



Ms. Dorothy J. Benton

March 19, 2024

Dorothy Benton, 81, on Tuesday, March 19th was called to be with the Lord. She was born on August 30, 1942, in Yazoo City, MS to Nathan Shaw and Lera Gary. Dorothy grew up in Moorehead, MS, where the “Southern crossed the yellow dog”. She was baptized and confessed her belief in Christ at an early age.

Dorothy married Willie Wilkins, Sr in Kansas City, MO. They were married for many years. After that union ended, later in life Dorothy met and married Reuben Bass Benton in 1995. They were happily married until his passing. Dorothy was preceded in death by her parents Nathan Shaw and Lera Gary; her siblings Nathan Shaw Jr. and Willie Clyde Burt; William "Billy" Charles Baskerville and her grandson Dominik Simmons.

Dorothy retired as a long-time Physical Education and Health Educator with the Kansas City Missouri Public School System. She graduated from Gentry High School in 1962 and earned her teaching degree in 1967 from Mississippi Valley State University-then known as Mississippi Valley College. In 1989, Dorothy earned her Master of Arts in Curriculum and Instruction from UMKC.

Dorothy is also a graduate of the former Josette School of Modeling and Charm, owned by Mrs. Mary Jo Owens, winning the school’s Miss Love Pageant and crown in 1986.

In 1973, she began teaching in the Kansas City Public School System. Throughout her teaching career, Dorothy always invested in engaging students. She took the initiative to sponsor student talent shows, fashion shows, cultural showcases and spent almost a decade coaching first basketball then volleyball teams. Dorothy has received numerous awards from administrators recognizing her commitment to providing cultural programming and extracurricular activities for her students.

Later, while still teaching, Dorothy joined the NFHS Officials Association officiating volleyball games throughout western Missouri.

Dorothy is survived by her children: Tamorro Wilkins and Willie Wilkins Jr.; Her sister's Shirly Foster and Mattie (James "Ronnie") Williams; Her grandchildren: Julisha Wilkins, Justina Wilkins, Jalia Hood, and Aiden Banks; and a host of nieces, nephews and cousins.

Funeral Services will be held on Thursday, March 28, 2024, 10am at Lawrence A. Jones & Sons Funeral Chapel. Interment Leavenworth Nat'l Cemetery, LVNKS. Visitation from 9am-10am at the chapel. Services conducted by Lawrence A. Jones & Sons. Condolences may be shared on our website, also Dorothy Benton's online guest book at www.Legacy.com

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial donations be made in Dorothy Benton's honor to the: Mississippi Valley State University's Office of Advancement at: MVSU, Box 7226, 14000 Hwy 82 W, Itta Bena, MS 38941.

The family wishes to extend their gratitude to our host of friends and colleagues offering love and support.

“Be brave enough to live the life of your dreams according to your vision and purpose instead of the expectations and opinions of others.”

Tribute Wall

GM

“ I enjoyed working with “Dot” at Westport Middle School for many years! Coach Benton will be missed and remembered fondly! 🙏🙏
❤️



Gina Mercer - March 29, 2024 at 07:34 AM

GJ

“ Gonzalo Zapata-Macias Jr purchased the Be My Love Bouquet with Red Roses for the family of Ms. Dorothy J. Benton.



Gonzalo Zapata-Macias Jr - March 28, 2024 at 12:02 AM

LW

“ Prayers to this family.

La Juana (Hill) Winchester, Administrative Assistant staff @ Nowlin.



La Juana Winchester - March 27, 2024 at 06:35 PM

TW

“ 32 files added to the tribute wall



Tamorro Wilkins - March 27, 2024 at 05:18 PM

JW

“ Justina W. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ms. Dorothy J. Benton.

Justina W. - March 27, 2024 at 12:23 PM

SF

“ Schneider Electric Family purchased the Enduring Grace for the family of Ms. Dorothy J. Benton.



Schneider Electric Family - March 27, 2024 at 12:22 PM

SF

“ Schneider Electric Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ms. Dorothy J. Benton.

Schneider Electric Family - March 27, 2024 at 12:22 PM

SM

“ Mrs. Benton, will truly be missed ! We shared some wonderful memories working together at Nowlin Middle School. My deepest sympathy to the family.
Shaquella Moore



Shaquella Moore - March 26, 2024 at 05:19 PM

AR

“ Aunt Doris Cope & Uncle Willie Robinson purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Ms. Dorothy J. Benton.



Aunt Doris Cope & Uncle Willie Robinson - March 25, 2024 at 10:50 AM

AR

“ Aunt Doris Cope & Uncle Willie Robinson planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ms. Dorothy J. Benton.

Aunt Doris Cope & Uncle Willie Robinson - March 25, 2024 at 10:50 AM

W1

“ William D. Scott, III GHS Class of 1962 purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Ms. Dorothy J. Benton.



William D. Scott, III GHS Class of 1962 - March 23, 2024 at 03:23 PM

W1

“ William D. Scott, III GHS Class of 1962 planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ms. Dorothy J. Benton.

William D. Scott, III GHS Class of 1962 - March 23, 2024 at 03:23 PM



“ Tamika TaSha lit a candle in memory of Ms. Dorothy J. Benton



Tamika TaSha - March 22, 2024 at 12:05 PM

AH

“ Annette Hurst lit a candle in memory of Ms. Dorothy J. Benton



Annette Hurst - March 22, 2024 at 11:48 AM