

Cherished Memories of Ann Shirley Banks

Ann Shirley (Christopher) Banks was born January 11, 1940 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. She was the youngest daughter of five children born to Parzola Christopher and Carne Newsom.

A 1958 graduate of Douglass High School, Ann completed both her elementary and secondary education in the Oklahoma City Public School District. While in high school, she was a high-stepping majorette in the esteemed Douglass High Marching Band.

With a keen sense for business and sharp analytical skills, Ann attended Central State University in Wilberforce, Ohio. While there, she



made her mark and honed her professional skills at this renowned Historically Black College and University.

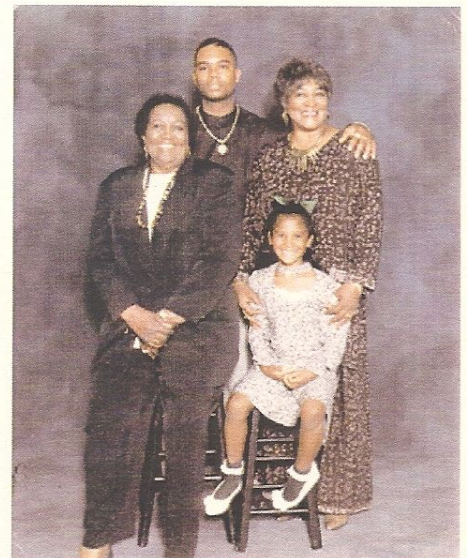
Early in her professional life, Ann returned home to Oklahoma City to begin her career in accounting services with Dodson Builders. She later rose through the ranks and assumed advanced roles in her next position at the Opportunities Industrialization Center of Oklahoma County, Inc. (OIC) in 1965.

Ann was excited to serve during the early days of OIC because of its mission to inspire and motivate adult learners through Academic and Career Education. She always had a heart to be of service to others in the community. She was dedicated to help the organization serve the urgent needs of the disadvantaged securing education and training skills for gainful employment.

After her service and multiple contributions to the Oklahoma City community, Ann decided to move west and seek new opportunities in Southern California. While in California, Ann continued to progress in the accounting profession and assumed additional responsibilities in the private sector.

In 1966, Ann and Leo Waller united and bore a handsome baby boy, Leo Donis Waller. She later married William Banks and continued to advance in her career while living in Inglewood, California.

She began work for Litton Industries as a lead accountant and





office manager in Beverly Hills in 1976. Ann was an instrumental part of the business and coordinated procedures and handled ongoing business activities for many consecutive years of prosperous growth and development.

Although she enjoyed living in Southern California, she longed for her Oklahoma roots and later returned to Oklahoma City in 1981.

With her incomparable work experience, Ann was in high professional demand upon her return to Oklahoma. She began working in the

accounting department in the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and assumed a variety of positions including Valuation Clerk and other advanced roles with increasing responsibility.

For more than a decade, Ann played an instrumental role in HUD's Office of Native American Programs and provided accounting service and oversight assistance for mortgage credit, financing and valuation that helped serve many tribal people throughout the state.

Ann was also a survivor of the Oklahoma City Bombing and subsequently retired from government service in 1995. However, this senseless tragedy did not stop Ann. She leaned on her faith and internal resolve to persevere. Ann drew from the experience to share her testimony and glorify the precious name of Jesus Christ at every opportunity. She was also a long-time dedicated member of Tabitha Baptist Church.

By her very nature, Ann was caring and compassionate, always a helper and supporter of others. It is that legacy of love that will live on forever in the lives of all who knew her. Ann was preceded in death by her mother Parzola Christopher, her father Henry Christopher, her brothers Don Christopher and Carne Newsom and sister Parzetta Newsom (passed away as an infant).

She leaves to cherish her memory her son, Leo Donis Waller; sister Marvella Holmes; granddaughters Lea and Jasmine Waller; great-grandson Logan Newkirk; nephew Carnell Newsom; nieces Lisa Newsom, Anita Stevens and Carla Meadows; grand-nieces Mackenzie and Madison Meadows and a host of cousins and other friends and relatives.

