Acknowledgments

The Family of Dorie Ann Ladner would like to express heartfelt gratitude for the outpouring of love and support they have received.

We would particularly like to thank the following:

- Shiloh Baptist Church
- The Speakers, Performers, and Volunteers for making this program possible
- All contributors to The Dorie Ladner Healthcare Fund

The SNCC Legacy Project
Courtland Cox, Karen Spellman, Sharlene Kranz, Kim Johnson, The Board of Directors, Bunmi Samuel

WPFW Radio Pacifica
Dorie Ladner special programming contributors Katea Stitt, DJ Lance Reynolds, Miyuki Williams, Joni Eisenberg, Netta Freeman, Craig Hall, DJ Zee Lion, Sista Kim Bey, Donald Temple, Jordan Strudwick, Amy Goodman, and Margaret Prescod

Teaching for Change
Mississippi Veterans of The Civil Rights Movement
Willa Perryman, Billie Ruth Perryman-Collins, Freddie Perryman, Delbra Richardson-Price

Graphic Design by Free BenJamin (freebenJamin.com) and Printing by Paul Coates (Black Classic Press)

A SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS AND HEALTHCAREGIVERS INCLUDING

- MedStar Georgetown University Staff
- MedStar Home Health Staff
- Promedica of Chevy Chase Staff
- Love and Companion Homecare Staff, especially Arkevia, Canisha, Majhe, Danielle, and Ciara
- Autumn Lake of Chevy Chase Staff
- Ingleside of Rock Creek Staff
- Stoddard Baptist Nursing Home
- Sibley Memorial Hospital Staff

Special Acknowledgement
Thanks to Karen Spellman without whose expertise, dedication, and love, this program would not have been possible.

- Katea Stitt, Production Management

Donations
The Dorie Ladner Healthcare Fund may be sent to:
Medical Assistance for Dorie Ladner
https://gofund.me/39703e81

Dorie Ann Ladner Celebration of Life

THE LIFE OF A WARRIOR

Dorie Ann Ladner
June 28, 1942 - March 11, 2024

APRIL 13, 2024 • 11AM
www.shilohbaptist.org/livestream

SHILOH BAPTIST CHURCH • 1500 9th Street NW, Washington DC
Rev. Wallace Charles Smith, DMin, Senior Minister
Order of Service
THE LIFE OF A WARRIOR
Dorie Ann Ladner

Procession ........................................... Family and SNCC Workers
Singing “Oh Freedom!”

Welcome .............................................. Dr. Frank Smith, Moderator

Invocation & Prayer of Comfort .... Rev. Kevin Lamár Peterman
Associate Minister

Reading of Scripture ....................... Fred Perryman

Pastoral Reflections ....................... Rev. Dr. Wallace Charles Smith

“My Sister Dorie” .................. Dr. Joyce Ann Ladner

Take My Hand, Precious Lord .......... Kendall Thomas
(Thomas Dorsey)

Reflections ............................................. Forriss Elliott
Chuck Hicks
Gladys Gattison
Dr. Sandra Crewe

Lord I Don’ Done .................. Daniel Thornton
(NEGRO SPIRITUAL)

“My Mother Dorie” ............. Yodit Churnet

Video and Remarks .................. “In Her Own Words”
Produced by DJ Lance Reynolds

We Shall Not Be Moved ........ Clarence “The Blues Man” Turner
(Alvin Ackley)

Reflections ............................................. Dave Dennis
Freddie Biddle
Courtland Cox

Family Tributes ...................... Dr. Ayanna Gill
Delbra Richardson-Price

Freedom Songs ................. Dr. Charles Neblett, Song Leader
(Audience Participation)
SNCC Freedom Singers

Benediction ........................................ Rev. Kevin Lamár Peterman

(Reception to follow in Heritage Hall, Family Life Center)
OBITUARY

The Life and Legacy of Dorie Ann Ladner

Dorie Ladner was a bright light of hope and love. Dorie was born in Battles, Mississippi to Annie Ruth Perryman and Eunice Stafford Ladner, and was one of nine siblings. Raised in a close-knit community by a mother who instilled activism and empathy, Dorie knew from a young age the importance of using her voice for change. The lynching of Emmett Till impacted her deeply, igniting an eternal flame in her heart of commitment and dedication to civil rights. Her activism began in her teenage years, as Dorie joined the NAACP Youth Council and began being mentored by civil rights leaders such as Medgar Evers, Eileen Beard, and the Dahmer family. This activism would continue throughout her lifetime, solidifying her place as a foot soldier for change.

Dorie would read voraciously, taking special interest in magazine and newspaper articles about injustices, studying the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments and seeking answers to societal and community struggles. As a young student, she would ask her social studies teacher questions, and when the answer was not satisfactory, she would seek her own answers and resolutions. Studying the U. S. Constitution and Amendments gave Dorie the sense of power she needed to begin shifting societal wrongs. The murders of Vernon Dahmer and Medgar Evers would instill in Dorie a deeper devotion and need to right the wrongs of the world. Dorie's light and reasoning enabled her to persuade others to join her in the Movement. Though only a teenager at the time, Dorie conveyed the importance of the movement in a manner that communicated our human obligation to uphold equality and justice. Dorie's ability to be a messenger of stories and change can be found in the stories and achievements of her life.

