



Harriet Collie

April 25, 1926 - December 10, 2022

On April 25, 1926, in Homestead, PA, Harriet McWilson entered this world, the daughter of Ada Beatrice Portis and Charles McWilson, who had migrated to Homestead, Pennsylvania, from Wilcox and Tuscaloosa counties of Alabama during the Great Migration. Harriet was raised in a humble, religious, and music-filled household along with her nine siblings – Annabelle, Rosabelle, Frank, Jerry, Coleman, Ada, Charles, Yvonne, and Eunice.

Harriet worked a bit after graduating from Homestead High School and was introduced to James Robert Collie, who had relocated from Lenoir County, North Carolina. They married and brought three daughters into the world – Maureen Waller, Sharon Beatrice, and Lynda Marie. Harriet was employed at MUSA Homestead Community Center as Preschool Teacher, Youth Leader, and later retired while in the position of Assistant Director at MUSA. During four decades she positively impacted the lives of many children, parents, and seniors in the community, including starting a huge shoe and clothing bank at the Center.

Harriet was blessed with many talents. Her childhood piano teacher ceased lessons once it became apparent that her young student played piano without reading sheet music. Harriet used mother wit and a knack for organizing to serve God and her community. Besides piano, she taught herself to play organ for the Gospel, Senior, and Youth Choirs at Park Place AME. Harriet is a past Superintendent of the Sunday School, Trustee, and was active in many clubs and organizations. Along with this, she possessed a magnetic,

magnanimous personality. She is beloved by the community. Harriet was the recipient of numerous honors, by the Homestead Community, City of Pittsburgh, Senate of the United States, and the National Council of Negro Women.

Harriet McWilson Collie slipped away on December 10, 2022, at age 96. Left to mourn the loss are her three daughters, Maureen Collie, Sharon Russell (Curtis) of Pittsburgh, PA, and Lynda Collie Johnson (Ernest B) of Seattle, WA; and her living sisters, Yvonne Godbolt and Eunice Stewart. She will be greatly missed by her grandchildren, Curtis Russell, of Los Angeles, CA, Damon and Deanna Waller of Pittsburgh, PA, and Sumaiya Johnson, of Seattle, WA; great-grandchildren Destiny and Denaje' Parker; and great-great grandchild Rahmu Broadus and a host of cousins, nieces and nephews, close friends, goddaughter Cynthia Freeman.

Viewing will be held during the hours of 2PM and 8 PM on Friday, December 16, at Park Place AME Church, 215 Tenth Avenue, where the Celebration of Life will commence at 11 AM on Saturday, December 17, 2011. Interment following the service at Homestead Cemetery of Munhall.

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 16. 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Park Place A.M.E. Church
215 East 10th Avenue
Homestead, PA 15120

Service

DEC 17. 11:00 AM (ET)

Park Place A.M.E. Church
215 East 10th Avenue
Homestead, PA 15120

Interment

DEC 17. 1:00 PM (ET)

Homestead Cemetery
Homestead, PA

Tribute Wall



“ 2 files added to the album Harriet McWilson Collie



Lynda - February 23, 2023 at 02:18 PM



“ Harriet Collie

January 29, 2023 at 12:45 PM



I can't go on without saying how my Mom Harriet Collie affected my life. I never liked seeing people without. She taught me to help people who didn't have. Mom had the food, clothes and shoe banl at MUSA Agency. God touched my mom and passed it on to me as well as our family. The most beautiful feeling in the world is to help others. The feeling of giving wii never leave me because of the love my Mom had for others. We are our brother's keeper. Thank you my dear Mom..

Your Loving Daughter - February 21, 2023 at 07:48 PM



“ Harriet Collie

January 29, 2023 at 10:10 AM

KM

“ *A true Homestead legend; nothing but love and respect for Miss Collie and the McWilson family going way back to being their neighbor as a snot-nosed diaper-wearing baby growing up on West 14th Street. Blessed memories and moments of "growing up Homestead" and even when my beloved mother grew a little older and weary before her passing, Ms. Collie would take the time and effort to look out for her in their apartment complex.*



Again, nothing but love and respect; rest in peace, Miss Collie, I love you!

Kev Miller - December 27, 2022 at 03:29 PM

YD

Such wonderful expressions coming from your heart. Your Mom would look out for my mom's well. I would call Jean who would look. Your mom had a quiet sweet spirit. Love you all as well. Peace....

Your Loving Daughter - February 21, 2023 at 08:02 PM

DP

“ To the Collie and McWilson families,

I LOVED Mrs. Collie since I was a teen in the youth choir at Park Place and she played for us plus she and my Mom were the Sunday School Superintendent and Assistant. Super respectively. She sent a message through my sister Nell to us siblings about a year or so ago and I am so glad I phoned and spoke to her not long after. I really enjoyed that!

The Collie & McWilson families have my deepest, most sincere condolences. I pray that The Holy Spirit comforts you and reminds you that she is getting a much deserved rest and the opportunity to "Walk Around Heaven All Day."

Sincerely,

*Madelyn Pressley
Bowie, MD*

Dr. Madelyn Pressley - December 15, 2022 at 09:46 PM

JG

“ God blessed us with a beautiful neighbor and friend in the likes on Harriet's Collie. Growing up just two houses from her, I witnessed what a sweet soul she was. No one could have been a more dedicated wife, church member or friend than she was. FAMILY, she will be sorely missed. Love, Jewel Garrison and the Clark Family

Jewel Garrison - December 14, 2022 at 07:33 PM

RS

“ Dear Family, May the Love and Comfort of God be upon you during this difficult time. Find comfort in Christ's promise of everlasting life. God has received Aunt Harriet into His Kingdom of Light and Love!

Her Legacy will last forever in myriad ways. Only a gifted musician with the highest musical abilities that she was blessed with could teach us how to reach for God during times like these. Her soul-stirring music throughout our lives continues to resonate within our Spirits amidst grief.

Only a humanitarian of the highest caliber could have spent years diligently working with youth and families throughout the church and community while taking care of her own family. A kinship that allowed youth whom she impacted to call her Aunt, inclusive of me!

Today, she reminds us that we must each find our own voice, our own song, decide our own value, and then announce it to the world in our own way.

Her Memory remains a BLESSING to ALL of us. Each of YOU remain in our THOUGHTS and PRAYERS.

With Much Love,

Rev. Linda Yvonne Smith

Rev. Linda Yvonne Smith - December 14, 2022 at 12:39 PM

ML

“ Maxine Lukas lit a candle in memory of Harriet Collie



Maxine Lukas - December 13, 2022 at 08:49 AM



Sorry for your loss. A beautiful Woman of God. Stay Encouraged. God bless you.

Rev Fran Walls

Rev Fran Walls - January 18, 2023 at 01:34 AM



Be Encouraged.

Rev Fran Walls - January 18, 2023 at 01:35 AM