



Martha P. Dews

October 20, 1918 - April 22, 2023

Martha Pauline “Mom Mot” Johnson Dews, 104, of Chattanooga, answered the call of her Savior and King on Saturday, April 22, 2023, as she slept peacefully at her residence. She was born to Morlean and Eliza (Lee) Johnson on October 20, 1918, in Millerville, Alabama at the Lee Family House. Martha was the third of six children and attended Bunker Hill, a one room schoolhouse. She received Christ into her life as a young girl and joined Roseline Baptist Church in the Glades of Clay County and baptized in the nearby creek. Martha married the late George W. Dews and was the mother of two children. Upon moving to Chattanooga, they joined St. Mary Baptist Church where she sang in Choir #2, served on the Kitchen Committee, Nurse’s Guild, and Pastor’s Aid Society. After the death of her husband, she joined Grace Baptist Tabernacle Church under the leadership of Pastor Marshall Robinson and was active in the Ladies Ministry until her health prevented her from doing so. Martha experienced firsthand the barriers to voting, voter suppression and voter oppression. Practicing what she preached, she was an avid voter and supporter of the Civil Rights Movement. She said, “as long as the Lord allows, I will go to the polls” and she did. Martha participated in the November 2022 elections at the age of 104. She loved the teachings of Jesus, showed kindness toward others, and her faith and giving spirit were strengthening to all who knew her. “Mom Mot” was the matriarch of six living generations with a wonderful sense of humor, lover of flowers, gardening, traveling, sewing, dancing, cooking (especially baking),

and eating “good” food. She had a strong work ethic that served her well. Martha was an example of determination, perseverance, and tenacity. Her most beloved work was taking care of her family. She always made it clear that “WE MATTERED.” During her 104 years of living, Martha saw so many events and changes in her lifetime. She was born during the Spanish Flu epidemic of 1918, survived during COVID-19, fireplace to electric/gas and heat, well water to purified/bottled water, voting rights, Civil Rights Act, horse and buggies to electric vehicles, the arrival of television, and cellphones to mention but a few. Martha’s favorite prayer was The Disciple’s Prayer. Her favorite scripture was Psalm 100. She was preceded in death by her husband, George W. Dews; son, James L. Dews; grandson, William Jerome Sears; great-granddaughter, Carman Verae Smith; parents, Morlean and Eliza (Lee) Johnson; siblings, Ezzie Lee, Aldean Taylor, M.E. Johnson, Neil Johnson, and Fred Johnson; and stepdaughters, Geralene Spruell and Dorothy Brooks. Survivors include her daughter, Vera Sears Moon of Chattanooga; grandsons, James (Shelbree) Sears of Jacksonville, FL, Jeff (Claudia) Sears of Chattanooga, and Kelvin (Linda) Dews of Roundrock, TX; granddaughters, Belinda (Dwight) Smith and Josephine (James) Odom, both of Chattanooga; 18 great-grandchildren; 29 great-great- grandchildren; 4 great-great-great-grandchildren; daughter-in-law, Roberta Dews; a host of nieces; nephews; cousins; other relatives and friends. Martha will lie-in-state on Thursday, May 4, 2023, at 10 a.m. at Grace Baptist Tabernacle Church. Funeral service will follow at 12 noon at the church with Pastor Jeff Carter as the eulogist. Burial in Greenwood Cemetery. Arrangements are by Taylor Funeral Home of Chattanooga, Inc.

Previous Events

Lie-In-State

MAY 4. 10:00 AM (ET)

Grace Baptist Tabernacle Church
2551 Tunnel Boulevard
Chattanooga , TN 37406

Service

MAY 4. 12:00 PM (ET)

Grace Baptist Tabernacle Church
2551 Tunnel Boulevard
Chattanooga , TN 37406

Tribute Wall

BJ

“ TO THE FAMILY OF MISS MARTHA DEWS, SHE WAS THE MOST LOVING AND GIVING LADY. LOVE, BRENDA CRABB JACKSON,AND FAMILY.

BRENDA JACKSON - May 04, 2023 at 07:54 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Martha P. Dews.



May 02, 2023 at 04:46 PM

 Sheila Harris

“ *Sheila E. Harris*



Sheila Harris - May 01, 2023 at 02:30 PM

VH

“ *Victor Howell lit a candle in memory of Martha P. Dews*



Victor Howell - May 01, 2023 at 11:18 AM

QF

“ *Qualls Family lit a candle in memory of Martha P. Dews*



Qualls Family - April 30, 2023 at 11:10 PM

VV

“ *Victor Howell (Your Little Victor) purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Martha P. Dews.*



Victor Howell (Your Little Victor) - April 30, 2023 at 04:49 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Martha P. Dews.*



April 29, 2023 at 05:54 PM

LR

“ *Lera Richmond lit a candle in memory of Martha P. Dews*



Lera Richmond - April 29, 2023 at 05:00 PM



“ *Large Basket Garden was purchased for the family of Martha P. Dews.*



April 29, 2023 at 02:13 PM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Martha P. Dews.*



April 29, 2023 at 07:09 AM



“ *May you find comfort in knowing that God promises that we can see our loved ones again. The precious time she spent on this earth and with you she brought so much joy. May she remain in your hearts and souls for eternity and may you find some sense of comfort knowing she is in a better place and at peace.*



With Our Heartfelt Sympathy,

Van and Regina Patten Hickman

Van & Regina Hickman - April 28, 2023 at 10:46 PM



“ *Sorry for your loss. Praying for the family.*

Sharlene Hargrove - April 27, 2023 at 03:10 PM

SR

“ *A sweet spirit has been silenced, but we know that those who die in Christ, will live again .Praying for the family that God will provide the guidance and comfort needed for this time of sorrow.*
Prayerfully,
Gregory & Sheliah Rivers



Sheliah Rivers - April 27, 2023 at 03:09 PM

MT

“ *Marian Turnbow lit a candle in memory of Martha P. Dews*



marian Turnbow - April 27, 2023 at 02:14 PM

VQ

“ *Sorry for your loss.*
Vikki & Bernard



Vikki Qualls - April 25, 2023 at 10:58 PM

LD

“ *Liz Dixon lit a candle in memory of Martha P. Dews*



Liz Dixon - April 25, 2023 at 05:07 PM

DM

“ Dorothy Miles sent a virtual gift in memory of Martha P. Dews



Dorothy Miles - April 25, 2023 at 02:41 PM

RP

“ Reverend Ann Pierrr lit a candle in memory of Martha P. Dews



Reverend Ann Pierrr - April 25, 2023 at 11:24 AM

CJ

“ Carol Bell Johnson lit a candle in memory of Martha P. Dews



Carol Bell Johnson - April 25, 2023 at 11:02 AM

BG

“ Bonnie Griggs lit a candle in memory of Martha P. Dews



Bonnie Griggs - April 24, 2023 at 09:11 PM

PF

“ *Lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Martha Dews.*



Phyllis Patten Fleming - April 24, 2023 at 04:39 PM

FJ

“ *Frederick McClendon Jr lit a candle in memory of Martha P. Dews*



Frederick McClendon Jr - April 24, 2023 at 02:33 PM

EK

“ *Condolences to the Sears and Dews family. Our hearts are heavy with grief for the lost of your Matriarch. May God bless you with strength to endure your loss. The Stephens, Kelley and Halfacre family.*

Elayne Kelley - April 22, 2023 at 07:35 PM