Dorie would become involved with the Freedom Riders in Jackson, Mississippi and sit-in at the Woolworth's lunch counter in a non-violent protest. Later, she would join Bob Moses and other members of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) and Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) to register Black voters and help eradicate voter suppression and racist voter registration practices. She would go on to become one of the founding members of the Council of Federated Organizations (COFO), working with Fannie Lou Hamer to register voters. Dorie would be the first woman to join the staff of the Jackson office of the Council of Federated Organizations (COFO). All of the organizations she was a member of would support and sponsor Freedom Summer and continue to guide efforts to bring about equality in education, voting, and economics. Dorie's journey in activism would lead to many pivotal moments and experiences, from being expelled from Jackson State University for her participation in the Civil Rights Movement, to a role with the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) and canvassing for voting rights. She would work tirelessly within the community and beyond, making significant contributions to the Civil Rights Movement. Some of her many efforts included organizing Mississippi Freedom Summer, organizing the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party, helping organize the March on Washington, and participating in the March from Selma to Montgomery. Dorie's mother's words of wisdom to “never look down and never look back,” would become the words that were foundational to her activism and life.

After her time in the movement, Dorie continued her pursuit of higher education at Tougaloo College, earning a B.A. in history, followed by a master's degree in social work from Howard University. She dedicated her career to social work at D.C. General Hospital, St. Elizabeth's and the D.C. Department of Mental Health. She viewed that work as a continuation of the service she began as an activist.

Dorie continued to engage in the pursuit of social justice through conferences, panels, speaking to students, and as a radio commentator on WPFW-FM. Her work on the ground and in the community took many forms, with learning and the plight of the people always at the center. Dorie said “The movement was something I wanted to do. It was pulling at me, pulling at me, so I followed my conscience.”

Among her many honors for her lifelong dedication to justice and community service were honorary doctorates from both Tougaloo College and the University of District of Columbia. Dorie's legacy is remembered by her family, friends, colleagues, neighbors, and the many lives she touched. She leaves a profound legacy of service.

Her light will shine always in our memories and hearts, and her work will leave a lasting impact on the world. Dorie was dedicated to her family, friends, and community; that community was both local and international. Dorie is survived by her daughter Yodit Mebrat Churnet, her grandson Seyoum Cherinet Gipson, her siblings, cousins, nieces, and nephews. Her siblings are Woodrow Ladner (deceased), Harvey Garrette, Joyce Ann Ladner, Freddie Perryman, Billie Ruth Perryman-Collins, Willa Tate Perryman, Tommy Perryman (deceased), Archie Perryman, and Hazel Perryman.
A Daughter’s Sentiments

My mother always told me that I was a good girl. She was a powerful woman. She supported me all my life.

She cared about truth and justice.
She was very smart and practical.
She was a great proponent of education as a means to success.
She had a kind heart and gave to individuals in need and charity consistently.

A foundational element of my childhood that was consistent for my mom, and my dad, was going to political meetings.

I grew up in political meetings, even attending demonstrations for justice.

I was quite old when I learned that everyone didn’t grow up like that.

Material things were never on the top of my mom’s priority list.

She cared about family, justice, and loyalty.

I am proud of the work that she did.
She is a guiding light to me and my son Seyoum.

I will always love her.

—Yodit Churnet

My Sister Dot “Dorie”

It was as if the whole world wore a gigantic smile. I was so happy. All I could think of was the pleasure, the privilege of going to school with Dot (Dorie) and learning to read from real schoolbooks as she and Harvey had. Mother often outfitted Dorie and me with the same extra loving care in matching pink dresses, for in these days we often appeared as if we were twins.

When bullies tried to attack me, Dorie stepped in and fought my battles for me. This role of protector would be one that Dot would take on throughout much of my life. She did the same for our younger brothers and sisters - Fred, Willa, Billie Ruth, Tommy, Archie, and Hazel.

Upon discovering how interested Dot and I were in civil rights work, Dr. McLeod brought us Jet, Ebony, the Pittsburgh Courier, and the Chicago Defender. He gave us books by W.E.B. DuBois, Shirley Graham, and Richard Wright. Mrs. Jackson, our school librarian, gave us books too. At home, Dot babysat the little ones while I helped Mother cook and clean the house. Dorie never learned to cook very well because it didn’t interest her. She wanted to be a civil rights lawyer.

As the years went by, her main vocational focus became social work, fighting for the rights of marginalized people to receive quality healthcare, affordable housing, a living wage, food justice, and the right to vote. Dorie was never timid or shy and always spoke truth to power. She devoted her life to fighting for our people. Unquestionably she was a Drum Major for Justice!

And for me, Dorie was my big sister, my protector, and my friend. She guided me for most of my life. I love her very much and she will remain in my heart forever!

—Joyce Ann Ladner