



## Doretha Mae Henry

January 3, 1944 - August 2, 2025

### OBITUARY OF DORETHA MAE HENRY

Doretha Mae Pinder Henry was the only child of the late Harold Rudolph Jackson, Alice Elizabeth Pinder Gardner and Reginald Stokes Gardner. She was born on January 3, 1944 in Cambridge, Maryland and raised in Baltimore, Maryland. She departed this earthly life on August 2, 2025 to be with her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Dee spent her early childhood years in Vienna, Maryland where she and her mother, Alice, lived on the family farm. This was the home of her uncle, John Pinder, who raised Alice and her five sisters after the death of their parents. Doretha was christened at John Wesley United Methodist Church in Vienna, Maryland as an infant. From early childhood to adulthood, she attended Wayland Baptist Church in Baltimore until moving to Salisbury. Dee Henry, as she was affectionately called by many, joined Wesley Temple United Methodist Church in Salisbury on April 8, 1990. She loved singing and joined the Chancel Choir, singing alto, for many years. She was a faithful member who believed in prayer and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Doretha received her education in the public schools of Baltimore City and graduated from Frederick Douglass High School in 1961. She was the first black female to attend Garrison Junior High School in the year 1955. The integration experience was challenging but she proved to be a strong and brave pioneer. Dee attended The University of Maryland University at College Park and received her para-legal certification in 1977.

Dee Dee, as she was lovingly called by her husband, Edward Elzey Henry, Jr. (Sonnye), was joined in holy matrimony on April 20, 1980 in Baltimore, Maryland. She moved to Salisbury and had a wholesome and blended family with Sonnye, her best friend and soul mate.

During her professional career, Dee wore many hats. She pioneered as the first Black female in various areas such as: a legal secretary for the first Black lawyer of Lawton, OK in 1962; first Black executive secretary of the president of Perdue Farms, Inc. in 1981; first Black executive secretary at Piedmont Airlines (later US Airlines) in 1983, and first Black female to become Vice President /Human Resources Recruiter at Second National Federal Savings Bank in Salisbury, until the bank was desolved in 1995. Dee became the second Home School Liaison in Wicomico County in 1997 at East Salisbury Primary School until the year 2000. She often said every day was a new experience, an adventure and often a reward.

Doretha was a sincere advocate for children who had no voice. Making a difference with youth was very meaningful to her. One of her most memorable and rewarding experiences was as a Den Mother, for five years. Her love and respect for children was evident in many of the associations and boards of directors on wish she served. She was a member of the following; Wicomico County Citizens Review Board and a State Board member for District #1 (Dorchester, Wicomico, Somerset and Worchester Counties); Junior Achievement of Wicomico County; The United Way; NAACP Organization, Salisbury Neighborhood Housing Service Board.; Wor-Wic Community College Foundation Board; Shore Up Advisory Board; Salisbury Wicomico Arts Council. Dee also served in other volunteer positions such as a judge for the Oratorical Contest for The Salisbury Optimist Club, Wicomico County Community Foundation Richard Hazel Scholarship Committee and the Wicomico County Board of Education Mentoring Program.

Dee became a Link in 2003 and held officer positions as two-time Financial Secretary and President of the Princess Anne Chapter of The Links, Incorporated. She loved her Link Sisters and enjoyed serving on the special

committees and various facets.

On the social level, Dee was a pillar of a wonderful group of friends who for over 42 years had loved each other, had seen much of the world together through travel, and who truly loved just spending time together. They were known as the O. C. Gang.

Wonderful and loving memories will be kept by her husband; Edward Henry; her children, Taavon and Randee (Linda) Brown and Catrina Henry Taylor; adopted son, Jimmie Reed; three grandchildren, Skylar (Kailsha) Waters, Christopher Brown and Allison Brown; and six great-grandchildren, Mariah, Arielle, Skylar, Jr., Ryson, Orion and Xavia; brother-in-law, Charles Henry and sister-in-law, Clarice Henry.

Additionally, memories of Dee will be held by: aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, and cousins of the Pinders, Gardners, Jacksons, Greens, and the O.C. Gang Families.

#### Appreciation

The family must give a very special heart-filled THANKS to Sandra Cook, Vicky Cook and Shernika Roberts who were Dee's wonderful and caring caretakers. I could not have done it without them. They are a part of our family now .... Sonnye

# Previous Events

## Visitation

AUG 13. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Wesley Temple United Methodist Church  
1322 West Road  
Salisbury, MD

## Funeral Service

AUG 13. 12:00 PM (ET)

Wesley Temple United Methodist Church  
1322 West Road  
Salisbury, MD

# Tribute Wall



“ *Bennie Smith Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Doretha Mae Henry*



**Bennie Smith Funeral Home** - August 15, 2025 at 04:33 PM

LR

“ *Lysandra R. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Doretha Mae Henry.*

**Lysandra R.** - August 17, 2025 at 01:44 PM

LS

“ *Lorraine L Sturgis lit a candle in memory of Doretha Mae Henry*



**Lorraine L Sturgis** - August 15, 2025 at 06:10 PM

LS

*My Condolences to the Family. Ms. Dee Henry hired me at Second National FSB in 1989. She was such a positive, supportive and caring colleague.*

**Lorraine L Sturgis** - August 15, 2025 at 06:13 PM

RP

“ Sincere condolences to the family.



