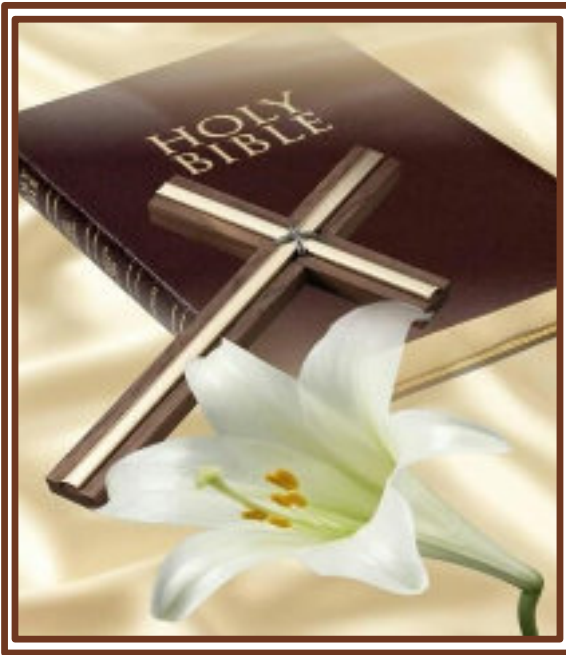


In Loving Memory of

Dorothy Lee Lorretta Bevacqua

Sunrise
May 16, 1940

Sunset
August 20, 2022



Wednesday, October 5, 2022 - 3:30 P.M.

COTTON FUNERAL SERVICE

130 Main Street • Orange, New Jersey 07050

Reverend Dr. Bernadette Glover, Officiating



"And when great souls die,
after a period,
peace blooms."

Maya Angelou





*Those we love don't go away; they walk beside us every day.
Unseen, unheard, but always near,
So loved, so missed,
So very dear.*

Ms. Dorothy B. - - A Life Well Lived.

"May God continue to bless and keep you on your spiritual journey - - Ciao Bella"

Order of Service

MUSICAL PRELUDE

"His Eye Is on the Sparrow"
Song by *Lauryn Hill and Tanya Blount*

PRAYER OF COMFORT

Reverend, Dr. Bernadette Glover

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Old Testament: Ecclesiastes 3:1-6
Read by Shirley Hendricks

New Testament: St. John 14: 1-7
Read by Renau Daniels

SOLO:

"How Great Thou Art"
Song by *Cyndi Bell Pickney*

TRIBUTES AND REFLECTIONS

All are welcomed to come up to the podium and share a few words and/or a story.

FLAG MINISTRY

Dance Interpretation by **Tinah Marie Experience**

OBITUARY

Read by Jocelyn Taylor, Goddaughter

SOLO:

"It is Well with my Soul"
Song by *Cyndi Bell Pickney*

EULOGY

Reverend, Dr. Bernadette Glover

CLOSING PRAYER

BENEDICTION



*Immediately following the service,
we will join in fellowship - - dine and toast to La Grande Dame Dorothy at:*

The Highlawn

1 Crest Drive
West Orange, NJ 07052
973.731.3463

Obituary

Dorothy Lee Loretta Hatcher was born on May 16, 1940, in Deland, Florida to parents Willie Mae (née Crayton) and James Henry Hatcher, Jr. During Dorothy's early childhood, her parents left Deland, FL and moved to East Orange, NJ, settling down on South Arlington Street, where she was raised. She was educated in the East Orange public school system, eventually graduating from East Orange High School. During these formative years, she established many relationships, ultimately developing many into lifelong friendships (i.e., Dionne Warwick, Shirley Hendricks, Judy Curry-Johnson, (the late) Carol Di Pasalegne, Carole Shorts-Bailey, Dottie Walker-Bennett, to name a few). Shortly after high school, she married (the late) Willie Gray Whittle and from this union had one child, a son, Alton James Whittle. During this period, she met and befriended another stylish Dorothy - - "Dot" Taylor. Dot and her (late) husband William "Bill" Taylor moved from New York City to the same apartment residences as the Whittles in East Orange with their toddler daughter. Precocious little Jocelyn instantly bonded with her "Orfy" and soon adopted her as her "Godmom." The entire Taylor family, which grew to include siblings, Stefanie, and Jeffrey, all continued to build a lifetime friendship and extended family with Dorothy.

