



### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The family of Dr. O is eternally grateful for the outpouring of love and support. Whether you said a kind word, sent a card, made a phone call, brought food, or just prayed with and for us, we are thankful for your compassion. The kindness exhibited has been overwhelming and has given us strength through this difficult time.

### MUSIC BY VOLUNTEER STATE MUSICIANS

### REPAST

Volunteer State Community College  
1480 Nashville Pike, Gallatin, Tenn. 37066  
Wood Campus Center,  
Mary Cole Nichols Dining A&B



CELEBRATING

Dr. O

ORINTHIA T. MONTAGUE

JANUARY 5, 1967 – SEPTEMBER 22, 2023

## CELEBRATION OF LIFE & LOVE FOR DR. ORINTHIA T. MONTAGUE

Reverend Dr. Manfret McGhee, Officiant

Welcome and Remarks..... Mr. Nicholas Bishop  
*Volunteer State Community College*

Ivy Beyond the Wall Ceremony: Noon - 12:20 p.m.  
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

Opening Prayer..... Dr. Derrick L. Jackson  
*First Baptist Church | East Winchester | Gallatin, Tenn.*

Musical Selection..... Mr. Jamar Carter  
*First Baptist Church | East Winchester | Gallatin, Tenn.*

Remarks..... Dr. Flora W. Tydings  
*Chancellor, Tennessee Board of Regents*

Remarks..... Senator Ferrell Haile  
*Tennessee District 18*

Musical Selection..... Mr. Torrion Amie  
*Bloomington, Minn.*  
Accompanied by Jamar Carter

Expressions of Love ..... Ms. Trimeka Benjamin  
*Tampa, Fla.*

Mr. Greg McCalley  
*Volunteer State Community College*

Obituary (Please Read Silently)

Acknowledgments..... Ms. Aubrey Williams  
*Dallas, Texas*

Musical Selection..... Mr. Torrion Amie  
*Bloomington, Minn.*

Words of Comfort, Closing Prayer and Committal..... Rev. Dr. Manfret McGhee  
*Pastor, Straightway Missionary Baptist Church | St. Louis, Mo*

Recession/Selection..... Dr. O's Song

### PALLBEARERS

Christopher Atkinson	Eddie Bolden, Jr.	Calvin Mister
Alan Bolden	Nijell Jones	Mark Montague
Alex Bolden	Martise Cohen	

### HONORARY PALLBEARERS

Eddie Bolden	John Griffith	Frank Pace
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## DR. ORINTHIA T. MONTAGUE

January 5, 1967 – September 22, 2023

Clergyman John Wesley both summed up our purpose and gave us our charge in just 42 simple words: “Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can.” And it was with this zeal and resolve that Dr. Orinthia T. Montague shown her light to many until she was called to a greater service on Sept. 22, 2023.

Born in Jamaica in 1967 and immigrating to the United States with her parents and five older siblings at the age of three, Orinthia lived a life of service to her family, her community and to humanity. She devoted her adulthood to ensuring access to the greatest gift society can give – education. First for herself, as a proud child of Missouri, she attended Truman State University and earned a bachelor’s degree and progressed to earn a master’s degree in counseling from Linwood College. She later earned the distinction of a doctorate in higher education administration from the University of Missouri-St. Louis.

Yet, for Orinthia, her soul was not full with her achievements; it was the achievements of students at the institutions and organizations at which she worked that brought joy and pride to her heart, from working as a high school social worker, to serving students in a youth group home facility, to returning to the halls of the university where she earned her Ph.D. to become a leader in student services. Though she ascended the academic ladder from associate provost and dean of students at her alma matter, to a vice president and dean at a community college in Minnesota, to become the third president of Tompkins-Cortland Community College in Ithaca, NY and the fourth president of Volunteer State Community College in Gallatin, TN, Dr. O. – as she was affectionately known – never lost her focus on what mattered most – students. An equity champion with a drive to create environments for students to learn and thrive, both inside and outside of the classroom, Orinthia put her positions of authority to work to design conditions that led to better student experiences, from addressing food insecurity by creating a food pantry, to bringing daycare services to campus for students and employees, to recently engaging in a process to overhaul the entire student services organization.

If Orinthia were to read these words, she would give a tilt of the head and flash that warm and infectious smile as an expression of gratitude for the sentiments and then would refocus our attention to that which was her motivation – not herself, but others – as she said, “I am driven by the desire to help others achieve their dreams through education.”

The hearts of so many have been filled by Orinthia’s love, including the love of her life, her husband of nearly 20 years, Michael McGhee; her mother, Linda Montague; one brother and three sisters and their respective families; her father and sister who preceded her call home; her sisters of the Gamma Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.; countless friends and colleagues across the nation; and students whom she met and many she didn’t, but all who benefited from her life, love, compassion, dedication, drive, focus and kindness.

For all who knew her and loved her and could call her wife, daughter, sister, aunt, leader, president, colleague and friend, know that Orinthia Montague did all the good she could, by all the means she could, in all the ways she could, in all the places she could, at all of the times she could, for all of the people she could, for as long as she could. And for that, we should celebrate, cherish, and be proud that we knew Orinthia Montague.

“ Always give people  
grace.”  
~Dr. O

