



Dorothy Lene Barber

September 3, 1932 - November 8, 2025

Dorothy Lene Savage Barber was born on September 3, 1932 in White Cliffs, Arkansas as the second youngest child to Benjamin and Gracie Savage. Dorothy was extremely close to and had several siblings: Dotson, Sam, Christine, James, Evelyn, an unnamed Savage baby boy who died at birth in 1931, and Price. She was the last surviving member of her entire immediate family.

Dorothy moved from Arkansas to Minnesota. She then met and married Ruddell Barber in 1952, starting their family in Minneapolis with Randy (died in 2008), a deceased baby boy who died at birth in 1954, and Mikel. The family then relocated to Dallas and had Doris, Ricky (died in 2003), Carolyn and Kennedy. After Ruddell passed away in 1966, Dorothy and her 6 children relocated to North Minneapolis and soon afterwards she met and began a love affair with David Edwards and they had 2 children, Bradley and Angel. Dorothy and her family were raised as Southern Baptists in Arkansas. However, she never forced religion on any of her children but instead instilled the tools for them to embark on their own faith journeys. Dorothy is the Barber family's matriarch and her children and grandchildren consider her to be their constant rock and cornerstone.

Dorothy was a bit of a tomboy while growing up, she loved climbing trees as well as playing sports. She was an avid sports fan of basketball, football, but especially baseball and she was a huge Minnesota Vikings and Twins fan. She supported all Minnesota sports teams.

Dorothy loved many genres of music including Gospel, Soul, Funk, Blues and R&B. Back in the day she had her favorite songs that her children are all too familiar with, but she absolutely wore out "You and I" by Rick James to the point that none of them want to hear it again 😊. Growing up Dorothy sang in the church choir and she also taught both Randy and Mikel how to play the guitar. Her love of music was passed down to her children in the form of either singing, dancing or playing instruments.

Dorothy was very comical, especially during the later stage of her life because she was completely unfiltered, saying whatever she wanted and at times she would even laugh at herself. (This comical trait of Dorothy's was inherited by her children too.)

Dorothy had an infectious smile and glorious spirit and she was such a beautiful, joy-filled, unconditionally loving, compassionate, generous and extremely forgiving person who was extremely blessed with long life to the age of 93.

Family was always extremely important to Dorothy and that is the reason why she had such a big one. Dorothy raised 8 children, several grandchildren and 4 foster children, as well as being an amazing extended Mother to the friends of her children.

Although Dorothy was diagnosed with Alzheimer's in 2016, she still had her joy, grace, faith, wit, charm, stubbornness, nosiness and feistiness to the end. Her entire family truly love, adore, cherish and miss her very much. Dorothy is survived by her 6 children, Mikel, Doris, Carolyn, Kennedy, Bradley (Tonya) and Angel along with dozens of grandchildren and great grandchildren, cousins, nieces, nephews and many friends and loved ones.

On November 8, 2025 Dorothy transitioned on to heaven having fulfilled her life's purpose which is being a Mother to many.

Dorothy's legacy of persistent triumph in overcoming hard times, her faith in God, instilling family values, amazing strength, integrity, wisdom and long life should be carried on by her children and grandchildren as an homage to her life.

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV **20**. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Hillside Chapel
2610 19th Avenue N.E.
Minneapolis, MN 55418

Visitation

NOV **21**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

New Salem Missionary Baptist Church
2507 Bryant Ave North
Minneapolis, MN 55411

Church Service

NOV **21**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

New Salem Missionary Baptist Church
2507 Bryant Ave North
Minneapolis, MN 55411

Tribute Wall



“ Washburn-McReavy Funeral Chapels created a Visitation for Dorothy Lene Barber in memory of Dorothy Lene Barber



Washburn-McReavy - November 12, 2025 at 05:04 PM



I am one of her nieces from Arkansas I would like say she was a beautiful person inside and put I just love auntie I would get excited when I hear she's coming home she be talking noise she told lady at store made Auntie mad she told lady ill break a 5/9 in your face 😭 I'll never forget that for auntie to be tough lady she was also scared of wolf's howling at Night but she had her pepper spray 😂 I'm go miss you auntie take your rest and forever in my Heart love Teresa

Teresa Hamilton - November 17, 2025 at 12:59 PM

KB

Thanks Cousin !!!❤️❤️

Kennedy Barber - November 17, 2025 at 01:55 PM

LI

Im really going to miss you !!your smile and that laugh every time i think of you i will play song by smoky robinson called Really gonna miss you. Love you always Lillian.

LILLIAN - November 17, 2025 at 07:33 PM

LI

Thank you for being a good friend,and a Loving Mother my heart will never be the same.

LILLIAN - November 18, 2025 at 06:24 AM

LB

“ *Ms. Barber will be forever missed. I was her hair dresser until she couldn't come out any longer. She was very special to me and i will always cherish our talks.*

Leslie Byrd

Leslie Byrd - November 19, 2025 at 04:22 PM



Thank you Leslie 😊

Angel Barber - November 20, 2025 at 11:23 PM

BK

“ *Brad, Tonya, BJ & Kai purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of Dorothy Lene Barber.*



Brad, Tonya, BJ & Kai - November 18, 2025 at 09:17 AM

PT

“ *Ps. Troy & Steph Gramling & Online Team purchased the Garden Cross for the family of Dorothy Lene Barber.*



Ps. Troy & Steph Gramling & Online Team - November 17, 2025 at 12:08 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Dorothy Lene Barber.



November 14, 2025 at 01:20 PM