

Myra Atwell McDaniel - Biographical information

A new chapter of the Union of Black Episcopalians was formed in Central Texas, December 2012 and chartered July 2, 2013 in Jacksonville, FL. The Chapter is named for Myra Atwell McDaniel.

Myra McDaniel was the epitome of a faithful, dedicated and active lay woman who lived her baptismal and confirmation vows until she died on February 25, 2010 at the age of 77.

McDaniel was raised by her mother in a working class family in Philadelphia. The family attended The African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas where her mother was the editor of the newsletter until her death.

Myra, as she would invite people to call her, considered her first career that of wife and mother. Her second career was as a practicing attorney. She received her undergraduate degree in English from the University of Pennsylvania and her law degree from the University of Texas, Austin. She had a passion for women's athletics, especially the women's basketball team at the University of Texas.

Her commitments to the larger community, the wider church and St. James' Episcopal Church, Austin, were exceptional. She was grounded by her faith. Myra served the State of Texas as the first Secretary of State from the Diaspora. She was managing partner of a law firm. Her community involvement included the boards of St. Edward's University and Seton Hospital. In the Diocese of Texas she served on the boards of St. Luke's Episcopal Health Charities, Bishop Quin Foundation and Seminary of the Southwest.

At St. James', Myra served as Bishop Warden, Senior Warden, friend, chief bottle washer and editor of the newsletter until shortly before her death.

Myra's son identified the following qualities possessed by his mother: Christian, Loving, Grace, Giving, Loyal, Curious, Fun, Smart, Serious, and Organized.

Based on this brief biography it should be clear why the Chapter is named in honor of a well-rounded, exceptional laywoman, Myra Atwell McDaniel.