

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF



*L*ORENE  
*Morgan*  
*B*RADLEY

NOVEMBER 9, 1938 ~ MAY 14, 2020





# GRANDMA'S GRACE

*Grandma, your life was full of loving deeds,  
forever thoughtful of our special needs.  
Today and tomorrow my whole life through,  
I will always love and cherish you.  
There was magic in grandma's touch,  
and sunshine in her smile.  
There was love in everything she did  
to make our lives worthwhile.  
We found both hope and courage  
just by looking in her eyes.  
Her laughter was a source of joy,  
her words warm and wise.  
There was a kindness and compassion  
found in her embrace,  
And shining down from heaven above  
we see the glow of grandma's face.  
Grandma your life was full of loving deeds  
I will deeply miss you*

**Erik**





On a 168- acre farm in Lonoke County, Lorene “Lo” Morgan Bradley came into this world. She frequently spoke of the place that her grandfather “Papa” purchased because he desired to provide a home, food, and nurturing for his family which included a wife, children, and grandchildren. Along with her siblings, Gertha, Mickie, Theodis and a Cousin Annie, she toiled on that farm, and yes walked quite a distance to a one room schoolhouse that she attended. Her memories were filled with pulling a wagon with her Uncle Lawrence riding in it to get blocks of ice. Spoiled Uncle Lawrence, a Mama’s boy, was as old and big as Lorene. From her perspective, her Papa died when she was about 9, way too soon, leaving them to long for nurturing and feeling at a loss for many years.

As Lorene gracefully grew, she became thoughtfully serious and at times a bit anxious. Her younger sister Mickie tells of when Lorene was worried that Eisenhower would become president and that “Negroes” would be doomed. As the story went---Lorene thought she might as well dig a hole to bury herself in a field on that 168-acre farm. Well, she did not do that. Instead, she began to seek out friends who came from nurturing families and whose dinner tables presented plenty, a tradition among families in her community.

During her senior high school year, she was awarded a college scholarship from Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. She made plans to attend Arkansas A, M and N College, presently University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff.

During Lorene’s introspective years, she was making plans for a future. She went on to graduate from college, and as some might say today, she kept it real, targeted and accomplished a future filled with professional growth, love, and family. She often said that if she, with her story could make it, anyone could.

Lorene Morgan Bradley was born on November 9th, 1938 in the County of Lonoke, Arkansas to Albert Morgan and Katie Bledsoe. Lorene accepted Christ as her savior and was baptized in July,1948 at Zion Chapel Baptist Church, under the pastorate of Rev.W.W. Terry in Pettus, Arkansas. She attended George Washington Carver high school and Arkansas, A M and N College at Pine Bluff where she received her Bachelor of Arts degree in “Elementary Education.”

After graduating from college Lorene began her teaching career in Searcy, AR, White County Training School. She worked there one year before her passion for teaching lead her to Los Angeles, CA where the opportunity for success as a teacher seemed greater.

Upon her arrival in Los Angeles she soon discovered that entering the Los Angeles Unified School District system of education required more credits than the system she had left and therefore required additional work on her part to meet the California teaching credentials requirements.

Lorene entered The University of California at Los Angeles to meet the qualifying requirements for a California teaching credential. She joined the Los Angeles Unified School District in 1967.

Lorene began her professional career as a teacher in Los Angeles Unified School District at Grape Street Elementary school in Watts, California.

She served the Los Angeles Unified School District for 35 years. During this period Lorene chose to further her education to prepare for greater opportunities within the school system. She entered Pepperdine University in Los Angeles, CA where she received a master's degree in Early Childhood Education. Her master's thesis was "Early Childhood Education", published in August 1976. From there her career progressed from teacher to her final position of principal at several schools in the Los Angeles Unified School District.

The Los Angeles School District selected Lorene as one of the Inner-City School teachers to participate in the School Integration Program. She was assigned to the Sherman Oaks Elementary School in Sherman Oaks, CA for several years. The school had no curriculum materials on African Americans except for the limited information that textbook had begun to include. Lorene gathered materials her students could read. She collected Ebony, Essence, and life magazines as resource material for the students reading projects.

At the end of the school year Lorene believed the students demonstrated a greater understanding and appreciation for African-American history and their knowledge helped change the views of their parents by discussing their projects at home and involving them in their research projects on the achievements and contributions of African Americans to society.

