

Condolence Message to the Deal Family

Bishop Reginald T. Jackson, Presiding Prelate, 6th Episcopal District
Mrs. Christy Davis Jackson, ESQ Episcopal Supervisor, 6th District
Reverend Larry W. Hudson, Presiding Elder, North Atlanta District
Reverend John Foster, Ph.D., Senior Pastor, Big Bethel AME Church
Sister Mary Ann foster, First Lady, Big Bethel AME Church
Ms. Britney Gholson, Big Bethel AME Church
Representative Marie Robinson-Metze, Big Bethel AME Church

Georgia House District 55 MILLENNIALS
Submitted by Britney Gholson

We can use a few words to describe how amazing Sandra Deal was: Loyal, ambitious, and astute. A 15-year language arts teacher took on the role of empowering the youth through education, after her husband Nathan Deal was elected governor in 2011. Mrs. Deal took pride in being very hands-on. Many people looked up to her because she didn't spend her time reading magazines or drinking coffee in the office. During the 8 years she spent in the Governor's Mansion, she took time to not only read but donate books and other resources for 159 counties in Georgia.

During her time as the first lady, Mrs. Deal spent days traveling to rural counties reading to students and meeting with local community organizations. She had the opportunity to co-write the book on the history of the Governor's Mansion with two professors from Kennesaw State University. In 2017, her alma mater Georgia College and State University honored Mrs. Deal with an institute dedicated to Early Language and Literacy. Mrs. Deal believed that “education is the key and having a love of learning opens doors and makes life possible and great.”

Mrs. Deal was diagnosed with Stage 1 breast cancer in 2018. She went public with her diagnosis to spread awareness and encourage women to get mammograms. She leaves behind her husband, four children, and six grandchildren. First lady Sandra Deal made an impact that will continue to live for many years to come.