



Ms Selma Leonard Lash

May 9, 1944 - January 3, 2026

Selma Leonard Lash, a pioneering leader, educator, and public servant, eighth child of ten, was born on May 9, 1944, in Starkville Mississippi to the late Joseph and Tenolia Leonard. Her journey is one marked by resilience, dedication, and an unwavering commitment to excellence.

Mrs. Lash was a devoted Educator, serving over 30 years as a teacher and school counselor. She also spent countless hours providing community service to those in need. Mrs. Lash was a member of St James United Methodist Church. Selma was also a dedicated member of the Columbus–Lowndes County Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Inc. and the Golden Crest (MS) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated.

Mrs. Lash entered eternal rest on Saturday, January 3, 2026, in Decatur, Georgia. Her memory will live on in the hearts of her loving and devoted sister, Katherine Johnson; a dedicated God son, Joe Harris, sister-in-law, Irene Hairston, her Sorority Sisters of the Columbus–Lowndes County Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Incorporated, a host of nieces, nephews, and other beloved relatives and friends.

Public viewing will be held Friday, from 1:00pm until 5:00pm at Hairston-Hairston Funeral Home, 1123 5th Ave N., Columbus, MS 39701.

On Saturday, January 10, 2026, The Omega Omega Ceremony will be held at 10:00 am for family and members of Delta Sigma Theta Inc, Sorority.

Celebration of Life Services begin at 11:00 am at St. James United Methodist

Church, 722 Military Rd, Columbus, MS, 39701 with Rev. Dwight Prowell
Officiating.

Interment will be at Union Cemetery, 101 Tuffy Lane, Columbus, MS 39701.
Davis Funeral Home, 725 Beech Street, Louisville, GA 30434 and Hariston –
Hariston 1123 5th Ave N., Columbus, MS 39701 are in charge of
arrangements.

Cemetery Details

Union Cemetery

Tuffy Lane
Columbus , MS 39701

Previous Events

Public Viewing

JAN 9. 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM (CT)

Hairston & Hairston Funeral Homes - Columbus
1123 5th Ave N
Columbus, MS 39701
(662) 328-1730

Omega Omega Ceremony

JAN 10. 10:00 AM (CT)

St James United Methodist Church
722 Military Road
Columbus, MS 39701

Celebration of Life

JAN 10. 11:00 AM (CT)

St James United Methodist Church
722 Military Road
Columbus, MS 39701

Rev. Dwight Prowell, Officiating

Tribute Wall

BF

“ *Bessie Ferguson sent a virtual gift in memory of Ms Selma Leonard Lash*



Bessie Ferguson - March 10 at 11:11 PM

MS

“ *Macie Sanders sent a virtual gift in memory of Ms Selma Leonard Lash*



Macie Sanders - February 04 at 12:39 PM

SK

“ *Sending prayers and my condolences to the family.*



Suprindah Kilborn - January 26 at 07:38 PM

DG

“ *Doris C Garmon lit a candle in memory of Ms Selma Leonard Lash*



Doris C Garmon - January 13 at 04:48 AM

FW

“ *Flora Watson lit a candle in memory of Ms Selma Leonard Lash*



Flora Watson - January 11 at 09:00 PM

AN

“ *Annie Norman sent a virtual gift in memory of Ms Selma Leonard Lash*



Annie Norman - January 11 at 05:08 PM

SD

“ *Mrs. Lash was a dear friend and colleague. My family and I extend our deepest condolences.*

Shelia Dupree - January 10 at 10:45 PM

RH

“Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his faithful servants.” Psalm 116:15 ~ Ms Lash will remain a beloved friend for honoring my oldest sister Ollie Mae who earned a full scholarship to Jackson State University and looking out for me at MUW beyond unjust climates, pulling my grades for 6-week counseling check-ins. By nurturing my spirituality and social development through Delta Sigma Theta, Ms Lash ensured we emerge as leaders to find our voices and stance. I am grateful for her scholarship, advocacy and choosing me to meet Ruby Dee, Wilma Rudolph and numerous inspiring encounters to experience God and serve him in fun, challenging and rewarding ways! We celebrate Ms Lash and bless her Family, friends and Community for her love in Christ and model of service to mankind. Rev. Barbara Smith Haralson ~ Aberdeen MS/Houston TX (MUW 1980, Omicron Epsilon charter member ~ Delta Sigma Theta Inc.)

