



## Dorothy Ann Lankford Epps

March 9, 1946 - January 2, 2025

It is with deep sorrow that we announce the passing of our beloved mother, grandmother, sister, and friend, Dorothy Epps, on January 2, 2025, at the age of 81. A devoted wife, loving mother, and cherished grandmother, she was a bright light in the lives of all who knew her. Her strength, kindness, and unwavering faith will be remembered by her family and the many communities she served.

Born to Cramer and Mary Lou Lankford, Dot was preceded in death by her parents and her brother, Harry Lankford. She is survived by her loving husband of 53 years, Ernie; her son, Chris Epps (Sarah), their four children, [Mary Grace, Ella Byrd, Mavis Love, Tilford]; daughter Shelly Epps Parker (Justin); three brothers, Ennis, Nelson, and Richard Lankford; and many nieces, nephews, and extended family members who adored her.

A dedicated educator in the Putnam County School System for more than 20 years, “Miss Dot” enriched the lives of hundreds of students, teaching first grade and English as a Second Language with passion. Her belief in the power of learning shaped countless young minds, and her former students fondly remember her caring approach to teaching. She also served as a dedicated board member of the (Robin) Ferst Readers Foundation, which provides books to children in need, demonstrating her commitment to fostering literacy and opportunities for future generations.

Dot was known throughout the community as a great woman of faith. Her generous spirit extended to supporting missionary work, and she found deep

fulfillment in helping others both near and far. We know that though she is absent from us, she is present with the Lord.

As a volunteer, Dot served on the local hospitality committee for the 1996 Olympics, where she welcomed guests and athletes to feel welcome in the Eatonton community. She leaves behind a legacy of love, faith, service, and education. An extraordinary woman whose life touched many, her memory will be forever cherished by all who had the privilege of knowing her.

A celebration of her life will be held in the spring. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to Samaritan's Purse. (<https://www.samaritanspurse.org>)

May she rest in peace, and may her life continue to inspire all who knew her.

# Tribute Wall

DM

“ *Davida M. purchased a sympathy card for the family of Dorothy Ann Lankford Epps.*



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**Davida M.** - January 23, 2025 at 04:44 PM

AV

“ *Miss Dot was my 1st grade teacher in Butler Baker Elementary. As an awkward child, I would often stay in the classroom with her during recess and help her grade papers with messier handwriting. I dearly loved doing this, and she was always so kind. She encouraged my love of reading, and I remember one of my proudest moments of my childhood was when she sent me with a note to the library asking them to allow me to read books meant for higher grade levels (at the time, the library book selections were limited by grade). She will be missed, but the kindness, compassion, and love that she shared will live on for generations to come.*

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**Amanda "Owen" Vail** - January 16, 2025 at 08:38 AM

TS

“ *Miss Dot, So Glad Your Pain Free Now and in Heaven with the Lord Jesus. I remember How Kind you were and Thank You for Being A Great Friend to My Mother. We All will see you Again in Gods Timing.....*

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**Timothy Salter** - January 06, 2025 at 03:35 PM

LR

“ *Such a sweet, loving, caring and God Loving Lady, Dot was! She will be missed. Loved talking and sharing Bible Fellowship topics. I loved Dot and will miss her.  
I know where your spirit is 🙏*

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**Linda (Charping) Radney** - January 06, 2025 at 01:46 PM

JP

“ *Miss Dot, miss dot ..it was a pleasure being her friend the pass few months & helping her as best as I could..and though I'm bawling my eyes out I know she's happier and finally out of pain. She spoke so much about being with God and how amazing he is to her so I know she's in heaven having a blast ..And that's the only thing I'm finding comfort in right now. I love you so so sooo much miss lady ..  
Your Jazmen.*



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**Jazmen Porter** - January 06, 2025 at 04:17 AM

EC

“ *Dot was such a sweet and thoughtful lady. She will certainly be missed by all who had the pleasure of knowing her. Praying for Ernie and her family. 🙏🌹 Steve and Elaine Carnes*



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**Elaine Carnes** - January 04, 2025 at 06:28 PM

CS

“ So sorry to hear this. Dorothy was my first cousin. God bless all her family.



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**Cynthia E Sneed** - January 04, 2025 at 05:26 PM

CH

“ Dot and I became good friends at Putnam County Elementary during the time we both taught ESOL. Dot was a very dedicated teacher, and I admired her devotion to our students' success. She shared that same devotion and love with her own children and grandchildren. Her Christian ethics are a model for everyone. I will greatly miss her!!, love and sympathy to the family. Carol Haley

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**Carol Haley** - January 04, 2025 at 10:27 AM