The school integration program was discontinued and replaced with a Magnet Program in 1981. Lorene returned to the inner city and was assigned as a Multicultural coordinator in Region B Multicultural Center to oversee the Multicultural Education Program in all Region B schools. She served in this position until 1983 after which she was assigned to 66th street school where she was responsible for managing the teaching of Multicultural Education. Reading motivation among the students was extremely low. It appeared that the children were checking out books from the library but were not reading them. Wondering what she could do to motivate the children to read she thought the 1984 Olympic Games coming to Los Angeles would be a related experience that would motivate the children to read. She then developed the Reading Olympics and Awards program. Parents were involved by certifying that the student read the books reported. The Program became so competitive that students were seen reading during lunch and recess periods.

At the conclusion of the program a Reading Olympics Award assembly was held at the school. Olympian athletes were invited to present the trophies to the winner in the reading competition. This was a rewarding experience for the students who afterwards showed a higher motivation for reading.



The Reading Olympics Program received much praise and recognition from the students' parents, community, and the Los Angeles Unified School District. Los Angeles television media promoted positive coverage of the program. The Los Angeles Times and Sentinel newspapers also carried articles on the implementation of the program and its impact on the students and community. As a result of this and other efforts, the reading scores improved significantly at 66th street school. The Reading Olympics Program continued for four years with much enthusiasm each year. Cheryl Miller, Florence Griffin Joyner, and other Olympians came to present the trophies to the students during the program.

Lorene was a member of many professional and civic organizations including the Council of Black Administrators, Associate Administrators of Los Angeles, The friendly Educators of Los Angeles, The Los Angeles Chapter of the NAACP, The Los Angeles Urban League and the University of Arkansas, Pinebuff - Los Angeles Alumni Chapter.

She was also a member of the Los Angeles Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. where she served as Basileus for a four-year term.

Lorene was an avid Christian woman. Upon her settling in Los Angeles in 1962 she joined Trinity Baptist Church where she was mentored by the late Sister Pauline Alexander. She was an active member of Trinity for 58 years. She served as a Sunday School teacher, and a charter member of Esther missionary circle. She also was a member of the Living Word Bible Fellowship, Trinity Sunlight Seniors and the Trinity Scholarship Committee.

Lorene met James Bradley while he was a U.S. Naval Serviceman. After encouraging him to attend church with her, he joined and they were married in June of 1964 by the late Rev. Dr. Elliott J. Mason, Sr. Three beautiful children resulted from their marriage.

After 35 years of service in the Los Angeles Unified School District Lorene retired and became a woman of leisure. She enjoyed entertaining in her home, shopping with her 'besties,' traveling, dining out, and watching sporting events. Highlights of her travel were attending the inauguration of both President William Bill Clinton and President Barack Obama. She was a sports fanatic and a dedicated Lakers and Dodgers fan. Although she relished in all these activities, her greatest joy was helping others.

Lorene was preceded in death by her parents Katie Bledsoe Ingram and Albert Morgan, one sister Gertha Lee Dotson, two brothers, Lil Al and Deuce Morgan. She leaves to cherish her memories, James Bradley, her husband of 56 years, one son, Vincent Bradley, two daughters, LaNicia and Lauren Bradley, one grandson, Erik Endre Taylor, one great granddaughter, Nola Pearl Harris and one stepdaughter, Billie Sue Mosely and family of Louisiana. She also leaves one Aunt, Elsie Glover, 99 years of age, seven sisters and five brothers, and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

*"The task of the modern educator is not to cut down jungles, but to irrigate deserts." CS Lewis*



















# HE SHALL BE PRAISED

PROVERBS 31: 10, 25-31

*Who can find a virtuous woman?  
For her price is far above rubies.  
Strength and honor are her clothing; and  
she shall rejoice in time to come.  
She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in  
her tongue is the law of kindness.  
She looketh well to the ways of her  
household, and eateth not the bread of idleness.  
Her children arise up, and call her blessed;  
her husband also, and he praiseth her.  
Many daughters have done virtuously, but  
thou excellest them all.  
Favor is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a  
woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be Praised.  
Give her the fruit of her hands; and let her  
own works praise her in the gates.*



# ACTIVE PALLBEARERS

MORTUARY STAFF

# HONORARY PALLBEARERS

JAMES BRADLEY

LOUIS BRADLEY

VINCENT BRADLEY

ERIK ENDRE TAYLOR



# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Thank you seems like an insufficient way to express our heartfelt gratitude for your presence, your acts of kindness, and your Christian sharing of love. Your arms have embraced us, your smile encouraged us, your food nourished us, and your prayers have strengthened us. Our hearts will long remember your kindness.

*The Family of Lorene Morgan Bradley*

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