



Laura Tindall, of Ambler, PA – the first black person to graduate from Little Flower Catholic High School, Lansdale (Class of 1956), now Lansdale Catholic High School.

Laura Tindall, born January 2, 1938, was one of the first two persons of color to enter Little Flower Catholic High School in Lansdale in September of 1952, three years after the school came into existence. The other student was Velma Queenan, believed to be a cousin of Laura. It is not known why, but Velma was not a graduate of the school. Both of the girls

were from Ambler.

Laura, also known as 'Cookie', was described as fun-loving and spirited and was a member of the school cheerleading squad. Along the way she also acquired another nickname, 'Tinkerbell'.

A few years after graduation, believed to be 1958, she came across an article in an issue of Ebony magazine about Lincoln University in Jefferson City, MO. After discussing it with her parents, she decided to apply. Although her application was accepted, it was received too late for her to be admitted for the Fall term. Wanting to continue her education, she enrolled for the Fall semester at the University of Pennsylvania and the following semester she began her studies at Lincoln University. At Lincoln she majored in French with a minor in Spanish and was a member of Delta Sigma Theta sorority. It is not known if she completed her studies at Lincoln University.

Laura was married in December of 1967 at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Berkeley, CA to Ernest Donald Gordan, Jr. of Lorain, Ohio. At that time, Ernest was working in banking but prior to that he was in the Army and achieved the rank of lieutenant. In 1989, they may have been residing in Oakland, CA. They may have had one son, Scott, last indicated to live in Oakland, CA.

From what was learned, Laura came back to the Lansdale area on several occasions to attend class reunions, and on one of the occasions she left her glasses behind.

Laura died on August 8, 2007. She is buried in Golden Gate National Cemetery, San Bruno, San Mateo County, CA.

Laura's parents were Allen Brian & Bertha Queenan Tindall. She is believed to have had a brother, Allan, also known as 'Joe Brown', who lived in Ambler and who was born in 1940 and died March 8, 2011, and a brother, James, believed to live in Tennessee.

This above narrative was researched and compiled by Larry O'Malley. While much of the information can be verified there are some uncertainties and gaps in her life about which little is known. If anyone can provide further information, it will be much appreciated.

- 1. Did Laura and Ernest have any other children besides their son Scott.*
- 2. What about Laura's career? Where did she work? What did she do?*
- 3. Did she graduate from Lincoln University?*
- 4. Was she ever in the military?*
- 5. Names of any friends in California?*
- 6. Was there an obituary after her death?*

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