Funeral Service for Dr. Sandra J. DeLoatch  
East End Baptist Church  
1056 Portsmouth Blvd., Suffolk, VA 23434.

President’s Remarks

Good morning – As Interim President of Norfolk State University it is my privilege to be here today to honor the life and legacy of Dr. Sandra J. DeLoatch, who I had the pleasure of working with as Vice Rector of the University’s Board of Visitors.

In her more than 40 years at NSU, she was a powerful influence — a giant in the life of the University. Her leadership can still be felt on campus today in both tangible and intangible ways.

Dr. DeLoatch came to Norfolk State in 1972 as a mathematics instructor and subsequently held many positions including founding Chair of the Computer Science Department, Dean of the College of Science, Engineering and Technology, and acting university president. She last served as Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs before retiring in February 2017.

Through the years, Dr. DeLoatch made extraordinary contributions to the science, engineering and technology fields. She championed programs, on and off campus, that have encouraged women, girls and minorities to enter scientific fields.

She achieved many “firsts” during her career including serving as the Principal Investigator for one of the first two research contracts ever awarded to an HBCU by the National Security Agency (NSA).

Her pioneering efforts in information assurance and computer science laid the groundwork for NSU’s emerging prowess and success in Cybersecurity.

Because of her love for NSU, she was one of the University’s most charitable donors - giving more than $100,000 to the institution.

Dr. DeLoatch was revered by her peers and today, I would like to share with you a few words from members of the Spartan family who had the opportunity to work with her during her time at the university.
• Long time NSU faculty member and alum, Dr. Carl Haywood offered the following reflections: “The legacy of Dr. Sandra J. DeLoatch as a pioneer in the areas of science, engineering, and technology is fixed in the history of Norfolk State University. As a towering force who led the way and challenged faculty to seek grants for research, her efforts in this regard assured student success for generations to come.”

• Dr. Rasha Morsi—Professor of Engineering remembers DeLoatch in the following way: “She was truly a friend, mentor, older sister, and mother. Her passion was NSU and it rubbed off on you. I learned so much from her just by observing her in action. I was a perfectionist but she made me want to be even more perfect for her.”

• NSU alum, Valencia Ingram— who studied under DeLoatch in NSU’s undergraduate research program offered the following thoughts on the profound impact DeLoatch had on her life. “Dr. DeLoatch was my mentor throughout my time at Norfolk State. She gave me the confidence to excel and reaffirmed my ability by telling others that I was her success story. She even made my daughter’s wedding cake. I always thought of her as a big sister or an aunt. She really helped to change my life.”

Dr. Sandra J. DeLoatch has left an indelible mark as an educator and mentor to thousands of students who have attended Norfolk State. We will never forget her contributions, and will continue to honor her legacy through our ongoing commitment to excellence in education at the University.

On behalf of a grateful Spartan Community, I say thank you, Dr. DeLoatch – may you rest in peace.

END REMARKS