



## Dorothy Maxine Coston-Jones

January 21, 1923 - December 24, 2020

Dorothy Maxine Coston-Jones passed away peacefully on December 24, 2020 in Smyrna, GA at the age of 97 after having overcome various illnesses and beating COVID-19. Born in January 1923 to the late Solomon and Johnnie Belle (Graham) Smith in Detroit, Michigan. Dorothy was raised mostly by her mom and stepdad, Arnold. She had three siblings, who preceded her in death, Johnnie Delle Smoot, Samuel Smith, and Ernest Smith.

After graduating from Northeastern high school, she met and married Beauford William Coston (Bill) in 1943. He supported her earning her Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from Wayne State University in 1947. While there, she enjoyed writing as part of the school newspaper staff. She also pledged, and became a member of the prestigious Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority in 1945 recently attaining Diamond status.

Dorothy and Beauford (Bill) had a son, Gregory, in 1949. Gregory died in 1957 and their daughter Sybil was born in 1958. Dorothy worked at Pinkerton Detective Agency for a time, then was selected to become one of the first black female police women in the City of Detroit. She was later picked to be Director of Treatment/Prison Services at Detroit House of Correction (DeHoCo), the only prison for women in Michigan. Now named Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility. There she was instrumental in establishing educational programs that allowed female inmates to attain their GED's. She

earned a Masters of Arts in Corrections Administration from University of Detroit in 1971 and the September 19, 1986 "Dorothy Coston graduating class" of Earl F. Demarse Corrections Training Academy at Eastern University was named in her honor. She also served as a field instructor in the School of Social Work at University of Michigan.

Eight years after the death of her husband Bill (1980), she married Dr. Robert N. Jones (Bob). Very soon after they retired, Dorothy and Bob began volunteering at the Detroit Institute of Arts, going on ocean cruises, and entertaining friends and family at their cottage on Lake Erie in Wheatley, Ontario. Bob passed on in 2003 and in 2018, Dorothy relocated to a sunny suburb in Georgia to be with her daughter and son-in law.

Dorothy had a good life. She enjoyed walking with her friends at Lafayette park, playing bridge with her various bridge clubs, bid whist with family and friends, traveling around the world with her daughter, collecting clocks and watches along the way. She was also a member of Ladies on the Move at her church, Mayflower Congregational United Church of Christ in Detroit.

Dorothy was a joy to be around. She always had a smile and never met a stranger. She liked fresh flowers, and pretty table settings, going shopping, playing the penny slots, and going to her beloved Red Lobster for lunch. In her later years she discovered she liked Bingo.

Dorothy is survived by her daughter Sybil Coston-Bishi, her beloved son-in-law Nurudeen Bishi, and step-grandson Justice, goddaughter Dr. Monica Thornhill-Joynes. Nieces/nephews: Janella Hardin (Larry), Daryl Smith, Marcia Smith. Deborah Smith Dickens (Larry), Fleming Smoot Jr. (Peggy), Portia Martin, Stacey Smith and numerous relatives and friends.

The family wishes to send a special thank you to Provident Village at Creekside and Agape Hospice for their care and compassion.

Arrangements by Gregory B. Levett & Sons Funeral Home & Crematory  
(Decatur, GA)

Services to be held in Detroit at later date.

\*Please share a memory and/or express condolences at [www.LevettFuneralHome.com](http://www.LevettFuneralHome.com)

(click on Obituaries)

# Tribute Wall

SO

“ My deep condolences to Sybil and all of Dorothy's family. Your mother was a model of everything a professional woman aspires to be. Dorothy was the best supervisor I ever had! She understood the role of corrections well enough to know that rules had to be flexible enough to allow the women under her charge to grow. I rose quickly in the ranks of corrections, and I believe that was due in large part to the mentoring and example of Mrs. Coston. Her job was difficult because she had to work with the same women over and over as they returned to incarceration--but I never heard her say an unkind word about any of them. I'm sure she has more than earned a high place in heaven, and I'm certain she'll continue to grace us with goodness into the next life. I know I speak for hundreds, even thousands, of incarcerated women who learned from her how to carry themselves with dignity and respect. In many ways she was a mother to many of them! Thank you for sharing her with so many people who needed her. I am blessed to have shared life and faith with her for seven years.

*Sister Susan Van Baalen, OP*

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**Sister Susan Van Baalen, OP** - January 12, 2021 at 01:56 PM

AN

“ I have been uplifted by Mrs Coston-Jones' optimistic outlook on life since I met her after joining Mayflower Congregational UCC 21 years ago.

