



Ms. Dorothy J. Powell

September 15, 1934 - December 8, 2024

Dorothy Jean Powell was born September 15, 1934, in Stephens, Arkansas.

She was the

eleventh child of twelve children born to the union of the late Lee L. and Lanie Quarles Thorns.

She accepted Christ at an early age and united with the Mt. Vernon A.M.E.

Church in Rosston,

Arkansas.

Dorothy graduated from Yerger High School in Hope, Arkansas in 1952. After graduation, she

attended the Madam C.J. Walker School of Beauty Culture in Kansas City, Missouri. She

successfully completed cosmetology training and earned a cosmetology license from the State of

Missouri.

Dorothy married Hewitt W. Powell on April 10, 1953. Two sons were born to this union,

Kenney and Pervis. Hewitt was a member of the U.S. Army and during one of his early

overseas deployments, the family lived in France. Dorothy successfully operated her beauty

salon business while living in France. After returning to the states, the family relocated to

Colorado Springs, Colorado (Fort Carson).

In 1963, Dorothy and her sons moved to Kansas City, Missouri where she worked as an office clerk for an insurance company. In 1966, Dorothy accepted a position as a secretary for the Upward Bound program at the University of Missouri at Kansas City (U.M.K.C.). Later, she took a position as an administrative assistant at the Ethnic Awareness Center at U.M.K.C. Co-workers described her as the “glue” that held the place together. She was responsible for keeping all financial records, collecting and maintaining outreach activities, handling office management duties and coordinating material accompanying grant proposals. In 1988, when the Swinney Recreation Center opened at U.M.K.C., Dorothy was asked to serve as manager of membership relations for the center, which she did until her retirement on August 31, 2000. She excelled in effectively and professionally addressing customer issues. She was extremely organized and known as a meticulous record keeper. Dorothy also served as an informal mentor and advisor to students that worked with her at the center. She often referred to them as her “babies”. After retirement, Dorothy served as a member of the U.M.K.C. retirees association. Dorothy joined the Metropolitan Missionary Baptist Church in 1963 and remained a faithful member until her health declined. She served as secretary for her Sunday School class for many

years.

She thoroughly enjoyed family gatherings and believed passionately in the unity of the family.

During family reunions and gatherings, she worked tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure everything was taken care of. Whether that meant producing family program booklets, helping

to prepare meals or washing dishes, she was always a willing worker and happy to serve. Our

family always enjoyed it when "Dot" would tell one of her funny family stories but the real

highlight we all looked forward to was when she would "demonstrate" how a particular

occurrence took place (according to Dot)!

She was a gracious donor and supported many charities and humanitarian causes through her

generosity. She often said, "I have more now than when I started, so it's important to help others".

She is preceded in death by her beloved parents, her sisters: Audria, Artie, Gertrude, Ernestine

and Ruby; her brothers Justin, Booker, Curtis "Duke", Odail and Jim. She is survived by her two

sons, Kenney (Anita) Lee's Summit, Missouri and Pervis (Rosalyn) of Kansas City, Missouri; her

twin sister, Barbara Coppage (Farris), Jackson, MI; six grandchildren, Jessica Davis (Lesley) of

Kansas City, Missouri, Cyndrea Jordan, Olathe, KS, Felicia Powell, Lee's Summitt, MO, Erin

Powell of Raleigh, NC, Sean Powell of Lee's Summit, Missouri, William Powell

of Kansas City,

Missouri; and seven great-grandchildren and a host of nieces, nephews and
Funeral Services will be held on Friday, December 20, 2024, 11:00am at
Metropolitan Baptist Church. Interment Forest Hill Cemetery. Visitation from
10:00am-11:00am at the church. Services conducted by Lawrence A. Jones &
Sons Funeral Chapel. Condolences may be shared on our website.

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC **20**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Metropolitan Missionary Baptist Church
2310 East Linwood Boulevard
Kansas City, MO 64109

Funeral Service

DEC **20**. 11:00 AM (CT)

Metropolitan Baptist Church
2310 E. Linwood Blvd
KC, MO 64109

Tribute Wall

AR

“ To the Quarles, Thorns, and Powell families, I'm a family historian. One of your distant cousins from Gurdon, Clark County, Arkansas, will soon marry my oldest son, which I find very exciting. Yesterday, I started building a family tree for the Quarles lineage. As I told my future daughter-in-law, reading obituaries can sometimes bring sadness, reminding us of lives once lived. However, Dorothy's obituary stood out, filled with heartfelt memories that emphasize the importance of family. May God continue to walk with you during this time.

Here is how I discovered your branch: My future daughter, her father, his mother, her father Herman Lee Quarles Sr (1916-1987). His father, John Alvin Quarles (1892-1978), was the son of Andrew (1854-1899) and Louisa (Box) Quarles. They had the following children: Narvelle, Andrew, John, and Lanie. There's a chance that Andrew was married twice and had two more children.

A. Rains - October 27, 2025 at 09:45 AM

OF

“ Odail Thorns, jr. and Thorns Family purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Ms. Dorothy J. Powell.



Odail Thorns, jr. and Thorns Family - December 18, 2024 at 02:02 PM

OF

“ Odail Thorns, jr. and Thorns Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ms. Dorothy J. Powell.

Odail Thorns, jr. and Thorns Family - December 18, 2024 at 02:02 PM

AH

“ *Pervis and Your Family*

Sending my condolences and may GOD's love bring comfort and strength to you all. I remember the last time I saw Ms. Dorothy was in the grocery store, standing by the lemons and we had an hour long conversation about whatever we could think of, then we just started laughing because we had been there so long. Her smile was contagious. She was a MOM that was so very proud of her sons. TO GOD BE THE GLORY!!! A beautiful ANGEL flying high!!! RIP.

*Love to the Family,
Angela M. Hawkins*

Angela M. Hawkins - December 17, 2024 at 11:20 AM

LA

“ *She was the secretary of my Sunday School for fifteen or more years at Metropolitan Church. She kept excellent records. I remember she went to the Grand Canyon by train with my travel group. She had a great time fellowshiping with everyone. She always had a smile on her face.*

Lillian Anderson - December 13, 2024 at 03:52 PM