



Dorothy Elizabeth Massingale Steward

March 10, 1928 - June 20, 2020

Obituary

Dr. Dorothy Elizabeth Massingale Steward

"The creator gets to define his creation," and so He did with Dr. Dorothy Elizabeth Massingale Steward. After 92 incredible years on this earth, our precious mother, grandmother and great-grandmother was called home to glory on June 20, 2020.

Dorothy was born March 10, 1928, the only child of James Frederick and Martha Ann Wilson Massingale. At the early age of seven, Dorothy was moved by the Holy Spirit and decided to follow Christ. She joined St. James Church where the family worshipped. As a young girl, Dorothy attended Lincoln School in Clinton, Missouri. She was a bright, precocious student and skipped two grades. Later, to further her education during a time of segregated schools, the family moved to Chicago, Illinois, where she graduated from Wendell Phillips High School a year early. She loved music and attended advanced college studies in Chicago.

On February 17, 1946, Dorothy was united in Holy matrimony to the love of her life, Harold Lloyd Steward, a union that lasted until his death in 1999. The couple later moved their family back to Clinton, Missouri. She was a devoted wife and living example of the Proverbs 31 woman, bringing honor to the family.

From this union “The Great Eight Plus” and their progeny were born (reflected below as Dorothy’s children; grandchildren; great-grandchildren):

James Philip (Shirley) Steward; grandchildren Mark Anthony (deceased), James Tracey, Philip II (Dianne), Paige (Dedrick) Franklin, Zachary: great-grandsons Isaiah, Dylan

Regina Ann (Ivan) Brame; granddaughter Courtney

Joan Marie Newbill; grandson Perry Jr (Tagen); great-grandson Perry James Yvonne (Johnny) Williams; grandchildren Reginald (Sheila) Miles, Dwight (Nia) Williams, Keith Fishback, Lauren Brianne Fishback; great-grandchildren Ashley (Cyril) Crenshaw, Jacine, Dante and Danisha Littlejohn, Ivan Williams, Jason Williams II, Axl Williams, Rosalyn Fishback, Aris Kelly; great-great-grandson Cyril II

David Lloyd (Thelma) Steward; grandchildren David II (Mary) Steward and Kimberly Steward; great-grandsons David III and Julian

Michael Leonard (Cheryle) Steward; grandchildren Michael Alexander (deceased), Nicole Carter, Dominique; great-grandchildren Jamie McClure, Amari Carter, Walter Carter III, Cavaan Toney, Michael (Mikey) Alexander; great-great-grandson Princeton Hancock

Martha Ann (Lewis) Hurtt; grandchildren Justin, Victoria and Daniel Hurtt

Robert Eric (Lesa) Steward; grandchildren Terry, Morgan, and Jordan; great-grandson Kaydin Burnett-Steward

Dorothy's greatest love was God, her husband, and their eight kids in that order. There was not a task too small or too large when it came to caring for her family. She was a hands-on mother and actively engaged with all of her children, individually and as a whole. She taught her kids games from jump rope to baseball and merrily played alongside them.

She made every single one of her children feel like they were an only child when in her presence. At the request of the youngest child, the annual family picnic was born after he voiced missing his siblings. Dorothy was willing to do anything to mend her children's hearts and called everyone home for a summer family gathering. It became an annual Steward family tradition that has spanned decades as God continued to define his creation.

Dorothy worked as a housekeeper and later as a typesetter and layout designer for the Clinton Daily Democrat. Dorothy was a long-standing pillar in the Black community of Clinton and built many longstanding relationships that spanned decades.

She served faithfully on many religious and civic boards, including Grand Matron of the Order of Eastern Star, Founding Member of the Samaritan Center Development Board and ultimately served on the Henry Country

Library Board of Directors, an institution which earlier in her life had denied her entry due to segregation. She founded and was the Den Mother to the first integrated Boy Scout Troop in Clinton, Missouri. She and a dedicated group taught Black history in the community for many years.

One of her most cherished accolades was the naming of the Harold and Dorothy Steward Center for Jazz in St. Louis, Missouri, an organization dedicated to preserving the art of jazz for future generations.

