



Dorothy L. Harper

November 21, 1934 - January 17, 2021

The Life of Dorothy Swafford- Harper

“Our Matriarch”

Proverbs 31:29

Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all.

Dorothy Louise Swafford- Harper affectionately known as “Dot, Dottie, and “Auntie”,

was the third youngest in a siblingship of seven. She was born November 21, 1934 in

Trenton, KY to the late Hattie Fortson-Swafford and Arthur Swafford, Sr.

Dorothy attended Booker T. Washington Elementary - junior high and graduated from

Crispus Attucks High School. After High School she worked several jobs until she met

Arsby Harper the “Love of her Life” and moved to Chester, PA. There she worked for

Woolworth 5 & 10 Cent Store and FairAcre Geriatric Center in Housekeeping for more

than 20 years. Dorothy had an entrepreneurial spirit selling Avon in her free time for

more than 50 year and providing child care for several neighborhood children including

the week of her surgery.

Dorothy accepted Christ at a young age at Durrett Ave. Baptist Church in Hopkinsville, KY and visited the church whenever she was in Hopkinsville, KY. She made sure to support her home church during special events. Dorothy served God at the Temple Baptist Church in Chester, PA. She was a member for over 50 yrs. where she served diligently on the Usher Board. She loved ushering and was always willing to usher whether it was her Home Church or a Sister Church. Dorothy also lent a helping hand with the Culinary Ministry always willing to serve. Dorothy cherished life and surrounded herself with a wide diverse group of family and friends. In 2005, she was bestowed with the title of Family Matriarch and Oldest surviving Female Family Member. Her wit and humor were enjoyed by younger and older generations. "She loved family, and family loved her." As we all know, she would call everyone to make sure you were doing Ok...and of course give us a word or two if we did not return her call. She was also one of the Fortson/Swafford Family Historian and would not miss annual Family Reunions. In August 2019, because of her persistence from Chester, PA, we had a Beautiful Family Reunion in Hopkinsville, KY; not knowing that would be her last Family Gathering. When we said she wouldn't give up on us having this

Family

Reunion, she made catering arrangements, managed the funds, kept records by hand,

as well as ensured we all had a role to play, including incorporating a Soul Train

Dancing Line, where she danced the night away with family and friends.

Dorothy was

passionate about cooking and never missed a Sunday cooking dinner for her daughters.

During her retirement, she loved traveling, spending time and talking with her friends

throughout the United States. She continued to sell Avon. Friends and family loved

when she came to town because they knew they would be receiving a special treat. She

avidly watched the news, (MSNBC, CNN and Local News) enjoying and discussing the

current events that were taking place, certainly passionate about politics and who was

running for what office. She also loved to watch figure skating and a variety of comedy

shows.

After an ongoing battle of health challenges, "Dorothy never complained", she kept on

keeping on... God knew she was tired and saw fit on Sunday, January 17, 2021,

@6:00 p.m to call Dorothy to her Heavenly Home. She is now reunited with her beloved

Arsby "Boots" Harper, her parents and five of her siblings: Lucy, Marcelene, Jimmie.

Frances, Arthur Swafford and son-and-law Kenneth Ray who all preceded her in death.

She leaves to mourn her cherish memory/legacy, two daughters: Kim Ray, Dover, Delaware and Argenette Harper, Newark, Delaware, one brother, Leonard Swafford, Hopkinsville, KY, One brother-in law, Westley Harper Wilmington, Delaware, three sisters-in-laws Judy Harper, Wilmington Delaware,

Alberta Swafford, Hopkinsville, KY, and Amanda Harper, Claymont, Delaware and a host of loving nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. Momma, Aunt, Cousin

Dorothy, you are gone but will never be forgotten. Your Spirit will live on forever in our
HEARTS!

Cemetery Details

Chester Rural Cemetery

412 W. 15th Street
Chester, PA 19013

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 30. 8:00 AM - 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Luke Community Christian Church
4th Street and Central Ave.
Chester, PA 19013

Service

JAN 30. 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Luke Community Christian Church
4th Street and Central Ave.
Chester, PA 19013

Tribute Wall



“ *Dorothy L. Harper*

October 07, 2023 at 11:34 AM



“ *Dorothy L. Harper*

October 04, 2023 at 12:55 PM



“ *The Meriwether Cousins purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Dorothy L. Harper.*



The Meriwether Cousins - January 27, 2021 at 04:57 PM



“ *Love, Shyree Shepeard & Family purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Dorothy L. Harper.*



Love, Shyree Shepeard & Family - January 26, 2021 at 08:04 PM

MF

“ Mommy Ray and Family purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Dorothy L. Harper.



Mommy Ray and Family - January 25, 2021 at 12:45 AM

RW

“ Rev Anne Williams sent a virtual gift in memory of Dorothy L. Harper



Rev Anne Williams - January 23, 2021 at 01:31 PM