



Doloris Lorraine Irwin

July 6, 1932 - April 5, 2021

Doloris Irwin was born Doloris Lorraine Carter on July 6, 1932 to Evelyn and Theodore Carter in Springfield, IL. She was the third of ten children and took the role of sister and friend seriously. Doloris attended Feitshans High School and upon her graduation, she began her nurses training at Memorial Hospital School of Nursing.

Alongside one of her best friends, Melba Jean Irwin, the two integrated their nursing program. While she could have attended more diverse programs, she chose to stay close to home and trailblaze. Upon graduating she went on to successfully complete her exams to become a Registered Nurse; Doloris, along with Melba, were the first African Americans to accomplish RN certification from Memorial Hospital.

After a courtship that spanned the seas, Doloris married James LB Irwin Jr. on March 21, 1954. Doloris and James (Beachie) moved to Minneapolis in 1960. Together, they raised nine children as proud Northsiders. For fifty-five years, the two enjoyed a loving marriage fortified by friendship and faith.

To Doloris, family was her joy and light. She poured her prayers, love and actions into all whom she cherished. A fierce prayer warrior, Doloris always called on the Lord to be present with her loved ones “from the top to the bottom”. She was lovingly called “Aunt Dee”, “Grandma Irwin”, “Mom Irwin”,

and “Nurse Irwin”. Without question, Doloris was royalty in our midst.

As a dedicated representative of Christ, Doloris took the business of service seriously; she was devoted to building community through her work as a nurse, an activist, founding member of the Women of Distinction, a facilitator of the women’s groups such as the Wise Women, and numerous community prayer ministries. Doloris was a proud member of Wayman AME Church in North Minneapolis, and for 13 years she enjoyed her membership at Mother St. James AME under the pastoral care of her eldest daughter, Rev. Hallman. While active with her church community she served as a Girl Scout leader, Altar Guild coordinator, Sunday school teacher, Steward, Missionary, Senior Choir member, and coordinator for the annual Old Fashion Sunday program for many years.

Doloris Lorraine Irwin transitioned from this life to eternity on Good Friday, April 2, 2021 at 7:11 PM after 88 years and 8 months.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Evelyn and Theodore; siblings Arlene, Edgar, Richard, Vena Mae, and Gloria; her dutiful husband, James Irwin. She leaves to live in her legacy her sisters Marie Rector, Mabel (Floyd) Patterson, Carol Rush, brother Dale (Peggy) Carter, and sisters-in-love Melba Tinsley and Ella Carter. She leaves to continue her legacy nine children Marchelle (Charles) Hallman, Lyman (Cheryl) Irwin, Edwin (Regina) Irwin, Jojuana Dickson, Tamera (Jeffrey) Williams, Danielle (Charles) Quinn, Carmen (Brandon) Price, Damont (Donna) Jones, and Janitta Irwin; twenty-three grandchildren, thirteen great-grandchildren, and a host of beloved relatives and friends.

Cemetery Details

Ft. Snelling National Cemetery

7601 34th Ave. S.
Minneapolis, MN 55450

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 8. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Estes Funeral Chapel
2201 Plymouth Ave N
Minneapolis, MN 55411
(612) 521-6744
<https://estesfuneralchapel.com>

Funeral Service

APR 8. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Estes Funeral Chapel
2201 Plymouth Ave N
Minneapolis, MN 55411
(612) 521-6744
<https://estesfuneralchapel.com>

Tribute Wall



“ *Thoughts & Prayers was purchased for the family of Doloris Lorraine Irwin.*



April 12, 2021 at 12:38 PM



“ *Our condolences go out to Your Family. Mrs. Irwin was a GREAT, WONDERFUL Woman who will be missed by many. If You All need anything that either I or Brandon can provide, please let us know. We LOVE You All.*

Joyce Dye - April 08, 2021 at 01:41 PM



“ *To the Irwin family: Trust God, lean on Him, keep the faith. Our heartfelt condolence to the family. Praying that God will give you strength and comfort during your hour of bereavement. Anthony and Regina Toney.*

Regina Toney - April 08, 2021 at 01:39 PM



“ *Our prayers are with you during this difficult time. May God wrap you in His arms and give you peace through the loving memories of her.*

Sam and Barbara Coleman

Barbara Coleman - April 08, 2021 at 12:10 PM

“ In Memorial of My “Mother-in-Christ,” Doloris Irwin

When the Lord told me to go to Minnesota to study for my graduate degrees, I initially thought that perhaps I had “misheard” Him; at least, that what I hoped at the time. But as the saying goes, “Man supposes; God disposes.” So, after He verified in no uncertain terms that, yes, He wanted me to go to a place I had never even visited in my life, I moved to the “Land of 10,000 Lakes.” I didn’t know why the Lord sent me there, but I trusted that the Lord would “provide all my needs, according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus” (Phil. 4:19). During my four years in the Twin Cities, I saw firsthand that God “is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us” (Eph. 3:20).