In recognition of her lifelong accomplishments and love for education and service, Dorothy was recently awarded a Doctorate of Humane Letters from Lincoln University, Jefferson City, Missouri, an Historically Black University she held in the highest esteem.

Dorothy was musically gifted and taught and encouraged her kids to play music. She played piano and alto saxophone, and lifted her sweet soprano voice in worship at St. James Church, Clinton United Methodist Church and numerous gatherings in the community. She continued to sing until she had no voice.

She ministered to millions of souls in her own special way, encouraging her children that, "You might be the only Bible they may see that day." Most importantly, she was a devout and humble woman of God and taught her kids

to love Him and all of His children unconditionally.

Dorothy painted a masterpiece with her life, was truly a good “steward” of all God provided, and proof that while we all only have one life, if done right it is more than enough. In all that she did during her abundant life, she honored God and the countless sacrifices made by those who came before her. Dorothy’s vast and rich legacy will live forever in the hearts of her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, great-great-grandchildren and those who love the Lord. She will be dearly missed by countless friends and family.

Prayers and notes of condolences to the family are welcome. The family respectfully requests no flowers. For those who wish, memorials may be made to Clinton United Methodist Church or the Harold and Dorothy Steward Center for Jazz.

A private funeral will be held at Clinton United Methodist Church for immediate family on Thursday, June 25, followed by a private graveside committal service at Antioch Cemetery.

To celebrate Dorothy’s love for jazz, the Bosman Twins will play at the Pavilion in Clinton’s Downtown Square at 12:00 on Thursday, June 25. The community is welcome to join the funeral procession departing Clinton United Methodist Church at 12:00, or gather along the procession route at the Downtown Square or along 4th Street near East College Street to send God’s

cherished daughter Dorothy home to her reward.

To send flowers
to the family or plant a tree
in memory of Dorothy Elizabeth Massingale Steward, please visit our floral
store.

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Tribute Wall

DM

“ Beautiful in blue was purchased for the family of Dorothy Elizabeth Massingale Steward by Danny Mixon. Send FlowersDear Thelma & Dave, I wish I could be there with you to play a song to send Mother Stewart on home with. Praying for your comfort. Thanks for sharing your Mom with me.Love & Music,Danny MixonDanny Mixon

Danny Mixon - May 25, 2023 at 02:43 PM



“ A Memorial tree was ordered in memory of Dorothy Elizabeth Massingale Steward. Plant a TreeIn your mother's name life continues in you and the earth,Iron Sharpens IronClifford Sledge

May 25, 2023 at 02:43 PM

DD

“ With deepest sympathy, David and Thelma. I am so sorry I did not know earlier. An amazing woman who clearly blessed all who had the privilege of knowing her. Doreen Dodson

Doreen Dodson - July 06, 2020 at 12:04 PM

MT

“ Dear Thelma and Dave,On behalf of the staff and volunteers at United Way of Greater St. Louis, I would like to express our deepest condolences on the loss of your mother, Dorothy Elizabeth Massingale Steward. In this hour of bereavement and sadness, our heartfelt prayers and sympathies go out to the entire Steward family. We are here should you need anything and trust that God will continue to help you find the strength and peace needed during this challenging time.Sincerely,Michelle Tucker

Michelle Tucker - June 25, 2020 at 03:38 PM

MM

“ Our deepest condolences to the entire Steward family. What a beautiful service to such a beautiful soul, heaven has received with arms wide open a new angel. She has left such a beautiful imprint in our hearts...May God surround your family with peace, love and serenity. With all of our love, Mercedes, Catalina and Jessika Martinez

Mercedes Martinez - June 25, 2020 at 02:44 PM

TS

“ Dear Steward Family, Our love is with you all during this difficult time. Dorothy was a beautiful messenger of God's love and now rests in the arms of the one who always walked with her through all things. Thank you for allowing us the privilege of getting to spend time with her and to know her. May God surround you with comfort and peace, knowing that she is with the Loving Father and with the Great Cloud of Witnesses. We love you all! Pastor Terri, Joe, and Holly Jo Swan

Terri Swan - June 25, 2020 at 09:58 AM

MR

“ With deepest sympathy from Sharon Naeole, The Hughes Family & Michelle Lord Rago
Michelle Lord Rago

Michelle Lord Rago - June 25, 2020 at 09:58 AM