*May her memory be a blessing to all who love her.*

*Angela Jamison*

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**AngelaJamison@gmail.com** - January 11, 2021 at 06:23 PM

KR

“ I worked with Dorothy for many years in corrections, she was a mentor and a friend Thank-you for sharing her with me. May God be with her and family.

Kenny Robinson - January 10, 2021 at 08:01 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Dorothy Maxine Coston-Jones.



January 10, 2021 at 03:27 PM

IA

“ Mama Jones, as am used to calling her was a wonderful woman to always be with. She shares her life history and also encourage and give a motherly advice. Whenever she goes out for lunch or dinner and shopping ( she loves to shop) you will see the glow and Happy when she gets back. I have already started missing you but I know you are in a better place, where there is no pain or sorrow. May your soul rest in peace.  
My condolence to the family.

Iyabode Adebajo - January 06, 2021 at 05:01 PM

DD

Aunt Dorothy lived a long and full life. She loved her family and I can remember she and my dad in their later years enjoying his cooking on Sunday's and reminiscing about their lives. She and the family are blessed to have had her in our lives for nearly 98 years. RIH Aunt Dorothy 🙏 Debbie

Dickens Deborah - January 10, 2021 at 10:24 AM

JH

“ Auntie Dorothy I live in thankfulness everyday that you were a loving auntie to me. Growing up we shared so many beautiful moments and memories that will never be forgotten. Sybil your mom was a wonderful woman full of love for family and filled with goodness and strength. I will love her forever. Thank you Sybil for letting me share her with you, I love you, your cousin Jan.

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**Janella Hardin** - January 04, 2021 at 07:50 PM

LC

“ Sybil I'm so very sorry for your loss. It's never easy to loose someone so close to us. I hope your fond memories can be of some comfort. She will remain in your heart always.  
Laurel Cantlon - DTW Res

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**Laurel Cantlon** - January 03, 2021 at 04:53 PM

EF

“ Remembering the family in heartfelt prayer.  
Continue to rely on God and know that he hears your prayers, because he cares for you. Truly sorry for your loss.

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**Evans family** - January 02, 2021 at 05:19 AM

NI

“ My Aunt was an awesome and strong woman. Always in good spirits and fun to be around. She will truly be missed. My love and condolences to my big cousin Sybil... 🥹🥹🥹🥹

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**Noah Goodman IV** - January 01, 2021 at 09:41 PM



“ *Nicky Jarrett-Smith purchased the Caring Condolences Sympathy Basket for the family of Dorothy Maxine Coston-Jones.*



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**Nicky Jarrett-Smith** - January 01, 2021 at 01:55 PM

MS

“ *Sybil, my condolences to you and your family on the passing of your mom. Ms. Dorothy was the definition of "a lady". She always greeted me with a smile and a kind word. Such a beautiful spirit. May she Rest in Eternal Peace.*

*~ The Solomon's  
Decatur, GA*



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**Michelle L Solomon** - December 31, 2020 at 07:08 PM



*Dear Sybil, Deen and family,*

*I share in your loss during your time of grief. I know how close you were to your Mom. Please accept my deepest condolences and hugs and love at this time. She lived a long and apparently fulfilling life. She was well loved and well cared for and will RIP.*

*Love,  
Nicky and family*

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**Nicky Jarrett-Smith** - January 01, 2021 at 01:29 PM

PB

“ Even though Aunt Dorothy was no relations to me I called her aunt. She was truly a phenomenal woman. One of the sweetest ladies I've ever met. She was a joy to be around. Dignified but always uplifting and a breath of fresh air. I truly appreciated her kindness. She was always even tempered, and kind. I never heard her complain, criticize or talk negative about anyone or anything. I enjoyed her when she visited her niece Jan, came to my home or when I visited her at her beautiful apartment in Detroit. She will be sorely missed. My heartfelt condolences and prayers to her family.

*Patricia Brown  
Farmington Hills, Mi*

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**patricia brown** - December 31, 2020 at 05:05 PM

PT

*Dorothy was no relation to me, but she was as loving and kind as any of my Biological aunt, so it greived me when the news of her passing Ame to Me. However to her daughter and husband I knowou will miss her but think of her as absent from body. But present with the Lord. I pray God's richest blessings on the family and May He grant you happiness, prosperity and health.*

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**Pearline Teamer** - January 01, 2021 at 04:34 PM

BA

“ When someone is lost to us, they become a treasure that cannot be replaced. The Detroit branch of Delta Airlines retirees send you our heart felt regrets. Janet, Billie, Clarisse, Barbara, Noreen, Claudia & Linda. . Barbara

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**Barbara** - December 31, 2020 at 12:07 PM