



Mrs. Dora Kelley McGrew

February 24, 1935 - December 7, 2023

It is with deep sorrow that the McGrew family announces the death of their beloved mother, Mrs. Dora Kelley McGrew, 88.

Mrs. McGrew, the widow of James Edward McGrew, entered into rest on Thursday, December 7, 2023. The Directors of Brown-Pennington-Atkins Funeral Home & Crematory are caring for the family.

Dora Frances Kelley McGrew was born and raised in the rural area of Kelleytown, SC, to Henry and Ruth Kelley. After graduating from high school, Dora attended technical training for Secretarial Business in Columbia, where she met and fell in love with her husband, Jim McGrew Sr., and they were married in June of 1955. Together, they had four children — Jimmy, Lynda, Micheal, and Patricia.

Dora spent her life serving her family and community. During the early years of her marriage, Dora devoted herself to being a full-time mother and wife. In the late 70's, she began working with the South Carolina Housing Authority as a receptionist. Later she moved into a position with the department that focused on helping families obtain home ownership. She later became the director of her division and retired in early 2000. After her retirement from the Housing Authority, Dora spent time volunteering with the Richland County Sheriff's Department. She was also an active member of North Trenholm

Baptist Church, where she served as a Sunday School Teacher and a member of the Good News Club.

Dora loved reading through cookbooks and finding new recipes to copy into her notebooks. She was always ready and willing to share the cooking tips she had learned from others, especially the unwritten advice that had been passed on to her from her family. While she loved her cookbooks, her primary love was for her knitting needles and her boundless supply of yarn skeins. She was also a remarkable seamstress and found joy in learning how to create new projects. It was hard to find Dora without a project or two or three within arm's reach.

Dora loved visiting with her grandchildren and "great-grands" and took many opportunities to share heartfelt family stories with them. Her sense of humor helped her simultaneously relate to and command respect from even the most ambitious of her "grands." The love and concern that she had for each of them was felt at every encounter. Dora also cherished her friendships and appreciated opportunities to connect with her loved ones. Her matriarchal advice resonated with all who had the opportunity to visit with her.

Dora appreciated learning and never stopped growing in knowledge. Whether it was learning short-hand for her career, participating in Sunday school, discovering new recipes, or figuring out how to complete a sewing project, Dora continuously demonstrated the importance of continuous education in life. Dora's life was not without its trials, but through them all, she emerged a strong woman with much to offer the world around her. She led in love for her Father in Heaven, her family, and her community.

Dora is survived by her children, James E. (Brenda) McGrew Jr. of Ridgeway, SC; her daughter, Lynda McGrew (Craig) Dyas of Hartsville, SC, and her son, Micheal K. (Kathryn) McGrew of Columbia, SC. She leaves a legacy of five

grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren who will miss her dearly. She is also survived by her sisters, Naomi Jackson and Alsie Kelley; brother, Manly (Sandra) Kelley; sister-in-law, Frances Kelley.

In addition to her parents and her husband, she joins her youngest daughter, Patricia; brothers, Henry Kelley and Sid Kelley; sisters, Elizabeth Gardner, Christine Gilbert, and Geraldine Kelley, in eternal peace.

A funeral service to honor her life will be held at 12 o'clock on Saturday, December 16, 2023, at Kelleytown Baptist Church. The Rev. David Knapp and The Rev. Joe Copeland will officiate, with burial to follow in the church cemetery. The family will receive friends in the sanctuary one hour prior to the service.

In lieu of flowers, those who wish to continue Dora's impact are welcome to donate to two of her charities: Kelleytown Baptist Church Ramp Fund - (A fund that helps build ramps for the elderly at their residence) Kelleytown Baptist Church Ramp Fund, 2609 Kelleytown Road, Hartsville, SC 29550, or to Connie Maxwell Children's home, Connie Maxwell Children's Home, PO Box 1178, Greenwood, SC 29648-1178, conniemaxwell.com/give/ways-to-give.

