

Dr. Algea Othella Harrison-Hale, by Nicole Lamb-Hale, Algea's niece

Professor of psychology, community activist, international scholar, patron of the arts, and devoted, loving mother was born on her father's birthday, February 14th, 1936. She was born in Winona, WV of the late Harriet Ellen and John Hobart Hale senior as the second child of four. She was baptized at the early age of nine when she united with Boomer Baptist Church. She was a member of the Sunday School and chaired the Baptist Youth Progressive Union Organization. Othella continued to grow in grace as she matured into adulthood. At the age of 12, Algea Othella organized a dance group for the younger people in the community and was subsequently recognized throughout the state. She graduated from Simmons High School, located in Montgomery, WV at the age of 15. She attended Bluefield State College from which she graduated with honors *Magna cum laude* with a degree in elementary education. She subsequently attended the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, where she completed her Masters degree and her PhD in Developmental Psychology. After relocating to Michigan, Algea Othella continued to advance in her field. She taught first grade at Duffield Elementary School until she completed her graduate curriculum in 1970. She joined the psychology department at Oakland University, where she was a professor of psychology until her retirement. She was a Fulbright scholar. As such, she taught at the University of Zimbabwe, Zimbabwe, Africa Free University Amsterdam, the Netherlands, and Nanjing University, Nanjing, China. Algea Othella traveled extensively delivering lectures and manuscripts. She also attended national and international conferences. She has published extensively in professional journals and books. A detailed description of her career is archived at the Society for Research and Child Development, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI. Algea Othella was very active in professional organizations, civic groups, and her church. She was especially fond of her associations in the Society for Research and Child Development and International Society for Study of Behavioral Development. She was a Trustee Emeritus of New Detroit. President and Co. Chair of the steering committee of Classical Roots at the Detroit Symphony Orchestra and on the executive committee for fundraising at Ecumenical Theological Seminary. Her creation of the Josie Daly Scholarship for black students of Music at the University of Michigan with church members Edith Clifton and Doctor Silas Norman Jr, and as a member of the contemporary issues Sunday School class at Hartford Memorial Baptist Church brought her a sense of deep satisfaction and spiritual growth. Our dear Othella belonged to numerous civic organizations. She was especially proud of being an original member of the National Organization for Women. Her early years as a feminist are archived with NOW Organization. Algea Othella was a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Theta Lambda Omega Chapter, Pontiac, MI She was a devoted football fan of the Michigan Wolverines and season tickets, which she loved sharing with her nephews John Hobart Hale III, Scott Hale and John Hobart Hale IV. During her retirement years, Algea Othella traveled to Antarctica, fulfilling A lifelong dream of traveling to all 7 continents. She traveled extensively throughout Europe after World War 2. After college graduation, she taught in Asia, Africa, as well as Europe during her career. As a retiree, she continued to travel as a conference presenter to Oxford University in England, as well as to Dubai and Russia with her daughter Denise, who

was working in those countries. She and her daughter also went on safari in Tanzania and to Finland to see the Northern Lights in the mid 2000s. Algea Othella leaves behind a loving daughter, Denise. Her son Don K. Harrison Jr. preceded her in death. She is also survived by two siblings. John Hobart Hale Jr., Sylvia, deceased of West Bloomfield Hills, MI And Wells Hale Carol of Oakland, CA. Her sister Claudia Les Roberts of Farmington Hills, MI, preceded her in death. She is also survived by nieces, nephews, grandnieces, grandnephews, cousins, extended family members, friends, colleagues and her church family. Amen.