During the mid-1970's, Dorothy ventured into a new chapter in her life, re-wedding to Antonio "Tony" Bevacqua. They settled down together with their blended families in South Orange, NJ. During this time, she formed another lifetime friendship with their next-door neighbors, Valerie and Malaney Hill. Dorothy was also an avid "pet parent," known at any time to have at least one or more furry feline and/or adorable little pooch nestled in her home. Their 2 children, Malaney Jr. and Lauryn share fond memories of one of their "before school" duties - - feeding and walking Dorothy's little dog Sugar.

Since childhood, Dorothy's friends remember her as always displaying a unique style and flair for fashion. Always pristinely "pressed and dressed" from head to toe, she was equally known for her love and detail for home décor and interior design. Wherever she resided, she proudly maintained a beautifully well-appointed residence that could rival the pages of any home décor magazine. One of her favorite pastimes was entertaining her friends and family with dinner parties for any special occasion at her home. Dorothy's most treasured luxury piece of furniture was her Steinway Baby Grand Piano. Although she nor anyone in the house could read or play a music key, she religiously made sure that her piano lid showcased her weekly-delivered favorite fresh cut flowers - - white Calla lilies beautifully displayed in a crystal vase.

During her working career, she loved the customer service industry and held a variety of sales positions that allowed her to eagerly engage with the public. Dorothy also was a "jill-of-all trades" when it came to decorating as well as a self-motivated entrepreneur. In the early 1980's, she reconnected with her childhood friend, Carole Bailey and sold her hand made accessorized gift baskets, affectionately coined, "A Tisket a Tasket" at Carole's boutique in Montclair, NJ. Throughout the 1980's and mid 1990's, Dorothy worked in West Orange, NJ, as a Front Desk Customer Support Manager at Town & Campus (now Wilshire Grand Hotel) and was later employed in the role of Fine Jewelry Sales Associate at Walter Bauman Jewelers. Before relocating to Jacksonville, FL, she also managed the gift shop at Saint Michael's Medical Center in Newark, NJ.

In the late 1990's, Dorothy, together with her mom, and Steinway Piano in tow, all decided to leave New Jersey together and sojourn back to their roots to live in Florida. Willie Mae, now in her late 70's was a long-time resident of Orange, NJ and had retired from the Essex County Geriatric Center, where she worked as a nurse for 30 years. After the passing of her husband, James, she decided that she wanted to be in closer proximity to her family. During this time, Dorothy was also seeking a fresh start. They eventually moved and resided together until her passing in December 2015 at the golden age of 95.

Dorothy's time living in Jacksonville, Florida proved to be a very happy and prosperous period in her life for she and her family - - both personally and professionally. Shortly after arriving, she met a group of equally fun, outgoing, and sassy women. They formed a social club together - - shopping, traveling, organizing masquerade balls, and hosting many other charitable and philanthropic community activities. She thoroughly loved hanging out with her new crew - - Rose, Cynthia, Linda, and Terri. As an extra bonus, her beloved son Alton, eventually joined his mom and grandmom and moved down to Jacksonville in 2000, where he began working in the Shipyard as a Rigger after completing his final tour of duty in the United States Navy. In 2001, he met and later married Brenda Lundy in 2005. Together with her mom's cousins and new extended family, she happily settled into her proverbial "third act of life" - the pursuit of wisdom, self-actualization and leaving legacy. She also loved receiving occasional visits from her girlfriend, Dot Taylor and goddaughter, Jocelyn.

She equally enjoyed spending time with her grandchildren Jayson and Maya Bevacqua throughout the years during their adolescence, when they would occasionally visit during school and holiday breaks.

However, no matter how busy she stayed, she always was ready and available to enjoy one of her favorite pastimes - - shopping! This time around, she was joined by daughter-in-law, Brenda's adult daughter and new shopping buddy, Cheyntarie "Tari." They both shared a love for "boutique hopping" at retailers that specialized in home décor and design. They also loved perusing staged homes together, further honing their passion. It was a perfect segue, as she initially was employed as a Sales Associate in the furniture department at Dillard's in St. Johns Town Center. Eventually, she combined her love for customer service and children, and worked for several years as a teacher with pre-school aged children until her retirement in 2011 at the Fort Caroline United Methodist Pre-School in Jacksonville, FL. In her later years, she loved traveling with her friends, particularly to Puerta Vallarta, Mexico and taking road trips to Saint Simon Islands in Georgia.