One of the biggest “needs” He provided was for a family “in Christ,” which the Lord gave me in my pastor, Rev. Marchelle Hallman and my “brothers and sisters” at St. James AME Church in Minneapolis, MN.

One of the greatest “blessings” that the Lord gave me was in the person of my “Mother-in-Christ,” Doloris Irwin. From day one, she showed me the love of Christ, which continued to encourage me throughout the time I lived in the Twin Cities. She became a “Second Mom” to me. Although I returned to California in 2015, I always have had a “Mother Delores-shaped” place in my heart for her.

Therefore, it is with sadness that I have to acknowledge that her time on this earth is through. It is tough to know that one of the Lord’s biggest blessings in my life—my “Mother-in-Christ”—Doloris Irwin is no longer physically with me. At the same time, I am comforted with the truth that, her suffering is over. Her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ has called her—His daughter, Doloris—home to be with Him. As the song says, she’s “in that bright land where we’ll never grow old.” And she will always be my “Mother-in-Christ.” As I thought about her this morning, the Holy Spirit reminded me about His presence with me in my grief. Specifically, He brought to my mind the comforting words from the hymn, “What a Friend We

Have in Jesus:"

*"What a friend we have in Jesus, All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer.*

*Can we find a Friend so faithful, Who will all our sorrows share?
...In His arms, He'll take and shield thee; Thou wilt find a solace
there."*

*May the Holy Spirit continue to be with us—comforting us all
through this time.*

Sincerely,

One of Mother Irwin's "daughters," Rev. Susan Davis

April 7, 2021

Susan Davis - April 08, 2021 at 11:47 AM

KS

*“ I had the genuine honor and pleasure to meet and spend some time
with Doloris since the Hallman family are now in-laws of mine. I will
stream the funeral with thoughts and prayers of love and
appreciation of her life. May she rest in true peace and our lord
Jesus Christ/Father God "Hold Her."*

-Kim Smith-

Kim Smith - April 08, 2021 at 11:41 AM

DC

*“ The Irwin house was the place we came for
breaks from college. Her kindness made it easy
be in college in Sioux Falls SD. She was kind
and always had time to listen to us.*



Denise Cooper - April 08, 2021 at 11:05 AM



“ 7 files added to the tribute wall



Marchelle Hallman - April 08, 2021 at 02:45 AM

EH

Condolences to the Irwin Family. Herman and Evelyn Henderson

Evelyn Henderson - April 08, 2021 at 09:30 AM

EH

Condolences to the family

Evelyn Henderson - April 08, 2021 at 09:30 AM

CC

We are so very sorry about the passing of Mrs. Irwin. Roger loved her like his own mother. It was an honor to meet Mrs. Irwin after Roger & I got married thanks to Lyman strongly suggesting that Roger attend the University of Wisconsin in Madison. Mrs. Irwin was always so sweet to me and Ebony when we would visit her home when we would come to Minneapolis for family visits. Mrs. Irwin was a strong Godly woman with a great sense of humor and a loving heart toward people. It was always a pleasure being in her presence. Roger would share stories about times his mom & Mrs. Irwin would come to their aid when some type of injustice would occur in the neighborhood. Roger was always a welcomed part of the Irwin family. Mrs. Irwin meant a lot to us, especially to Roger. May the Lord comfort you all during this difficult time. We are sad because we will miss her on earth but rejoicing with you all in that she is resting in heaven with Jesus, your dad, and all her other loved ones that went on before her. Love your lifelong friends, Roger, Carla, and Ebony Clark in Oklahoma.

Carla Clark - April 08, 2021 at 02:29 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Doloris Lorraine Irwin.*



April 07, 2021 at 04:52 PM



“ *Love Virginia (Gail), Shamari, Percy & Family purchased the Serene Reflections Bouquet for the family of Doloris Lorraine Irwin.*



Love Virginia (Gail), Shamari, Percy & Family - April 07, 2021 at 12:08 PM



“ *The Hallman Family purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Doloris Lorraine Irwin.*



The Hallman Family - April 07, 2021 at 09:38 AM