church and later attended Forward

Nation Church in Greenville, NC. She was an active member of the National Council of Negro

Women, North Carolina Association of Educators and the National Council of Aging. She

loved taking care of people and she never met a stranger.

Valaida was preceded in death by her parents; brother, Wilson Truman Gerald and sister,

Evangeline Maynard.

Valaida leaves to cherish her memory, two daughters, Bridgette C. Grimes of Greenville, NC,

Brittney L. Moore (Stephon) of Durham, NC; her four grandchildren, Brion Grimes, Langston

Edwards, Peyton and Alexander Moore; godson; Elijah Gerald; nine siblings,

Morton Gerald, Jocelyn Hall, Israel Gerald, Margie Evans, Lajune Williams,

Larry Gerald, Treva Gaddy (Julius), Regenia Gerald and

Alma Gerald; a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and family and friends.

# Cemetery Details

## Spring Branch Baptist Church Cemetery

Atkinson Road  
Fairmont, NC 28340

# Previous Events

## Viewing

FEB **24**. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Congleton Funeral Home and Cremations  
3205 E. 10th Street  
Greenville, NC 27858  
(252) 355-9995  
congletonfuneral1@gmail.com  
<http://congletonmortuary.com>

## Celebration of Life

FEB **24**. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

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# Tribute Wall



“ *View and Download the Funeral Program*

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**Congleton Memorial Mortuary** - February 27, 2023 at 11:22 AM



“ *Ms. Valaida Grimes*

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October 06, 2023 at 05:52 AM



“ *It was good knowing Valaida. We were roommates in college and she was a sweet person. She truly was an angel.*  
-Shirvon Strayhorn



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**Shirvon Strayhorn** - April 23, 2023 at 10:25 PM



“ *So sorry to hear of her passing. Truly will be missed. A great person and friend. Thanks A&T for allowing her to be in my life. Take your rest dear friend.* 🙏🌹❤️

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**Ivan Massenburg** - March 12, 2023 at 08:01 PM



“ *A dear friend and a beautiful woman!  
We worked together at Elmhurst Elementary School. And her advice kept me strong. I love her and will miss her.*  
Mr. D.

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**Lester Daniels** - March 11, 2023 at 08:49 AM

LM

“ Lorenzo McCormick lit a candle in memory of Ms. Valaida Grimes



Lorenzo McCormick - February 28, 2023 at 04:09 AM

JK

“ I met Valaida while I was a member of Cornerstone. She was friendly and had a warm smile. She was a devoted mother to her girls who were very young at the time. Family, God will be with you every step of the way. Hold on to him and to his unchanging hands. My prayers are with you at this most difficult time.

Joyce A King - February 26, 2023 at 09:08 AM

DG

“ Deborah Graham-Davis lit a candle in memory of Ms. Valaida Grimes



Deborah Graham-Davis - February 24, 2023 at 09:21 PM

SD

“ Valaida was such an amazing woman. She was so sweet and funny and full of life. She will be missed.

Shirley Dickerson - February 24, 2023 at 07:58 PM

CB

“ *Carnell and Denise Burney*  
*We are sorry for the loss of your mother, our prayers are with you. Continue to look to the Lord for your strength. The Lord is your Shepherd!! May God bless you .*



**Carnell Burney** - February 24, 2023 at 07:20 PM

R&

“ *Rev.Milton Delores Staton &Family lit a candle in memory of Valaida Grimes*



**Rev.Milton & Delores Staton &Family** - February 24, 2023 at 06:05 PM

SM

“ *In sympathy and with fond memories of Valaida.*  
*-Sheila Mendoza*

**Sheila Mendoza** - February 24, 2023 at 03:39 PM

AH

“ *Sleep in peace and Grimes. Such a beautiful person and the best fourth grade teacher ever!!*



**Alishia Holloway** - February 24, 2023 at 12:00 PM

SC

“ Ms. Grimes, our Pactolus family will miss you so much! I'll never forget our summer school experience together. It's definitely one to remember! Sleep in eternal peace!

