



Dr. Dorothy Lee Taylor

APR 10, 1938 - MAR 10, 2026



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Dr. Dorothy Lee Taylor was born on April 10, 1938, on the west side of Detroit, Michigan, to the union of Freddie Pitts Sr. and Doris Reed Pitts. She was the third born child and the first daughter, a role she carried with grace, curiosity, and strength from an early age. Dorothy was known as a strikingly beautiful and adventurous young woman who was always dreaming, asking questions, and eager to experience life. After her mother remarried, Dorothy developed a very special bond with her loving stepfather, Lucious Taylor, who shared with her his love of fishing, one of the many joys she carried with her throughout her life.

After graduating from high school, Dorothy married her first husband and to this union were born her two daughters, Adrienne and Sharon, who were truly the light of her life. As a young mother, she worked tirelessly, often holding two jobs and even working nights, to provide for her girls and ensure they had every opportunity to succeed.

In 1973, she met and married the love of her life, Amos Taylor III, MD. The two shared a beautiful partnership built on love, laughter, and style. He lovingly nicknamed her “Snoop.” Amos adored Dorothy, and together they enjoyed traveling, celebrating life, and spending time with their blended family. Their love story was one filled with joy, even inspiring Amos to record a singing album dedicated to his beloved wife on their 20th wedding anniversary.

Dorothy never believed in standing still for long. Though she was traveling, modeling, and enjoying life’s adventures, she felt called to do something more, to help others. Guided by her personal motto, “If you don’t like something and want to change it, do something about it,” Dorothy returned to school and pursued her dreams with determination. At the age of 45, she earned her Bachelor’s degree, later completing both her Master of Social Work from Wayne State University and her PhD in Criminology from Florida State University.



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Dr. Taylor went on to become a respected scholar, educator, and licensed clinical social worker. She served as an Associate Professor of Criminology in the Department of Sociology at the University of Miami and was later honored with the title of Associate Professor Emeritus. Throughout her career, she authored books and scholarly articles addressing criminal justice, family systems, and the experiences of minorities and women within the justice system. Her work influenced students, colleagues, and communities alike, and she remained deeply committed to mentoring and uplifting others.

While accomplished academically, Dorothy's greatest passion was service. A proud breast cancer survivor for 38 years, she became a dedicated supporter and fundraiser for Susan G. Komen, encouraging and uplifting other survivors. Even into the early part of this year, she volunteered with Lee Health, personally walking women to and from mammogram appointments and offering comfort, encouragement, and hope.

Dorothy lived life with joy, elegance, and enthusiasm. She loved to travel, dance, play cards, and spend time at the casino with friends and family. She enjoyed spa days, never missed a hair appointment, and was always known for her beautiful nails, stylish outfits, and signature earrings. Her grandchildren especially treasured the time she spent planning birthday parties, organizing sleepovers, attending school trips, and teaching them many of the hobbies she loved, from crocheting to simply enjoying life's little moments.

Dorothy had a rare gift for making everyone feel special. To be in her presence was to feel as though you were in the company of someone truly regal, gracious, confident, and warm. Even in her senior years, her radiant spirit and timeless beauty led her to modeling "gigs," as she always called them, including appearances in print advertisements, commercials, and a role in a locally filmed movie called "The Hanging Millstone."

While residing at Amavida Luxury Senior Living, she quickly became a beloved ambassador, welcoming new residents, helping them feel at home, and staying connected with everything happening in the community.

A faithful servant, loving mentor, and cherished Church Mother at Cornerstone Church, Dorothy's life reflected her deeply held belief in faith, kindness, and treating others the way she wished to be treated.



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Dr. Dorothy Lee Taylor was preceded in death by her parents, Freddie Pitts Sr. and Doris Reed Taylor; her stepfather, Lucious Taylor; her daughters, Adrienne Michelle Hayes and Sharon Doreen Hayes; her brothers Henry Pitts and Freddie Pitts Jr.; her stepbrother J.C. Taylor; her sister Mary Anne Williams; her aunt Christine Shannon; her stepson Bradley Taylor Sr. and his wife Monique; and her beloved best friend Francis “Kay” Beck McDougall.

She leaves to cherish her memory and continue her legacy: her grandchildren, Rachael Joy (Glen Bridges) Holliday and Tyrone (Pamela) Belford Jr.; her great grandchildren Ryan Aubrey Mitchell, Shamar Driscoll, Anaiya Nevaeh Belford, Deven Belford, Ria Serena Holliday, Zoe Michele Belford; her stepdaughter Tracey (Dave) Baker; stepson Jeff Taylor; step grandchildren and great grandchildren; and great great grandchildren; goddaughter Eugenia Holimon; godson Tom Long; and her devoted friend and caregiver Shirley Moore; a host of loving nieces and nephews; and many dear friends she met throughout her travels around the world.

Dorothy lived a life full of courage, beauty, faith, and adventure. Her legacy will live on through the many lives she touched, the wisdom she shared, and the love she so freely gave. She taught us all that life is meant to be lived fully, loved deeply, and celebrated often, and for that, her memory will forever remain a blessing.



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Dorothy by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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