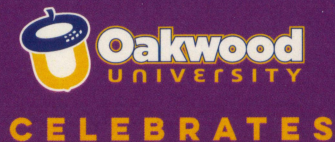


10:55 - 11:00 Performance

Pride Marching Band; Ryan Washington, Director



WOMEN'S HISTORY

Hers Month

Educator Memorial Medallion of Honor Ceremony

12:15 pm ► Eva B. Dykes graveside

Prayer & Occasion.....Dr. Prudence LaBeach Pollard,
Vice President, Division of Research
& Faculty Development

M O M E N T O F S I L E N C E

Unveiling of the Memorial.....Heather Rodriguez-James, Director,
Medallion of Honor Eva B. Dykes Library

Closing Prayer.....Dr. Barbara Stovall, Archivist,
Eva B. Dykes Library

OUMGC Committee Members

Miriam Battles
Carlos Cole
Sabrina Cotton
Audree Johnson
Gerald Kibble
Melvin Harris
Debbe Millet
Ron J. Pride
Irvin Raphael
Barbara Stovall
Shelley Vaughn
Cheri Wilson

Creative Competition Judges

ART JUDGES
Rhoda Benjamin
Teymi Townsend

POETRY JUDGES
Florence Marchand
Paul Nixon

Judging for art display and poetry to occur prior to start of the event winners announced during award ceremony.



FEATURING:
Art, Poetry & Song

Creative Competition for
Oakwood University
Students

100th Anniversary
The First Black Female
to Complete Course
Requirements for a
Doctoral Degree

Honoring OUR Women's History Legend

Dr. Eva B. Dykes

► **March 23, 2021 - 11:00 a.m.**

Oakwood University Memorial Gardens
Historic Slave Cemetery, Huntsville, AL 35806



*"Serving Your Family with
Compassion and Dignity"*



OAKWOOD
UNIVERSITY
Memorial
GARDENS
CEMETERY

7000 Adventist Boulevard, NW
Huntsville, Alabama 35896

Honoring **OUr** Women's History Legend

Dr. Eva B. Dykes

► **March 23, 2021 • 11:00 a.m.**

Oakwood University Memorial Gardens
Historic Slave Cemetery, Huntsville, AL 35806

Art, Poetry & Song

Women's History Pre-Program Activities

Art Creative Competition..... 10:30 - 10:45 a.m.

Poetry Competition..... 10:30 - 10:55 a.m.

The Pride Marching Band..... 10:55 - 11:00 a.m.

Linda Anderson, Mistress of Ceremony

Welcome & Occasion..... Dr. Leslie N. Pollard, President,
Oakwood University

Poetic Prayer..... Rhoda Benjamin

"Lift Every Voice and Sing"..... Oakwood University Aeolians
Ensemble

Poetry Finalists..... Oakwood University Students

Historic Highlights..... Miriam W. Battles, Development
Officer, Campus Historic Tour Guide

Presentation Eva B. Dykes..... Sabrina Cotton, V.P., Financial
Adventist *Educator* Administration
Memorial Certificate

Dr. Mervyn Warren, recipient on behalf Dr. Eva B. Dykes' Family

Musical Selection..... Samara Bowden, Miss UNCF 2021

Art and Poetry Award Ceremony..... Paul Nixon, presenter

Closing Remarks..... Dr. Colwick Wilson, Provost

Closing Prayer..... Sara Turner, President, Oakwood
University Literary Guild

Dr. Eva Beatrice Dykes

IN 1921, EVA B. DYKES received a Ph.D. from Radcliffe College, and was the first African American woman to complete the requirements for the degree in the United States. While working for Howard University in 1944, Dr. Dykes accepted a call to become the first professor with a doctorate at Oakwood College. Dykes' down-to-earth spirit, combined with her gracious manner, her intellectual attainment, and her Christian character, made her a great teacher and role model. Though she was small, she was tough, and perhaps to some, she was a difficult teacher, but she was fair.

Administrators from renowned schools across the country tried to lure her away from Oakwood with offers of larger pay, greater benefits, or better working and living conditions. She would reply, "I am on permanent tenure at Oakwood."

She founded the Aeolians in 1946 and gave the choral group its unique name. In 1973, the newly constructed Oakwood University Library was named in her honor.

Dr. Dykes died on October 29, 1986, in Huntsville, Alabama at the age of 93.

Sources: *Spectrum Magazine*/Dr. DeWitt Williams



**CITY OF HUNTSVILLE,
ALABAMA
PROCLAMATION**

**Dr. Eva B. Dykes Day
March 23, 2021**

**Original file stored in
Dr. Dykes box in file room.**

**CITY OF HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA
PROCLAMATION**

WHEREAS Dr. Eva B. Dykes was the first Black female to complete the requirements for the doctoral degree at Radcliffe College; and

WHEREAS in 1944 Dr. Dykes was the first faculty member with a doctorate to be hired at Oakwood, and was instrumental in assisting the college to gain full senior college status by chairing the accreditation committee; and

WHEREAS in during the 1946-47 school year she founded and directed the Aeolians, giving the choir its unique name which has since become synonymous with Oakwood; and

WHEREAS the accomplishments of the Aeolians have brought worldwide recognition to Oakwood and the City of Huntsville; and

WHEREAS the Oakwood University library is named in her honor; and

WHEREAS Dr. Dykes taught for more than 50 years, and in 1980 was made a Professor Emerita; and

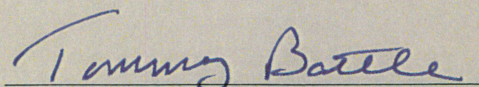
WHEREAS during her lifetime of sacrifice and service, Dr. Dykes embodied the values of devotion, excellence, respect, compassion, integrity, and service;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tommy Battle, Mayor of Huntsville, Alabama, do hereby proclaim March 23, 2021, as

Dr. Eva B. Dykes Day

and encourage Huntsville and Madison County residents to honor the memory of Dr. Dykes and her contribution to the community.

DATED this 23rd day of March 2021.



Tommy Battle
Mayor
Huntsville, Alabama