Shay Cumbo - February 23, 2023 at 07:09 PM

JM

“ Jessica Mewborn lit a candle in memory of Ms. Valaida Grimes



Jessica Mewborn - February 23, 2023 at 07:58 AM

AS

“ Ms. Grimes was my favorite 4th grade teacher at Elmhurst Elementary School and I have always remembered what she instilled in me to be a leader and not a follower. I told her about 3 years ago at Brigette's birthday party that she was my favorite teacher and that I always used her on the password questions that asked "what's the name of your favorite teacher." Her smile and spirit was always beautiful and warm! Alisha Savage



Alisha Savage - February 22, 2023 at 11:24 PM

TN

“ Please know that we are thinking of family and friends at this time sorrow and the days ahead.

*Thank You LORD for Educator Valaida's service to the students.*

*Rest In Peace  
Sister Grimes R.I.P.*



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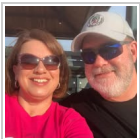
**The Moore Family (formerly of NC)** - February 22, 2023 at 10:52 PM

LM

“ I worked with Mrs. Grime at Elmhurst, I worked in her room and Mrs, William room,. I called Mrs. Grime Goldie because of a cruise she told me about. She was also my son teacher, she picked with him because she played Luther Vandros music a lot he would home laugh mom he would say “she played it again. I told her that Chris would come home laugh at her and Luther. So that became their joke. He really like her cause Mrs. Grime was just his teacher that’s how 4th grade though back then. To the family thank you for sharing her with us she will truly be missed. Linda Mobley and family.

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**linda Mibley** - February 22, 2023 at 09:09 PM



“ Amy Brinkley lit a candle in memory of Ms. Valaida Grimes



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**Amy Brinkley** - February 22, 2023 at 08:51 PM

PS

“ Prayers for the family. I have had the opportunity to attend many workshops and work together with her to meet the needs of the students of Pitt County. She was always pleasant and I loved her honesty. She will be missed.

Pam Silvwethorne - February 22, 2023 at 07:29 PM

SA

“ Shirley Atkinson lit a candle in memory of Ms. Valaida Grimes



Shirley Atkinson - February 22, 2023 at 07:09 PM

PW

“ Peggy White lit a candle in memory of Ms. Valaida Grimes



Peggy White - February 22, 2023 at 06:56 PM

AJ

“ Ms. Grimes was my 4th grade teacher at Elmhurst. She was one of the people that inspired me to become a teacher. She was strict but funny. I had the pleasure of meeting her again as an adult. I was at Pactolus visiting and I saw her. I yelled, “Ms. Grimes!” We talked for a while and I told her I was now an Assistant Principal. She told me how proud of me she was. She was really a phenomenal woman who loved her students. She will truly be missed💜

Arda Jones - February 22, 2023 at 05:59 PM

BH

“ I worked with her at Pactolus and she was very kind to me! 🙏 for her family, that God comfort them and give them peace during this time!

Braeahna Hawkins - February 22, 2023 at 05:48 PM

VG

“ On behalf of the Gaynor family, including Rashad, Jelani and Aniya, we extend our heartfelt condolence, love and compassion to her daughters, grandchildren and the Elmhurst & Pactlus school staff and families. Even though we lived in the same neighborhood, I always referred to her as Ms. Grimes. It just seem right to give her the respect she exuded when you had her as your child's teacher. She was an old school teacher that believed in not only teaching the core curriculum but also teaching the whole child regardless of race, class or creed of the child. . Ms. Grimes always told parents the truth about their child and expected parents to do their part at home. I thank you for the impact you had on my children's life (and always asking about them as they became adults) and the impact that you had on other public educators, parents, and the Pitt County schools' family. I surely will miss you, but know I'll see you again one day. Love, Virginia Carlton Gaynor. ☐💕



Virginia Carlton Gaynor - February 22, 2023 at 04:56 PM

CH

“ I worked with her at Pactolus and she was always a bright and happy presence, always doing her best to help the students and spread kindness to her co-workers. She will be missed!



Colleen Hopkins - February 22, 2023 at 03:29 PM

EW

“ *Evette Washington lit a candle in memory of Ms. Valaida Grimes*



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**Evette Washington** - February 22, 2023 at 02:33 PM

GN

“ *My name is Gwen Nealy. Valaida and I have been friends forever. Graduated high school together, played basketball 6 years together, Went to College together. We didn't get to see each other that much but we were always a phone call away. We always had our conversations laughing and talking about our country day's, our basketball days and about Life. We had a conversation 3 weeks ago. We always said to each other we love you. I never would have believed that would have be our last conversation with each other. I miss her I miss having her to talk to, but I know she's in a better place. God needed a Beautiful Angel and he got one. I love you and miss you. A HEART OF GOLD. I LOVE YOU FOREVER IN MY HEART. ❤️🌹*

