



Dr. Esper Gold Hayes, the venerable founder of the Ebony Society of Philatelic Events and Reflections (ESPER), passed away January 10, 2019, at the age of 84. Tragically, upon returning from the last ESPER conference, she fell and suffered a devastating injury from which she was unable to recover. She will be greatly missed, and her memory will live on forever through the philatelic club that she founded.

Dr. Hayes was born on October 13, 1934, in Farmville, North Carolina, and at the age of three her family moved to Norfolk, Virginia, where she later attended Booker T. Washington High School. Dr. Hayes went on to attend Shaw University where she majored in religion, and after graduating from Shaw, she worked with youth organizations throughout the community helping young people to acquire the skills they needed to be successful. At the age of 33, she moved to New York where she became a social worker working for the City of New York and worked tirelessly to help children find stability in their lives. While managing two group homes for Lutheran Services Agency, she went back to school and earned her master's degree and doctorate in social work from Yeshiva University. When she retired from Lutheran, she went on to teach Human Growth and Development and Social Policy at Seton Hall University. She received an honorary doctorate degree from Seton Hall University for her work with students and the inspiration she had become to students in pursuing a career in social work.

Dr. Hayes started ESPER more than 30 years ago based on a promise to the Olympian Jesse Owens in an effort to fulfill her dream to get African Americans, especially young people, to be more prideful of their heritage and culture. Since then, Dr. Esper Gold Hayes has been a stalwart of hope, encouragement, pride, commitment, and celebration for the members of the society that bears her first name and for the philatelic community in general.

A celebration of life service will be held on January 19, 2019, at 12 at Friendship Missionary Baptist Church, 3301 The Old Chapel, Charlotte, NC 28216. This is across the street from the church. Repast will be held immediately after service. The family is asking that donations be made to a scholarship fund in memory of Dr. Hayes in lieu of flowers. Condolences can to be sent to her daughter Michelle Bullock , 10308 Auburn Top Lane, Charlotte, North Carolina 28277