Roland Palmer - August 13, 2025 at 10:16 AM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Doretha Mae Henry.



August 12, 2025 at 09:22 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Doretha Mae Henry.

August 12, 2025 at 09:22 PM

PK

“ Pandoria K. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Doretha Mae Henry.

Pandoria K. - August 12, 2025 at 08:05 AM

DB

“ *Doretha Bounds Burrell lit a candle in memory of Doretha Mae Henry*



**Doretha Bounds Burrell** - August 11, 2025 at 04:15 PM

PJ

“ *Sonny and Family, You have our deepest sympathy. May God provide you with peace. You are in our prayers. Maudie Sample Goslee, Peggy Sample Jones and Family.*

**Peggy S Jones** - August 11, 2025 at 01:49 PM

RJ

“ *Russell, Jackie And Baxter Jones lit a candle in memory of Doretha Mae Henry*



**Russell, Jackie and Baxter Jones** - August 11, 2025 at 12:28 PM

RJ

*Rest in eternal peace Sweet Angel.*

**Russell, Jackie and Baxter Jones** - August 11, 2025 at 12:47 PM

SA

“ *Sharon Armstrong lit a candle in memory of Doretha Mae Henry*



**Sharon Armstrong** - August 11, 2025 at 09:31 AM

LC

“ *Linwood Carr lit a candle in memory of Doretha Mae Henry*



Linwood Carr - August 10, 2025 at 01:51 PM

CS

“ *To the family of Dee Henry  
So sorry for your loss, keeping you in my prayers!*

Cynthia Simpson-James - August 09, 2025 at 07:59 PM

AR

“ *Dear Sonnye and Family,  
We will always treasure the special friendship we shared and the many good times we enjoyed together whether playing dominoes or Phase 10, gathering for lunches and dinners, or exploring new places. Those moments were filled with joy, but it was her beautiful smile and infectious laugh that made them truly unforgettable. She will be deeply missed. May she rest in peace.  
Audrey & Vernon*

Audrey Rivers - August 09, 2025 at 01:54 PM

SC

“ *Ed you have my deepest sympathy for your loss I know Dee will be missed. I thank her for sharing you with myself and others. God bless you as you go through this sad time 🙏  
praying for you and your family*



Shelley Caldwell - August 07, 2025 at 05:16 PM

WW

“ Warren White lit a candle in memory of Doretha Mae Henry



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**Warren White** - August 07, 2025 at 03:44 PM

PL

“ Ed and Family: Luke and I send you our sincere condolences on Dee's passing. We have only fond memories of all the early years of hanging out with you all.  
Hinton (Luke) and Peggie Lucas

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**Peggie Lucas** - August 07, 2025 at 02:53 PM

AR

“ My sincerest condolences Mr Sonny. I've known Dee since we worked together at Second National. My heart is heavy. She is the best.

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**Ardeen Rhock** - August 07, 2025 at 01:52 PM

PS

“ Our prayers are with Ed and the family. Dee will be missed.



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**Peter H. Singleton** - August 07, 2025 at 09:45 AM

MF

“ *Mable V Jarmon & Family lit a candle in memory of Doretha Mae Henry*



**Mable V Jarmon & family** - August 06, 2025 at 05:00 PM

PH

“ *Phyllis Hardy lit a candle in memory of Doretha Mae Henry*



**Phyllis Hardy** - August 06, 2025 at 08:34 AM

PA

“ *Our hearts were saddened when we heard of your loss. There are so many memories of Dee that we could share, but today we are thinking of you. Our thoughts, love and prayers are extended to you and the family. She will truly be missed.*

**Phyllis Hardy/Salisbury High Association** - August 06, 2025 at 08:33 AM

TW

“ *Sorry For Your Loss*



**Thomas Widgeon** - August 06, 2025 at 07:33 AM

TS

*Sonnye and Family--We are absolutely shocked and saddened about the loss of Dee !!! She was a special lady in so many ways and truly cared about people and doing what was right for all !! She will be missed by so many. We just consider ourselves fortunate to have known her. With deepest sympathies, Tony and Billye Sarbanes*

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**Tony Sarbanes** - August 12, 2025 at 02:02 PM