In 2012, she suffered a stroke due to an unforeseen aneurysm. In true Dorothy strong-willed grit and stubborn, determined spirit, she fought her way back to recovery post-surgery, enduring a year of rehabilitation and rigorous physical therapy. Although she never 100% regained her full independence (i.e., driving, cooking, operating machinery, etc.) due to the challenges with her cognitive skills, she still triumphed to learn how to walk and, in some cases, practically jog because she often walked too fast. Over the next several years that followed, she was blessed to be able to live on her own. She resided at the Peyton Ridge (Senior Living) Community Apartments with daily visits and assistance from her home health aide. Dorothy also had another loyal companion by her side for more than 30+ years - - her Steinway Baby Grand Piano! Post her initial stroke, she had the determination of American abolitionist and social activist, Harriet Tubman. She made at least 3 solo trips via plane back to visit her friends and family in New Jersey. Although she was predeceased by her son on November 19, 2016, she was blessed to still have the love, assistance and protection of Brenda, Tari, and their extended family at her disposal.

On August 20, 2020, the Lord appointed Dorothy her wings and called her home. Dorothy's antics were legendary and those who knew her have their own stories to tell. She said what she meant and meant what she said. Most importantly, we will always remember Dorothy's infectious hearty laugh and expressive joie de vivre. If you lightly close your eyes, you can quietly imagine seeing her standing in front of you flashing her lovely incandescent smile, adorned with her pretty ruby red lips, all complimented by her glowing Ebony skin and perfectly coiffed hair. And let's not forget, she wouldn't dare leave the house without her 14K gold bejeweled fingers, flattered with her favorite perfectly polished red manicured nails. She loved living life to the fullest and was often the life of the party amongst her friends - - always loving an opportunity to laugh out loud, dance, travel and simply have fun.

She was predeceased by her parents, Willie Mae and James Hatcher and son, Alton Whittle. She leaves behind to cherish her memory, a host of family and friends including goddaughter, Jocelyn Taylor of South Orange, NJ, niece, Stefanie Taylor of South Orange, nephew, W. Jeffrey Taylor of Minneapolis, MN, goddaughter, Cheyenne Bailey of Dallas, TX, grandchildren, Jayson Todd and Maya Nicole Bevacqua of NJ, daughter-in-law, Brenda Whittle, granddaughter, Cheyntarie (Tari) Washington, cousins LaWanda Ballard, Cynthia Hardwick, Gail Ramsey, and predeceased Aunt Eva Ernestine Hardwick - - all of Jacksonville, FL.

Dorothy was a member of the Lighthouse Church of the Nazarene in Jacksonville, FL. In December 2022, her 2nd homegoing ceremony and celebration will reunite her beside her mother's remains, forever together in their final resting place. Her dear son Alton is interred at Jacksonville National Cemetery in Jacksonville, Florida.

Service Information (TBD):

Lighthouse Church of the Nazarene
1249 Girvin Road
Jacksonville, Florida 32225

Memories



Epilogue

When my time on earth is done, and I am no more
Don't remember how I found death knocking on my door
Don't bother with the details of how I met with my demise
Don't worry for my soul or let tears flow from your eyes

No, when I go, you rest assured I am in a better place
I have walked on golden sheets and seen my Savior's face
I have hugged my father's neck and seen my granny, too
I will bask in God's glorious love as I wait for you

Remember how I loved the Lord and how I sang for Him
Tell my family left behind how much I still love them
Share stories of my silly side and laughter I have caused
Don't weep for me, my last request is that you take a pause..

To check your heart and soul condition, have you made your peace with God?
I pray you all will do His will and reach others while here you trod
So that your smiling face I'll see when your earthly race is run
Don't cry for me, but celebrate; I am forever with the Son

In Appreciation

The family acknowledges with sincere appreciation the many kind deeds and comforting expressions of sympathy extended to them in their time of sorrow. May God continue to bless each of you.

Professional Services Provided By

Cotton Funeral Service
130 Main Street
Orange, NJ 07050

Lighthouse Church of the Nazarene
1249 Girvin Road
Jacksonville, FL 32225

