

Saturday, January 14, 2023 – 2:00pm NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH

3701 Colorado Boulevard Denver, Colorado 80205 REV QUINCY "Q" SHANNON, EULOGIST REVEREND KAY FARLEY, OFFICIATING

A Glimpse Till Glory......Funeral Directors

Old Testament...Reverend Dr Valerie L Jackson...Isaiah 41:10 New Testament...Reverend Jerry Ochsner...John 14:1-3

Prayer of Solace......Deacon Jo Smith

Acknowledgements, Condolences, Resolutions, and Chituary Sandra Johnson Jones New Hope Baptist Church Condolence Clerk

() Video (Tribute by Reflections in Video Productions

Words from the Family Words from Theater Company

Ecclesiastical Expression......Reverend Dr James D. Peters, Jr.

Eulogy......Reverend Quincy "Q" Shannon

Committal | Closing Prayer | Benediction

Recessional......Daryl J. Walker "I'll Fly Away"

Active Pullbearers
James E Thomas Sr. Ramon Hernandez Anthony McCree
Eula Adams Byron Gray Effly Brooks

Honorary Pullbearers
Jessie Harris Eric Holcomb Eldridg Justin Spencer
Ernie Fields Jr. Johnny Johnson Joseph Grahmn

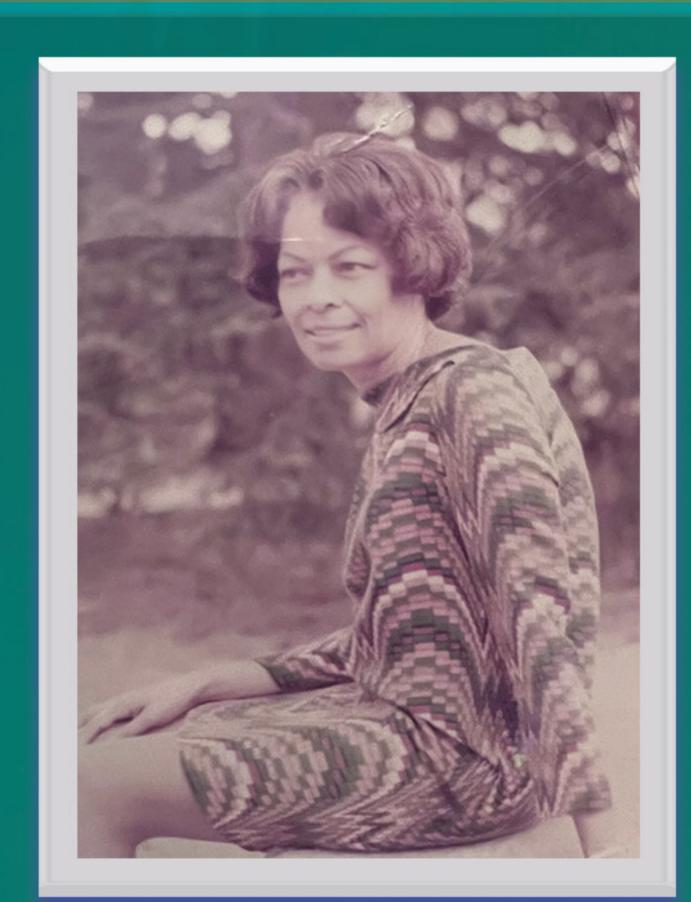
Private Eremation

During a time like this, we learn how much our friends really mean to us. Your expression of sympathy will always be treasured. May God richly Bless each of you. The family of Madestella C. Holcomb

> The Family Received Personal Care from the Staff of "When Someone You Love Becomes A Memory; The Memory Becomes A Treasure."







The Writer's Story Madestella C Holcomb

And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

Romans 8:28

Madestella C. Holcomb was born February 5, 1921 in Okmulgee Oklahoma and passed away peacefully in Denver, Colorado on December 25th (Christmas), 2022, with her Son Eric Holcomb, two daughters Dianne Holcomb, Melodie Brooks, and Grandson Quincy Shannon by her side.

Mattie Estelle (Madestella) Copeland was the seventh of seven children born to Isaac Columbus Copeland and Mattie Estelle (Hollis) Copeland. She was preceded in death by her six siblings: Lydia Copeland, Bernice Fields, Cleo Patra Copeland, Robert Copeland, Mae Doris Copeland, and Anna Copeland Dorsey.

The family lived an affluent life style in Okmulgee as a result of her father discovering oil on his property in Beggs OK. She grew up in a house built by her father, 1002 E. 3rd St Okmulgee, Ok, (that still stands today) and spent time at other properties owned by her family in the neighborhood. Their home had several bedrooms, big porch, and their family car was a Winton Super 6. Because of the oil money many of her siblings had access to education matriculating through Tuskegee institute, Hampton Institute, Langston University, and Lincoln University of Missouri to name a few. This created the framework for the baby of the family Madestella to have access to books and cultivated her love for learning, reading, and writing.

