

HCC 11-5-06  
Cal Wooten

**A Service of Celebration  
for Dr. Linda Faye Williams-  
"Dr. Linda Faye Williams'  
Journey"**

On August 1, 1949, a baby girl was born to proud parents Washington Columbus Sr. and Wilma Williams of Lovelady named Linda Faye

Linda Faye graduated from Center Grove High School, completed a BA degree at Rice University in Houston and a Ph.D. in political science from the University of Chicago.

She was a wonderful wife, an amazing sister and a dedicated mother figure to her three stepchildren. Her love

and grace were actively demonstrated through her guidance and mentoring to her students and her family members.

She was a deeply spiritual woman who was an advocator the advancement of rights for women, poor working class and the homeless, and especially people of color.

Coming from Lovelady, Dr. Williams fought for justice, decency and human rights all her life and gave us an increased understanding of the roots of injustices, inequality and racism in the United States.

She was on the faculty at Howard University, Washington, D.C. for over nine years; Cornell University and Brandeis University and held the position of research associate at the John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University.

She also served as the director of the Congressional Black Caucus Research Group and held the position of associate director of research at the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies in Washington, D.C.

Dr. Williams was the research director of Chicago Urban League and acting director of the Afro-American Studies Programs at the University of Maryland and the Washington Bureau Legislative researcher for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

In 1991, Dr. Williams began service as an outstanding scholar at the University of Maryland, College Park, Md.

She held membership in many professional organizations including the National Conference of Black Political Scientists (NCOBPS) and the American Political Science Association (APSA).

Dr. Williams was the author of *The Constraint of Race: Legacies of the White Skin Privilege in America* that



**Dr. Linda Faye Williams**

received the Michael Harrington Best Book Award, the W.E.B. Dubois Best Book Award and named the Best Book of 2004 on Public Policy and Race and Ethnicity, awarded by the American Political Science Association's Organized Section on Race, Ethnicity and Politics.

She co-authored the edited book with her husband Dr. Ralph C. Gomes, "From Exclusion to Inclusion: The Long Struggle for African American Political Power. She also authored numerous articles in scholarly journals.

Dr. Williams was a leading analyst of Black political behavior. She served as a consultant on election issues and interpreting election results to a variety of women's groups including the National Women's Political Caucus, the National Black Women's Political Caucus, the Coalition of 100 Black Women and the women's issue group of the National Black Leadership Roundtable.

She has been interviewed by all of the major television networks evening news programs, CNN, C-SPAN, MacNeil-Lehrer, Nightline, The Today Show and was a regular contributor to the three major news weeklies The New York Times, The Washington Post, and The Wall Street Journal.

Dr. Williams' 1992 project entitled "Gender and Politics of 1992" took the "Year of the Women" as the starting point of her research. Her areas of academic interest were American Politics, Public Policy and Political Economy.

Research interests included race, class, gender and politics; press, politics and public policy; the American welfare state; urban politics; and public opinion and elections.

On Oct. 16, Dr. Linda Faye Williams died unexpectedly at Montgomery General Hospital, Olney, Md.

She leaves behind her

devoted husband Dr. Ralph C. Gomes, loving father and step-mother W.C. Williams and Mittie Williams; dedicated siblings Susan (Vernon) Patterson, Zandra Williams and Washington Columbus (Wendy) Williams, Jr.; three adored step-children Christopher, Alexander and Sash; six grandchildren and a host of nieces, nephews, 14 in-laws and numerous other relatives and friends.

Interment was in Cal Wooten Cemetery in Lovelady on Oct. 26. We will all cherish our fond memories of Linda and carry on her legacy.