



GALLERY OF DISTINGUISHED CITIZENS INDUCTEE 2005

CYNTHIA MORRIS WESLEY was born and raised in Birmingham. A proper lady, even as a young child, she is also remembered as having a bright mind and a keen sense of humor. She loved music, especially the popular records of the 1960's. She excelled in math, reading and band. Cynthia held parties in her backyard for all her friends.

Cynthia was blessed to have two families whose decisions were guided by their love for her. She was one of eight children born to parents whose marriage fell apart. A social worker assigned to the family told a friend (Gertrude Wesley) about a precious little girl living in the strained household. Mrs. Wesley, who was a schoolteacher met the little girl and spent time with her. Eventually, Cynthia's biological mother (Estelle Morris) allowed Cynthia to move in with the Wesley's. The Wesley's were her guardians when she died.

The bomb that killed her while she was attending 16th Street Baptist Church in September 1963 was so powerful it mutilated her body. The only way to identify her was by the ring she wore, which was recognized by Claude Wesley, the only father she ever knew.

It has been said that she would likely have pursued nursing as a career.

Born on April 30, 1949, Cynthia Wesley was 14 years old at the time of her death.