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**Gwenda Nealy** - February 22, 2023 at 02:22 PM

KH

“ *Mrs Grimes was a great co worker as well as neighbor to the cafeteria staff at pactolus her friendship was greatly appreciated and will always be cherished and remembered with all smiles. Mary Holland & Pactolus cafeteria staff*

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**Kristi younger mary holland** - February 22, 2023 at 01:55 PM

DP

“ My condolences to Bridget, Brittany and family during this difficult time. May God be with you today and the days to come. Your mom was a sweet and beautiful. She always had a smile on her face. Rest easy in Paradise Ms. Valaida. 🙏



Donna M Pierce - February 22, 2023 at 11:12 AM

CG

“ I have so many memories auntie. Swimming in the pool with the girls all the time, i would go with you to your class in the summertime and help you decorate, spending weekends in lumberton. I was in awe of your beauty. I would watch you put on makeup. You would say “why you staring at me crys.” I would say “cause you’re so pretty” you hurt me with this one love. I really can’t believe you’re gone. I will miss you. Bridgette and Brittany i love y’all and I’ll always be here.

crystal grimes - February 22, 2023 at 10:27 AM

BS

“ Rest in peace, friend. You will be missed. Bernetta Sutton

Bernetta Sutton - February 22, 2023 at 10:09 AM

BW

“ Brittney Woodle lit a candle in memory of Ms. Valaida Grimes



Brittney Woodle - February 22, 2023 at 09:46 AM

SM

“ Valaida was a beloved teacher, mentor, and friend. She was an outstanding teacher and excellent role model who had a profound impact on the lives of many of us. She was always willing to go the extra mile to help her students, colleagues, and friends. She was an inspiration to all that she met. She was passionate and a caring individual. She will always be remembered for her dedication and commitment to all the lives she had touched and her kind heart and generous spirit. She will be truly missed by all who knew and loved her.  
Condolences and Prayers to the Family during this difficult time.



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**Sandra Morris** - February 22, 2023 at 09:15 AM

DB

“ Deirdre Briley lit a candle in memory of Ms. Valaida Grimes



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**Deirdre Briley** - February 21, 2023 at 08:15 PM

EH

“ My Thoughts And Prayers Are With The Family



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**Evangelist Gwen Hudson** - February 21, 2023 at 05:23 PM

SB

“ Valaida and I have been friends since elementary school. In our community all families were very close knit, everyone knew and helped each other. It's been some years since we have seen each other but when we do it's like no time has passed. I send Condolences and Prayers to the Family during this difficult time. May God be With you. Shirley Baker

Shirley Ann Baker - February 21, 2023 at 02:19 PM

JJ

“ Wow, sorry to hear that. I had the pleasure of knowing her when I worked at Elmhurst. She had a great sense of humor.



James Staton, Jr. - February 21, 2023 at 09:20 AM

LF

“ I shall miss the tenacity and passion she exhibited in the classroom. She loved children and helping them to tap into their full potential. She was a great educator and an even greater lady. May her legacy of love and compassion live on through the memories of those who knew and loved her.



Lavette Lang Ford - February 21, 2023 at 08:18 AM

CR

“ *Cleveland Denise Rountree-Moore lit a candle in memory of Valaida Grimes*



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**Cleveland and Denise Rountree-Moore** - February 21, 2023 at 07:44 AM

RC

“ *reverend dora cox/ dec william sent a virtual gift in memory of Valaida Grimes*



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**reverend dora cox/ dec william cox** - February 20, 2023 at 08:49 PM

BD

“ *We've been friends since Ms. Grimes taught our girls in the 4th grade at Elmhurst. She allowed us to be part of her family and served as a mentor. We attribute our girls success to her as an outstanding educator who will be sorely missed.*



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**Bernita Demery** - February 20, 2023 at 05:01 PM

LS

“ *Sending my love, prayers of comfort, and God's strength. You will be missed!*

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**Lena Strong** - February 20, 2023 at 03:45 PM

CS

“ Congleton Funeral Home and Staff wishes to express our sincere condolence on the passing of your love one. We light this candle in their memory.



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**Congleton Funeral Home and Staff** - February 20, 2023 at 01:04 PM