



Dorothy Louise Collins Smith

May 6, 1933 - April 22, 2022

Dorothy Louise Collins Smith, 88, left this world peacefully for her heavenly home on Friday, April 22, 2022. She graduated from Howard High School in 1952. Dorothy went on to further her education at Kirkman Vocational School where she was a part of the first Licensed Practical Nursing (LPN) program for colored women. After receiving her formal education, she began her life's work at Memorial Hospital where she was one of the first African Americans to integrate its nursing staff. She took pride in providing excellent nursing care for 40 years and would often share small gifts from the hospital gift shop to bring a little cheer to her patients. Dorothy was a lifelong member of Mount Paran Missionary Baptist Church, where she was a part of many clubs and committees like the Baptist Training Union (BTU), Red Circle Girls, Fidelity Club, and Healthcare Group. Her absolute joy came from working with Mrs. Mildred Tyous on the decorating committee where they would bring beauty to the church by decorating for holidays, celebrations, and special occasions. Dorothy had a great love for poetry where she would often read them during special church and Sunday School programs. She enjoyed listening to "pretty music" along with gardening and planting beautiful flowers. What was most important to Dorothy was her family. She would gather them together for Sunday meals, Christmas Eve parties, and birthday celebrations. She shared her love of baking, singing, and playing the piano during those special times. Dorothy loved celebrating her birthday, May 6 with family and dear friends. She would always have a slice of cake or something to share with those who

would stop by. Dorothy was preceded in death by her fathers, Willie Watt Collins and Willie G. Love; mother, Freddie Mae Collins Love; one brother, Earl Love; five sisters, Thelma Collins Prestwood, Bessie Collins Hedgeman, Erlene Love Hunter, Virginia Love, and Elizabeth Love Rutledge; and one grandson, Tracy L. Jackson. Dorothy is survived by her husband of 67 years, James A. Smith Jr; one son, Ronald (Willa) Smith; two daughters, Karen (William) Patterson and Valerie (Robert) Thomas; six granddaughters, Dr. Pamela Smith-Ligon, Tiffany (Ivan) Gunn, April (Ronald) Sharp, Kristin Patterson, Kimberly Patterson, and Kelly (Mark) Patterson Knowles; one grandson, Ralph K. Freeman II; two sisters, Betty Collins Ramsey and Gloria Love Thirkill; three brothers, Willie Fred Love, Charles (Collene) Love, and Robert Love; one brother-in-law, Hamilton (Sandy) Smith; and two sisters-in-law, Emma Love and Mary Finley; 17 great-grandchildren; one great-great grandchild; and a host of nieces and nephews; dedicated and longtime friends, Mrs. Mary Reynolds, Ms. Gwendolyn Walton, Mrs. Agnes James Busbee, Mrs. Virginia Glass Catching, and Mrs. Bettye Swan. Pastor Michael Bennette will be the eulogist.

Cemetery Details

Forest Hills Cemetery

4016 Tennessee Avenue
Chattanooga , TN 37409

Previous Events

Lie-In-State

MAY 1. 12:30 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

Taylor Funeral Home of Chattanooga, Inc
3417 Wilcox Boulevard
Chattanooga, TN 37411

Lie-In-State

MAY 2. 11:00 AM (ET)

Mount Paran Missionary Baptist Church
1319 Moss Street
Chattanooga , TN 37411

Celebration Of Life

MAY 2. 12:00 PM (ET)

Mount Paran Missionary Baptist Church
1319 Moss Street
Chattanooga , TN 37411

Tribute Wall

MG

“ To the family of Mrs. Dorothy, a friend and co-worker, so sorry for your loss. Praying that the Lord will comfort you during this most difficult time. Yours in Christ; Mary Rooks Griffith



Mary Rooks Griffith - May 05, 2022 at 12:52 AM

DJ

“ I remember Aunt Dorothy When We Were Young Girls my sister and I we stayed at the house with her and Uncle James. And she would take my sister and myself go get our hair done she would get her hair done she would buy her outfit she would buy my sister and myself an outfit we love going over to her house help us make cookies. My mom they called her Mae Would talk on the phone all the Time. Rest well on Dorothy till we meet again. Love you. Denise Jackson Cleveland Ohio.

