

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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The Passing of Dr. Sarah E. Moten

(Washington, DC) Dr. Sarah E. Moten, former Chief, USAID Africa Bureau, Office of Sustainable Development, Education Division died on Tuesday, July 9, 2013. Funeral services will be Saturday, July 20, 2013 at Carolina Missionary Baptist Church, 9901 Allentown, Rd., Ft. Washington, MD. Visitation will be held at 9:30-11:00; and service will follow immediately from 11:30-1:30 PM. Interment will be held at Resurrection Cemetery, 8000 Woodyard Road, Clinton, Maryland, 20735. In lieu of flowers, the family will establish a Scholarship fund to promote the education of girls and women to continue the legacy Dr. Moten worked so tirelessly for during her career.

Dr. Moten dedicated her life to promoting the right to education among the most underserved people in the world—the young people of Africa from 1982 until her retirement in 2010. Dr. Moten’s lifelong dedication uplifted the quality of life for women and girls. Her efforts blazed trails to ensure equal access to education. Her work with the United States Federal government on education, girls’ and women’s empowerment, and African development built upon her earlier commitment to education which began as a teacher with the District of Columbia Public School System.

Spanning five Presidential Administrations, and multiple Federal agencies; her contributions to the rights, empowerment, and education of the people of Africa, and to their perception of America’s generosity, have rarely been matched. Recognized by top officials in the US Government from Cabinet Secretaries to U.S. Ambassadors, African and U.S. University Presidents, Ministries of Education, African entertainers/musicians, National Parent-Teacher Association officials; African Heads-of-State; Dr. Moten’s devotion and leadership have always focused on the rights of Africa’s children and their families.

Dr. Moten was the senior leader and principal spokesperson for the Clinton and Bush Administrations initiatives to improve basic education in Africa. She turned both Presidential Initiatives—Education for Development and Democracy Initiative (EDDI), and its sister initiative, the Africa Education Initiative (AEI) –from policy ideas into pragmatic programs to build the foundation for future leaders in Africa in more than 40 countries. Under her leadership (in close cooperation with African and American partners) more than 800 thousand teachers received training, 16 million textbooks and other learning materials were delivered to children, and 1.5 million African girls received scholarships.

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As a special advisor to Civil Rights leader, Dr. Dorothy I. Height, Dr. Moten worked closely with the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW) to champion women's rights and civil rights; promote and recognize leadership among women of color; and reach out to women in need in Africa and around the world.

Dr. Moten served in senior leadership roles in the U.S. Peace Corps, both in Africa and the U.S., from 1982 to 1988. Serving as country director in Swaziland, Kenya and Sierra Leone, and as Special Assistant to the Africa Director, she helped shape Peace Corps programs and policies in Africa during much of the 1980s. From 1989 to 1993 she served as Deputy Assistant Secretary for International Refugee Assistance at the United States Department of State. In this capacity, and during a period of significant refugee crisis in a number of African countries, she played a key leadership role in the U.S response to the rights and needs of refugees around the world and especially in Africa.

Dr. Moten is the recipient of numerous awards and citations. The Foundation for Democracy in Africa (FDA) presented Dr. Moten the Medal of Glory Award—the highest honor presented to select leaders that have dedicated their professional lives to the promotion of enduring democratic principles of liberty, freedom and development in Africa. She also received the Swarthmore's Worldwide Award for Women in Education and the prestigious John L. Withers Memorial Award from USAID. She served on many boards and foundations, among them; The TET Foundation and the Women's Initiative at the George W. Bush Institute. Dr. Moten's legacy will now become a permanent Congressional record for her lifetime achievements for service to her community and her country.

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