

**ETHELDRA (SAMPSON)
JORDAN-DAVIS**

Born May 11, 1931 in Marianna,
Arkansas.

She was the 5th of 8 children (6
boys, 2 girls); born to parents
Luther and F. Beatrice Sampson.
Both of her parents were school
teachers in Mississippi, Arkansas,
and Louisiana. The family
relocated to southern California in
the 1940s.



She went on to teach at local
Anchorage elementary schools:
Airport Heights, Government Hill, Mt.
View, and Denali Elementary. She
met and married podiatrist, Dr.
Lawrence S. Jordan in 1961. They
welcomed their only daughter
(Andrea) in 1962.

She continued her education and
obtained her Master's Degree in
Education from the University of
Alaska (Fairbanks) in 1965. In 1967 she
was promoted to Assistant Principal
at Willow Crest Elementary School.



Etheldra attended elementary
school in Los Angeles (Watts) and
graduated from Jordan High
School in 1949. She obtained her
Associate of Arts degree from LA
City College in 1951; and Bachelors
Degree from the University of
California, Los Angeles, and began
teaching in the Los Angeles school
district.

In 1957, Etheldra visited her two
older brothers Hershey and Luther
Sampson, both of whom came to
Anchorage, Alaska to work and
started successful businesses in
the painting and construction
fields. After visiting her brothers,
she decided to transfer her
teaching credentials from Los
Angeles (Watts) schools to the
Anchorage, Alaska school system
in the summer of 1958. Upon
relocating, she applied and was
hired as the first African American
teacher hired by the Anchorage
School District (on contract) in
1959.

In 1969, with community support,
she was hired as the first African
American Principal hired by the
Anchorage School District of Fairview
Elementary and held that position
until she was transferred to newly
built Ptarmigan Elementary School.
She married her husband Joseph M.
Davis, also an educator in the
Anchorage School district, in 1970. In
1975, she obtained her Doctorate in
Education from Newport University
in Riverside, CA. Dr. Davis went on to
become the principal on Ft.
Richardson at John F. Kennedy
Elementary school where she
worked until her retirement from the
Anchorage School District in 1980.

Dr. Davis was very involved with the
community and is a lifetime member
of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.
(AKA); National Crime Prevention
Specialists, NAACP, National
Education Association, and many
other community organizations. A
lifelong educator, Dr. Davis worked
many years with the youth in
numerous programs, including the
United League of Girls, Coalition to
Prevent Shoplifting, NAACP Youth
Council/ACT-SO youth programs and
often took groups of youth on trips
out of state. Dr. Davis currently resides
in Anchorage, Alaska where she lives
with her daughter and son in law,
Dexter; granddaughter Angel and
great-granddaughter Amari.