Denise Yvonne Jackson - May 02, 2022 at 06:21 PM



“ My sincere condolences to the family, Valerie, Karen (my Soror) Ronnie and Mr. James. I didn't know your mother as well as other but the times I was in her company she made me feel nothing but welcome. I never felt like a strange. God said: Matthew 7:15-20 Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them., and Mrs. Dorothy was definitely one of those fruits. May God give you peace doing this difficult time, and you have some many beautiful memories to look back on. Much Love Linda and Terry Moore

Linda Hodges-Moore - May 02, 2022 at 10:23 AM

OH

“ I have been at your mom's house so many times and had so many meals at her table. This picture was what I always so, that beautiful smile. I can hear the laughter in her voice. She loved her family deeply. She did not hold her opinion and she was filled with so much wisdom and godliness. We would sit in the kitchen mostly. She would make you eat something and drink something. It did not matter if you wanted it or not. I have nothing but fond memories of this beautiful spirit. You all as so blessed to have had her as your wife, mother, grand mother, friend.



Now, heaven will be a more real place. You can rest in that, she has no more sorry and no more pain. You WILL see her again. She is smiling right now at her Saviors feet.

I will keep you all in my prayers. Ouida Brooks Hudgins

Ouida Hudgins - May 02, 2022 at 09:53 AM

OH

Sorry for typo (so = saw)

Ouida Hudgins - May 02, 2022 at 09:54 AM

CB

“ To the Smith Family,
My condolences to you all. One of our neighbors for many years.
May God's Peace provide you with the comfort that you need for
today and the days to come.

Carol Bell-Johnson - May 02, 2022 at 09:49 AM

RT

“Honoring the Life of Dorothy Louise Smith, Her life was a blessing, Her memory a treasure, She was loved beyond words and will be missed beyond measure. Though She is no longer with us, She will remain in our memories and in our hearts. May the Lord bless Her soul and may She rest in peace.

Rosetta Tipton - May 02, 2022 at 09:19 AM

CN

“Mrs. Smith always showed the love of Jesus Christ in all she did for her family, friends and anyone who entered into her presences. May the peace of Jesus Christ be upon every family member and friend who knew her love.

Cynthia Neville - May 01, 2022 at 10:02 AM



“My sincere condolences to Mr. James and the entire Smith family. Ms. Dorothy was a very kind spirited and beautiful soul. I know she will be missed dearly. Prayers for you all during this time of bereavement

Daphne Ball-McClurkin - April 30, 2022 at 04:41 PM

DS

“Doris Smith lit a candle in memory of Dorothy Louise Collins Smith



Doris Smith - April 30, 2022 at 01:42 PM

DS

“ Our prayers of with Ronnie, Karen, Valerie, Pam and Tiffany
From the Smith Family on Peggy Lane

Doris Smith - April 30, 2022 at 01:42 PM

BS

Our prayers are with the family. RIP Dorothy 🌹🌹🌹

Bettye Swan - April 30, 2022 at 02:38 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of
Dorothy Louise Collins Smith.



April 30, 2022 at 09:48 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for
the family of Dorothy Louise Collins Smith.



April 29, 2022 at 06:46 PM

RE

“ Regina Edwards lit a candle in memory of
Dorothy Louise Collins Smith



Regina Edwards - April 29, 2022 at 02:42 PM

ME

“ *Michael & Regina Edwards lit a candle in memory of Dorothy Louise Collins Smith*



Michael & Regina Edwards - April 29, 2022 at 02:41 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Dorothy Louise Collins Smith.*



April 29, 2022 at 10:20 AM



“ *Patricia Reynolds lit a candle in memory of Dorothy Louise Collins Smith*



Patricia Reynolds - April 29, 2022 at 06:40 AM

VF

“ *Vickie Fielder lit a candle in memory of Dorothy Louise Collins Smith*



Vickie Fielder - April 28, 2022 at 03:10 PM