

## **GLORIA CONSTANCE TAYLOR**

**1920 - 2006**

Members of the American Society of Geolinguistics, as well as the many relatives and friends and students of this beloved retired professor of the Borough of Manhattan Community College CUNY will be saddened to hear of the passing of this gracious lady in November 2006.

She came from Hispanic parents who greatly valued education and she made them proud when she was the first woman to graduate in economics at CUNY with a bachelor of science degree, which she took with honors. This was the firm foundation of an academic career that saw her become a full professor, chairperson of her department, and longtime author of textbooks, scholarly articles, etc., along with service on the boards of a number of scholarly organizations and the College Business Educators Association. She worked with law firms and business corporations and other entities as a consultant.

For many years she was very active in Roman Catholic, women's and other academic organizations, which conferred various honors on her. We remember her chiefly for her gracious presence in ASG where she was once president, where she frequently attended lectures even in her latter years when getting around became rather difficult for her, where she chaired sessions at ASG international conferences and presented papers which were published in the proceedings, where she conscientiously served on committees, and where she was always a valued friend and admired colleague.

Both her daughter and her granddaughter also read papers in recent years to ASG, one as a professor of art and the other returning from a stint as a teacher in far off Senegal.

On 21 November 2006 the life of Dr. Taylor was remembered in a Mass at St. Joseph's Church in Manhattan followed by a reception at the nearby Café Del Mar and then a memorial service at the Village Funeral Home..

At that memorial service friends and family celebrated her long and productive career. In my brief remarks I quoted a statement by St. Augustine whose rhetorical trick in Latin I could translate only awkwardly as "we shall all die, but we shall not die all," by which he meant that all of us are mortal but that there is some part of us that is immortal. St. Augustine believed the soul never dies. However, whatever your religious view, you must admit that anyone who passes through life touches many other people, and therefore, so long as influence lasts and that person remains in the memories of those who

survive, that departed one is never completely gone. As a parent and grandparent and as a teacher who helped thousands of students to better themselves, Dr. Taylor leaves family and a host of those whose lives she improved and who will remember her with gratitude as long as they live. When they too pass away those whom they have personally affected will to some extent keep memories alive. Thus, though we all die we do not die all.

Those of us who are religious thank God for the life of Gloria Taylor and pray to Him that her soul may rest in peace. Those who not believe in an afterlife cannot deny the many good things she accomplished for herself and others right here on earth and that she was truly well suited to be active in a New York religious group called the Ladies of Charity.

Her ashes will be scattered in several places that were dear to her in life, and in death she holds places in the hearts and memories of all in this life who knew her and remain thankful for that privilege.

I am certain that I speak for my colleagues in the American Society of Geolinguistics when I say we mourn her passing and we shall miss her sorely.

**Leonard R. N. Ashley**