After Isaac and Mattie separated, the family moved to what W.E.B DeBois called 'Black Wall Street', Tulsa OK, in 1926 where she graduated from Booker T. Washington High School in 1937. She would often explain to others how she grew up on the Black side of the tracks but it wasn't run down and she had a wealth of role models in her community who encouraged her. At the early age of 16 she began college at Lincoln University in Jefferson City MO, where she majored in English and played the cello in the Lincoln University orchestra ensemble. She later obtained her Bachelor of Arts degree in English at Temple Buell College in Denver Colorado. And later earned graduate hours in Playwriting at Denver University.

While attending Lincoln University she met and later married Moses (Moe) Eldridge Spencer. The couple settled in St. Louis Missouri where they raised their two children Kay Lorraine Spencer and Eldridge Justin Spencer. In her free time she enjoyed shooting at the skeet ranged owned by the Spencer's. They separated and in the early 1950's she and her children relocated to Denver Colorado where they purchased a home at 3455 Gaylord street.

I was in Denver where she began her 23 year career with the US government, working at the Air Force Accounting and Finance Center. While there she served as a Key-Punch operator, Accounting Clerk, Editor, and Writer-Editor. She retired in 1981 as a GS-12.

She met and married Richard C. Holcomb in 1954, who was also employed at the Finance Center. They were the second Black family to move to their block in the Park Hill area of Denver, settling at 3035 Albion St. While there they had three children Dianne Cecille Holcomb, Eric Cecil Holcomb, and Melodie Estelle Holcomb. Family was very important to her because she often attributed her ability to survive the challenges of life because of her siblings and family. She loved raising her 5 children and that love would later translate to grandchildren and great grandchildren. She would stress the importance of family and organized the Colorado hosted Copeland family reunion in 2001. She served as a Girl Scott leader during the school years of all five of her children and on all PTA Boards.

She was a devout Christian. Upon coming to Colorado she worshiped at Scott United Methodist Church and then after getting married began worshipping at Park Hill United Methodist Church under Dr. Babbs. She began working for Park Hill United Methodist Church utilizing her many talents and answering the call to serve. For 5 years was the editor of their Newsletter. From Park Hill she worshipped at Shorter African Methodist Episcopal Church under Rev Carter where she was the Editor of their newsletter for 2 years. She then transitioned to New Hope Baptist church in 1979 where she started and was the Editor for their newsletter entitled the Canticle, was the first coordinator of their Nursing Home Ministry (maintaining contact with administrators and leaders at 5 nursing homes and over 150 volunteers), first Coordinator on their Home-Bound Ministry, was the Vice-Chairperson of the Condolence Committee, attended their "Thus Saith The Lord" bible study for over 30 years, arranged different theatrical holiday events for the church, and served as the Co-Chair and Editor to the New Hope Baptist 75th Anniversary Souvenir Book Committee.

In the mid 90's She would move to 2825 Elm street in Park Hill, in a house that was across the ally from her youngest daughter, Melodie Holcomb and her grandson Quincy Shannon. Because of the closeness in proximity Quincy would often jump the fence of his house to come to his grandmothers for food, advice, and more. This nurtured a close bond between Quincy and his Gma. They shared a love for poetry, writing, and attended church together where they both were members of New Hope Baptist Church (where he would be licensed and ordained as a Baptist Minister).

She found time to balance her work and family responsibilities with the many writing talents she possessed. She would often be found with a pen in her hand, reading several books at a time, and wanting to share information she learned with others. Family members would often call her to spell a word or to understand how a word was used in a sentence and she would gladly say "I'm not an encyclopedia or dictionary" while going on to help them with their literary needs. After a role in a play written by James Baldwin she became interested in playwriting. She authored and professionally had produced multiple plays, "Upon this Rock", "Here, There, Everywhere", and "Escape to Paradise" to name a few. And authored and produced plays for churches the most notable being "One Sunday" the first building fund financial effort of New Hope Baptist Church where all proceeds she made she donated to help build their new

She authored and published 5 books "I Am Black" (written but not distributed), "A Chip Off the Old Black Block", "How to Write an Obituary" (an Instructional booklet), "Therefore Choose Life", and "For Such a Time as This". From 1968 to 1975 she was the Managing Editor for the Denver Weekly News and later would go on to become a Copy Editor who wrote a weekly column: "A Word About Black" and "The Words Have It". She wrote editorials relating to the relationship between black and white races for the Denver Post and was employed as an Obituary Writer for Pipkin Mortuary.

She loved social times with friends where they would meet up and play bridge. She was a part of several Book Clubs, and was the Secretary of the King Leisure Club, was a part of the Black Book Writers Network of Colorado, Colorado Dramatists, Playwrights Group, Denver Center Theater Company, and often helped with productions at the Eulipions Inc Theater and the Shadow Theatre Company.

She leaves to cherish her life and memories, her 5 children Kay, Eldridge (Skipper), Dianne, Eric and Melodie, her 7 grandchildren Justin, Sinwanda, Sharitha, Zimon, Erica, Quincy and Nadia, and her great granddaughter Imani, her Ex-husband Richard and many nieces, nephews, cousins, friends, co-workers, and acquaintances.