Rev. Barbara Smith Haralson - January 10 at 03:42 PM

CC

“ Carlene Chandler lit a candle in memory of Ms Selma Leonard Lash



Carlene Chandler - January 10 at 07:46 AM

CB

“ Sending Condolences to the entire family! 🙏🙏



Cynthia Bishop-Harris - January 10 at 05:41 AM

GE

“ May Ms. Lash work and dedication to the community continue to live and forever dwell in our hearts.
Glorestine S. Everson



glorestine everson - January 10 at 05:26 AM

MM

My deepest condolences to the family. We worked together in the Columbus Public School System. She will be missed.

Mary Mullins - January 10 at 12:11 PM

GW

My heart will forever remember you my Soror Leonard. You were a mentor and a blessing. Love, Gwen B. Ware

Gwendolyn B. Ware - January 10 at 01:51 PM

MM

“ Marguerite Moore sent a virtual gift in memory of Ms Selma Leonard Lash



Marguerite Moore - January 10 at 12:21 AM

SH

“ I am so verry sorry, sending my condolences and many prayers.

Sheri - January 09 at 11:39 PM

DJ

“ *DORA KENNARD JACKSON lit a candle in memory of Ms Selma Leonard Lash*



DORA KENNARD JACKSON - January 09 at 10:26 PM

YC

“ *Sending sincere prayers and condolences to the family* ❤️🌹

Yvonne B Cox - January 09 at 07:10 PM

GZ

“ *Gussie Zuber lit a candle in memory of Ms Selma Leonard Lash*



Gussie Zuber - January 09 at 06:55 PM

RW

“ *My condolences to the family of Mrs. Selma Leonard Lash, high school counselor at SHS, Class of 1975.*

Ross Hairston Williams

Ross Williams - January 09 at 05:35 PM

ID

“ *The family have our deepest condolences.* ”



Irma Dickerson - January 09 at 04:27 PM

FF

“ *Frances Wilson & Family lit a candle in memory of Ms Selma Leonard Lash* ”



Frances Wilson & Family - January 09 at 04:19 PM

LE

“ *Lori Evans lit a candle in memory of Ms Selma Leonard Lash* ”



Lori Evans - January 09 at 03:50 PM

FF

“ *From the Powers family purchased the Sweet Tranquility Basket for the family of Ms Selma Leonard Lash.* ”



From the Powers family - January 09 at 03:22 PM

MF

“ Mikel Franklin lit a candle in memory of Ms Selma Leonard Lash



Mikel Franklin - January 09 at 12:35 PM

PF

“ Pat Bell and Floyd Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ms Selma Leonard Lash.

Pat Bell and Floyd Family - January 09 at 11:18 AM

PF

“ Pat Bell and Floyd Family purchased the Small Garden Dish for the family of Ms Selma Leonard Lash.



Pat Bell and Floyd Family - January 09 at 11:18 AM

JA

“ Jenette Ashford-Peters lit a candle in memory of Ms Selma Leonard Lash



Jenette Ashford-Peters - January 09 at 10:52 AM

SF

“ Sheretha Bell & Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ms Selma Leonard Lash.

Sheretha Bell & Family - January 09 at 10:48 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Ms Selma Leonard Lash.



January 09 at 10:48 AM

CR

“ Cynthia Robinson lit a candle in memory of Ms Selma Leonard Lash



Cynthia Robinson - January 09 at 08:59 AM