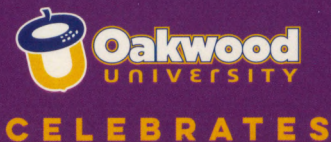


## 10:55 - 11:00 Performance

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.



*"Serving Your Family with  
Compassion and Dignity"*



OAKWOOD  
UNIVERSITY  
Memorial  
GARDENS  
CEMETERY

7000 Adventist Boulevard, NW  
Huntsville, Alabama 35896



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

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

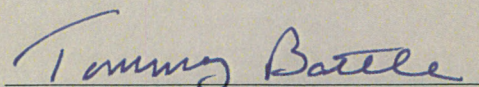
WHEREAS during her lifetime of sacrifice and service, Dr. Dykes embodied the values of devotion, excellence, respect, compassion, integrity, and service;

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 23<sup>rd</sup> day of March 2021.



Tommy Battle  
Mayor  
Huntsville, Alabama

