

*A Celebration of Life
for*



Dorothy Elaine Mason

Sunrise
November 21, 1929

Sunset
November 13, 2020

The family wishes to express their sincere gratitude to all those who have supported us during this time of loss. May God abundantly bless each of you.

Inurnment
Laurel Grove Cemetery
295 Totowa Road, New Jersey, 07512

Obituary

Dorothy Elaine Mason, born of Alfred and Ethel Henry, had two siblings, a brother Hubert Alfred Henry, born 18 months after her and a sister Lenora Cecilia Henry, born 15 years after her. Dorothy was raised in a Christian home where the family was taught and lived by Christian values. She often remarked, “Mama had us in Church every Sunday from morning to night and had us at every revival tent meeting that came to town”.

Dorothy was a fervent believer in education, she began her quest for knowledge within the New York City Public-Schools System. She considered education to be a vital part to attaining individual, family, and community goals. Dorothy loved history (especially Black history), current events and politics; and enjoyed these interests her entire life. Dorothy also loved collecting historical periodicals and African art. She was one of the earliest donors for the National Museum of African American History & Culture which opened in Washington, DC in 2016. Dorothy graduated from the historic Morris High School in The Bronx, New York.

After graduation (in the 1940's), Dorothy was selected for employment within the newly integrated Woolworth's Department Stores Corporation a noteworthy achievement for Black Americans of the time.

In 1950, Dorothy met George Herbert Lee Mason, the love of her life. They courted, fell in love, and married on June 3, 1951. This marriage lasted over 55 years, ending with George's passing in 2007. Through this marriage, three children were born: Sheila, Kathy, and George. Dorothy was a devoted wife and mother who believed family always came first. This was evidenced by how well she organized, supervised, and prepared dinners, parties, and picnics for her family, extended family, and friends alike. Dorothy loved socializing with family and friends, playing cards, enjoying music, dancing, and encouraging others to participate in these activities. In addition to being an excellent cook and baker, Dorothy was also a gifted seamstress and sewer.

Dorothy worked part-time as a teacher's aide within the public-schools system in the early 1960's. She strived to always improve her community. Dorothy became a community organizer in Harlem, New York where she and her family resided. She was a “Black Lives Matter” activist over 50 years before the formal term was recently coined. This was exemplified when she and fellow community activists started a Consumer Education Program; an economic program which sought to educate the community on how and where to buy quality products. This

program was so effective it caught the attention of United States Attorney General, Robert F. Kennedy. Robert Kennedy visited their organization and was impressed. That visit led to the program's national recognition and the future appointment of the popular actress and ambassador, Bess Myerson to Commissioner of New York City Department of Consumer Affairs. As a result of her efforts, Dorothy was offered a desirable position of Consumer Education Consultant (which would involve traveling) but being the "Family First" person she was, she and her husband decided to decline the offer and focus on raising their young children. Sheila, Kathy, and George are each successful and contributing members of our society...job well done!

Dorothy worked for over twenty years as a civil servant worker for the New York City, Department of Social Services, where she excelled from a specialist in income maintenance to managing Director of the Department for the City of New York. She was proficient at writing Medicare proposals and other proposals as requested by the Mayor of New York City. Dorothy maintained this position until she retired.

Dorothy loved traveling and cruising, she traveled throughout the country and internationally. Even through her health issues (congestive heart failure, kidney failure, cancer, and COPD), Dorothy forged on relentlessly and lived a full accomplished and successful life. Dorothy was a phenomenal woman.

We will surely miss her.

Dorothy Elaine Mason is survived by her children, Sheila Mason, Kathy Mason Bull, and George and Janice Mason, her sister Lenora and Gilbert Centeno, sister-in-law, Alice Jacobs, and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, extended family, and friends.



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The Day God Called You Home

*God looked around His garden
And He found an empty place.
He then looked down upon the earth,
And saw your tired face.
He put His arms around you
And lifted you to rest.
God's garden must be beautiful
He always takes the best.
He knew that you were suffering
He knew you were in pain
He knew that you would never
Get well on earth again.
He saw that the road was getting rough
And the hills are hard to climb,
So He closed your weary eyelids
And whispered, "Peace be Thine".
It broke our hearts to lose you
But you didn't go alone
For part of us went with you
That day God called you home.*

Acknowledgments

The family would like to express their deep appreciation and sincere thanks for all acts of kindness shown to them during their time of bereavement.

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