



Mrs. Lorena Howard

December 6, 1938 - July 10, 2025

Lorena Barnett Howard was born December 6, 1938, in Forrest City, Arkansas, to Essie Mae Davis McDowell and Leon Barnett. The eldest of six children, she was lovingly raised by her stepfather, Jessie McDowell. From an early age, Lorena displayed her strong work ethic by sweeping neighbors' yards for twenty-five cents, fifty cents, or a dollar. As she grew older, she supported her family through farm labor and by working in a café.

Lorena completed her schooling in Forrest City and also accepted Christ at Summerfield Missionary Baptist Church, where her faith became the cornerstone of her life. In adulthood, she relocated to Chicago, Illinois, and built a distinguished twenty-five-year career in the hotel industry. Upon retirement, she returned to her beloved hometown of Forrest City.

A vibrant and outspoken woman, Lorena delighted in music, television, and cooking—her birthday feasts were legendary among family and friends.

She departed this life July 10, 2025, at Forrest City Medical Center.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Ernest Howard; her mother, Essie Mae McDowell; her father, Leon Barnett; her stepfather, Jessie McDowell; and her sisters, Diane Matthews and Brenda Lee Rogers.

Lorena's memory will be cherished by her brother, Nickey McDowell; her sisters, Shelby Jean Williams, Ora Lee Moore, and Joyce Thompson; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and dear friends. Her legacy of faith, devotion to family, and tireless spirit will live on in all who knew her.

Cemetery Details

Casteel Cemetery

Highway 70 West & CR 221
Forrest City, AR 72335

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 18. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (CT)

Miles J. Kimble Mortuary & Cremation
1900 South Washington Street
Forrest City, AR 72335
(870) 633-1914
mjkimble@yahoo.com
<http://www.mjkmortuaryandcremation.com>

Service

JUL 19. 2:00 PM (CT)

Miles J. Kimble Mortuary & Cremation
1900 South Washington Street
Forrest City, AR 72335
(870) 633-1914
mjkimble@yahoo.com
<http://www.mjkmortuaryandcremation.com>

Tribute Wall

ST

“ Howard Family and Friends, my deepest sympathy to you 🙏
Praying for God's to give you strength, Comfort and Peace
Today and the coming Days



Shirley Williams Thorn - July 23, 2025 at 05:49 PM

BO

“ Sending Condolences and Prayers to Gary and his family.



Bobbie - July 19, 2025 at 08:46 PM

JS

“ Jeanette Spearmon lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Lorena
Howard



Jeanette Spearmon - July 16, 2025 at 09:22 AM

GS

“ GARY L SMITH lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Lorena
Howard



GARY L SMITH - July 15, 2025 at 09:45 PM

GS

“ My Auntie Lorena was a very sweet person, I cherish every visit she made to
Forrest City when I was young and every visit I made to Forrest City after I was
grown and left Arkansas. I know she wasn't a mother, but felt like a mother type to
me in my heart. Auntie you will be missed, but I know the elders and angels have
welcomed you in for your resting of your soul, I have memories that are worth
more than sorrows.....RIP.....

GARY L SMITH - July 15, 2025 at 09:45 PM

CM

My sweet Aunt Lorena...she was such a funny lady, I know I got some of my sense of humor from her. I'm so blessed I got a chance to see her and sing to her the last time I visited Arkansas. Rest in peace and harmony Queen Mother Auntie Lorena 🙏🙏🙏

Charles Moore - July 16, 2025 at 01:16 AM



Aunt Lorraine as I called you, I'm going to miss you so much. Laughing at the way you called Gary, Gary lou for Gary Lewis. I will miss our travels to Arkansas to see you. You are truly missed I will hug and kiss you in my heart every day. Take your rest...

Jackie Smith - July 16, 2025 at 01:15 PM

MH

I'm glad to have had the honor of meeting Ms. Lorena. Some people you never forget and have a lasting impact. From the inside out, her spirit was genuine. She was so welcoming, loving, kind and extremely funny. Blessed condolences to all the lives she has touched. 🌹

Ms. Hughes - July 17, 2025 at 08:22 AM

JT

My Dear sister! Heaven has called her home. My sweet sister! We will see all of our Family one day 🌸 Jesus has' a reason for everything! Amen!!!

Joyce Thompson - July 19, 2025 at 04:28 AM