



Mary Frances Handford

January 7, 1932 - December 25, 2024

Mary Frances Philpott was born on January 7, 1932, in Notasulga, Alabama. She was the eldest of three children born to the union of Clarence Philpott I and Sallie Mott Philpott.

After the passing of their mother, Mary and her brothers, Clarence Philpott II and Ralph Philpott Sr., moved to Florida to live with their father and his wife, Barbara Philpott. Mary spent the remainder of her childhood in Winter Park, Florida, and attended Hungerford High School in Eatonville, Florida.

Mary was deeply committed to education and worked tirelessly to ensure her children had a strong foundation for success. She was a devoted mother to her three sons and a loving mother figure to many others, nurturing and guiding those she treated as her own.

Mary had a loving and welcoming spirit, and her kindness endeared her to everyone she met. To her, there were no strangers—only friends she had yet to know. Her home was a place of refuge and comfort for many over the years, including one guest who later became the King of the Southeastern Province in Nigeria, Africa.

After retiring, Mary continued to pursue her passions, including reading and gardening. She nurtured not only people but also her yard, which she filled

with vibrant flowers, pineapple bushes, and fruit trees such as mango, papaya, and plum. Her love of growth reflected the care she poured into both her plants and her relationships.

A devout Christian, Mary faithfully served her church in many capacities. She was an active member of Heritage Lamb, worked in the soup kitchen, and served on the usher board. She also lovingly tended to the church's plants, with her favorites being the Christmas poinsettias.

Mary was preceded in eternal life by her parents, Clarence Philpott I and Sallie Mott Philpott; her stepmother, Barbara Philpott; three brothers, Clarence Philpott II, Ralph Philpott Sr., and Claude Philpott, Sr.; one sister, Betty Philpott; and two sons, Bernard Greene and Jimmie Greene.

Mary's memory will forever be cherished by her son Edward Greene (Brinda) of Somerville, Alabama; her brother Robert Philpott (Lee) of Florida; and her daughter-in-law Peggy Greene (Jimmie) of Florida. She leaves behind granddaughters Tesha Greene, Latoya Greene, Vanessa Greene, and Utahara Greene; grandsons Marcellus Greene, Carlos Greene, Derrick Greene, Edward A. Greene, and Brandon Toliver.

She also leaves to cherish her memory those she raised as daughters, Belinda Dixon and Sherry Donaldson; her surrogate daughter, Dorothy West; and those she reared as sons, Lorenzo Payne Sr. and Tereck Taylor. Mary's legacy continues through seventeen great-grandchildren, five great-great-grandchildren, and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives, and friends.

Mary's love, generosity, and faith will remain an inspiration to all who knew her.

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN **10**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

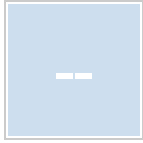
Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church
412 E. Kennedy Blvd.
Eatonville, FL 32751

Service

JAN **11**. 1:00 PM (ET)

Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church
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Eatonville, FL 32751

Tribute Wall



“ -- purchased the *Medium Dish Garden* for the family of *Mary Frances Handford*.



-- - January 10, 2025 at 01:44 PM



“ *Serene Retreat* was purchased for the family of *Mary Frances Handford*.



January 08, 2025 at 04:15 PM



“ *Chris & Heather Toney* purchased the *Divine Peace Bouquet* for the family of *Mary Frances Handford*.



Chris & Heather Toney - January 07, 2025 at 08:15 PM



“ *Gwen Edwards & Family* purchased the *Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet* for the family of *Mary Frances Handford*.



Gwen Edwards & Family - January 07, 2025 at 03:55 PM

GF

“Gwen Edwards & Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mary Frances Handford.

Gwen Edwards & Family - January 07, 2025 at 03:55 PM

AL

“My sincerest condolences to the family. Ms Mary called me her spiritual goddaughter. I will miss that spicy but good hearted woman of strength, physically and mentally. I always looked forward to surprising her when I was back in town visiting our church MMBC. I knew I could find her upstairs ushering where she served faithfully in that capacity. When we talked it would be for hours sharing her wisdom and life experiences. I was blessed with her presence in my life. Rest in peace Ms Mary. Keeping the family lifted in prayer.



Alisha - January 01, 2025 at 12:16 PM

SH

Ms. Mary was a beautiful soul and always had a special spirit that encouraged me. She will truly be missed at MMBC. Sending condolences to the family.

Shelia Hamm-Reid - January 12, 2025 at 02:53 PM

MS

“MONICA DENISE SCOTT lit a candle in memory of Mary Frances Handford



MONICA DENISE SCOTT - December 30, 2024 at 02:18 PM



“ *Ms. Hanford volunteered in the Heritage Lamb Nursery Ministry. She loved taking care of the infants and toddlers. She was called Grandma by all the kids. She will be remembered as a woman of strength and determination. Please know that you are in our prayers.*

Veronica Tyson

Veronica Tyson - December 27, 2024 at 08:38 PM