Cemetery Details

Kelleytown Baptist Church Cemetery

2609 Kelleytown Road
Kelleytown, SC

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 16. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Kelleytown Baptist Church
2609 Kelleytown Rd.
Hartsville, SC

Funeral Service

DEC 16. 12:00 PM (ET)

Kelleytown Baptist Church
2609 Kelleytown Rd.
Hartsville, SC

Tribute Wall



“ *Brown - Pennington - Atkins Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Mrs. Dora Kelley McGrew*



Brown-Pennington-Atkins Funeral Home - December 11, 2023 at 05:24 PM

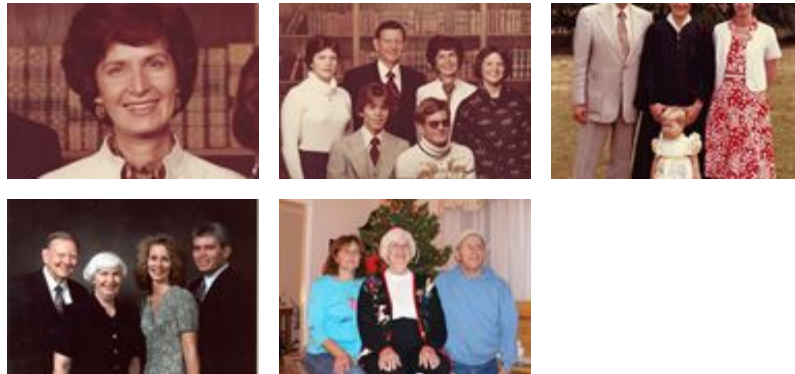
CA

Awesome video. Your mom was beautiful. Good way to remember. Almost made me cry.

Carol - December 13, 2023 at 04:43 PM



“ *51 files added to the album Life Tributes*



Brown-Pennington-Atkins Funeral Home - December 11, 2023 at 05:25 PM

BM

“ Although we did not know Dora personally, her sisters, brothers and in-laws spoke highly and with great love for Dora. We are thinking and praying for each of you.



Billy and Gayle McDonald - December 10, 2023 at 04:08 PM

KM

“ My thoughts and prayers go out to the family.

My mother-in-love Dora was the best. I will miss our day trips, shopping, long talks and laughter.

Thank you Mom Dora for all that you taught me. I love and miss you.



Kathryn McGrew - December 10, 2023 at 10:10 AM

SG

Meeting Dora only a few times was special. I felt depth, love, capacity and great integrity. "By their fruits ye shall know them." Not knowing all her children, i do know Lynda who i know is amazing legacy for Dora who carries on the McGrew tapestry. Matriarch McGrew will be missed, but legacy shall live.

SteVan Gates - December 10, 2023 at 02:43 PM

CM

“ My thoughts and prayers for the family. 🙏🙏

Charles McLendon - December 09, 2023 at 12:58 PM

LG

“ *Lou Gardner lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Dora Kelley McGrew*



Lou Gardner - December 09, 2023 at 10:31 AM

LG

My deepest sympathy goes out to the McGrew and Kelley families. Dora was a kind and thoughtful lady. Lou Gardner

Lou Gardner - December 09, 2023 at 10:33 AM

BH

“ *Beverly Hooks lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Dora Kelley McGrew*



Beverly Hooks - December 09, 2023 at 09:29 AM

VB

I want to extend my deepest sympathy and condolences to the McGrew family. I pray that all of the happy thoughts and wonderful memories of Mrs. Dora will help the family through this difficult time

Vivian Bokes - December 15, 2023 at 05:22 PM

LH

My husband Rick carried his McGrew cousins and their families in his heart always. They nurtured him with love when he needed it the most. I cherish being invited into that love and knowing Dora as a constant of kindness and vivacious graciousness. Please accept my deep condolences.

Lindy Hart - December 19, 2023 at 03:23 PM