

IN LOVING

Memory



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2025
VIEWING - 10:00 AM
FUNERAL SERVICE
11:00 AM

February 25, 1955 - October 31, 2025

Bertha J. COX
Gig

ALDERSGATE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - 655 BEASLEY ROAD, JACKSON, MS 39206
Dr. Lewis E. Logan II, Pastor - Elder J. C. Johnson, Officiating

Celebrating

THE LIFE & LEGACY

Dortha Jean Brown Cox was born on February 25, 1955, in Greenwood, Mississippi, the first of seven children born to Ivory and Mary Brown. She accepted Christ at an early age and attended Greenwood Public Schools, where she excelled academically and showed an early love for learning.

While attending McLaurin/McNeese Elementary School, Dortha's outstanding academic achievements led her to participate in school plays. She was also an active member of the Brownie Troop for several years. In junior high, she explored extracurricular activities including playing the clarinet—where she became first chair in the band—and running track as a hurdler. During high school, following school integration in Greenwood, Dortha focused on academics and graduated one year early from Greenwood High School in 1972. She also enjoyed roller skating with her friends at the local skating rink on Sunday nights.

Dortha had a bright, bubbly personality, a beautiful smile, and a contagious laugh. She loved telling jokes, learning new skills, and doing things with her hands—sewing, upholstering furniture, laying tile, and painting. A natural bargain hunter, she enjoyed collecting treasures from thrift shops and could talk for hours with anyone lucky enough to listen.

In 1972, Dortha attended Jackson State College (now Jackson State University), majoring in Biology. There she met the love of her life, Arthur “Peter” James Cox. Her college friends affectionately nicknamed her “Giggles” because of her radiant smile and soft laugh, a name later shortened to “Gig”, which became her lifelong nickname.

After earning her degree, Dortha began a fulfilling career with the State of Mississippi, working in various agencies until her retirement in June 2022.

On April 11, 1981, after a long courtship, Dortha married Arthur “Peter” Cox. To this union, two beloved sons were born: Denard and Jarvus. Motherhood was her greatest joy she nurtured, encouraged, and protected her sons with unconditional love. That joy multiplied with the arrival of her grandsons Dean, Jace, and Camden, whom she adored and loved to spoil at every opportunity.

Dortha made her peaceful transition on Friday, October 31, 2025 at home with Arthur.

She was preceded in death by her father, Ivory Ernest Brown, Sr.

She leaves to cherish her memory: her loving husband Arthur “Peter” Cox of Jackson; sons Denard T. Cox of The Woodlands, TX, and Jarvus L. Cox (Crystal) of Prosper, TX; her devoted mother Mary Lee Biddle Brown; Sisters Debra Brown Estes (Howard) of TX, Mary Elois Brown Henry (Paul) of Greenwood, Janet Rena Brown and Dutches Coryette Brown, both of Atlanta; brothers Kenneth Lewis Brown (Rosemary) of Jackson, and Ivory Ernest Brown, Jr. of Jackson; Sister-in-law Jackie Cox Austin of Jackson; brothers-in-laws Derome Cox of Memphis, Duane Cox (Dornice) of Atlanta; and Dewey Cox of Tupelo ; along with sa host of nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, and one great-great nephew.

Her love, laughter, and light will live on in all who knew her.

ORDER OF *Service*

Devon Estes, Presiding

Prelude

Musical Selection

“How Great Is Our God”

Michael Bernard

Scripture Readings

Old Testament

Elder J.C. Johnson

New Testament

Elder J.C. Johnson

Prayer

Justin Austin

Musical Selection

‘I Give You More’

Michael Bernard

Expressions.....

2 minutes please

Solo

“I Won’t Complain”

Michael Bernard

Reflections

Jarvus Cox

Obituary

Soft Music

Read Silently

Acknowledgements

Devon Estes

Solo

“Two Wings”

Michael Bernard

Eulogy

Elder J.C. Johnson

Shaffer-Collins Funeral Home in Charge

Recessional

Clergy, Family and Friends

23rd Psalm

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the path of righteousness for his name’s sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou prepares a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

A Legacy Remembered



A Legacy Remembered



Legacy Remembered



Forever in Our Hearts

You left this world sooner than we hoped, but your love remains rooted deep in the lives you touched and the memories you gave us.

You were a daughter, a sister, a friend, a mentor a woman of wisdom, warmth, and gentle strength.

In your smile lived light, in your words lived wisdom, and in your actions lived love.

We'll remember how you made us feel seen, heard, and valued.

We'll cherish the laughs, the quiet talks, the shared stories, and the silent strength you carried.

Through all seasons of life, your spirit guided us. It still does.

You may be gone in form, but you remain in the way we live, love, and care for each other.

Heaven gained a soul, but we carry your light within us.

Arthur, Denard and Jarvus

Prayers

Thank you for the life of our beloved Dortha.

We are grateful for the love she gave, the lives she touched, and the legacy she leaves behind.

Comfort our grieving hearts. Wrap us in your peace and surround us with your grace.

Help us live with hope, walk in love, and carry on with courage, knowing Dortha now rests in your eternal care.

Amen.

If Only I Knew by Sennette Gaoses

If only I knew that our time would be so brief,
Spoiled you rotten I would have done.

If only I knew that would be our last phone
call, Just to listen to you speak, held on
longer I would have done.

If only I knew that would be your last text,
Kept it in my inbox I would have done.

If only I knew it was the last time I was seeing
you, Called you back and hugged you tight I
would have done.

If only I knew it was the last time I would see
you smile, Stood longer and watch you smile I
would have done.

If only I knew that I was seeing your face for
the last time, Memorize all its features I
would have done.

If only I knew that God would take you away
so soon, Spend all my time with you I would
have done.

There are a lot of things I would have done
differently If only I had known.

Gig if only I had known all these things, I
would have done.

Debra Estes



Acknowledgment

The family of Dortha would like to extend our deepest gratitude for the outpouring of love, prayers, and support during this difficult time. Your kind words, warm embraces, and thoughtful gestures have brought us comfort and strength. We are truly grateful for every call, message, visit, and act of kindness. Though our hearts are heavy, we find peace in knowing that Dortha was loved by so many. Thank you for walking beside us in this journey of remembrance and healing. We, the family of Dortha, are profoundly grateful for your prayers, presence, and expressions of sympathy during our time of loss. Your support has meant more to us than words can express. Every visit, flower, meal, and kind message reminded us that we are not alone in our grief. Thank you for honoring his memory with such love and respect.

Pallbearers

Kenneth Brown

Ivory Brown, Jr.

Derome Cox

Duane Cox

Arturo Cox

Denard Cox

Jarvus Cox

Warren Austin, Jr

Justin Austin

Flower Bearers

Nieces and Friends

Repast

Aldersgate United Methodist Church

Fellowship Hall

Services Entrusted To:

**Shaffer-Collins Funeral Home
247 W. 6th Street - Yazoo City, MS 39194
662-746-3985**