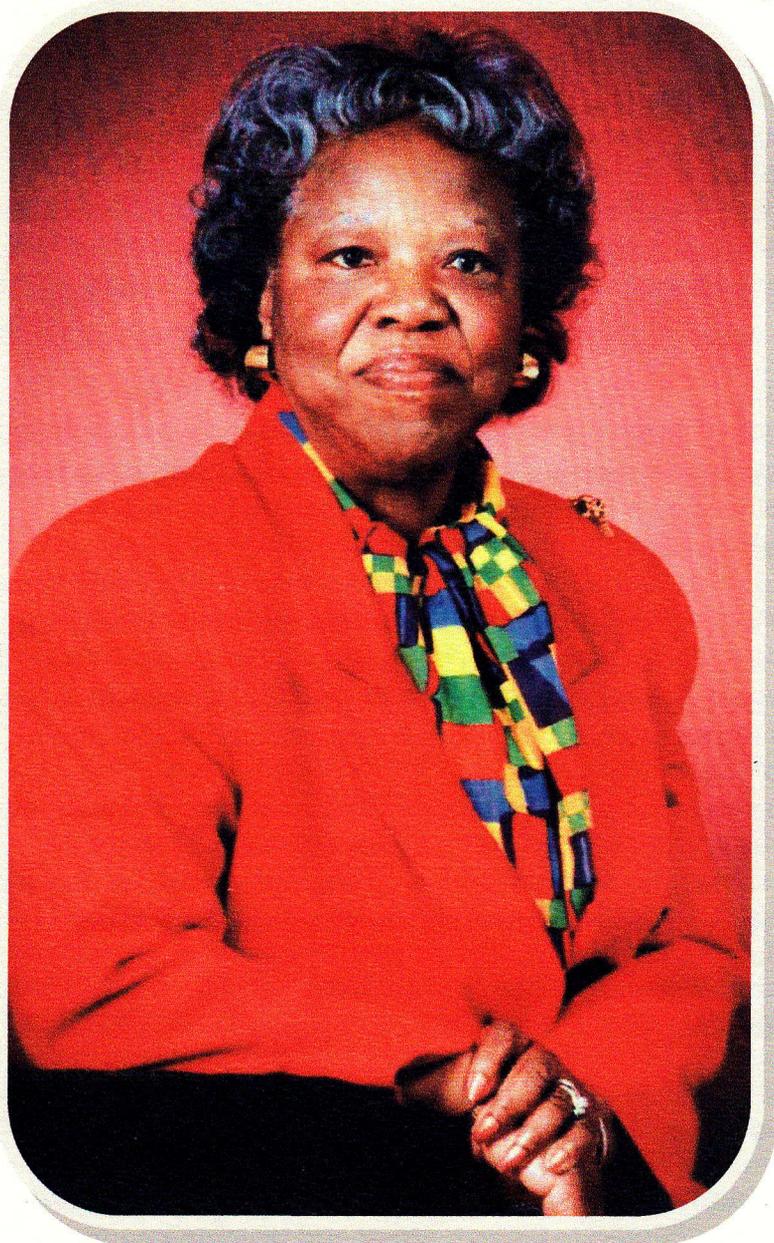


*Home Going Celebration*  
*for*  
*Mrs. Mozell Brandenburg Roper*

December 24, 1926–May 24, 2013



*Eleven o'clock a.m.*  
*Saturday, June 1, 2013*

*First Missionary Baptist Church*  
*3509 Blue Spring Road, NW*  
*Huntsville, Alabama 35810*

*Reverend Doctor Julius R. Scruggs*  
*Pastor and Officiate*

# Mrs. Mozel Brandenburg Roper

(1926 - 2013)

*"Excellence can be attained if you: Care more than you think is wise, risk more than others think is safe, dream more than others think is practical, expect more than others think is possible." ~ Author Unknown*

From her birth on December 24, 1926 in Knoxville, Tennessee to Mr. Obie and Mrs. Willie Brandenburg to her transition to eternity on May 24, 2013—Mozel was destined to make a difference in the lives of others.

Humility ~ Quiet Dignity ~ Strength ~ Vision

These words and so many others describe Mozel Brandenburg Roper

*She cared more than others thought was wise, risked more than others thought was safe, dreamed more than others thought was practical, and expected more than others thought was possible.*

The third of four children born to her parents, the passion for education and the quest for excellence were instilled in Mozel and her siblings from early childhood. It was that passion for education and quest for excellence that would typify the nearly nine decades of her fruitful life.

She received her introduction to formal education from the Knoxville public schools and graduated from Austin High School in 1944. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Education from Tennessee State University in 1948 and subsequently received the Master of Science in Library Media from Alabama Agricultural & Mechanical University in 1978.

Mozel Brandenburg Roper began her professional career in 1948 at Trinity High School in Athens, Alabama, working as a librarian, business education teacher and secretary. In 1959, she was employed as a Librarian/Business Administration at William Hooper Councill High School in Huntsville, Alabama. Following the closure of Councill, she was employed as a Homebound Instructor and Librarian at Johnson High, Monte Sano and Jones Valley Elementary schools.

This rich and rewarding career in education spanned thirty-seven years as an educator—positively impacting the lives of countless students in a myriad of ways. Perhaps author Sally Koch epitomizes the impact of this lady of quiet dignity when she wrote, "Great opportunities to help others seldom come, but small ones surround us every day." Mozel Roper seized every "small opportunity" to make a difference!

It was during those early years at Trinity High School that Mozel met and married Mr. Howard M. Roper, a Huntsville native and a teacher at the same school. They built a strong home with God at the center and were blessed to be the proud and doting parents of two children, Rodney and Carletta.

She was a faithful wife and sister, caring mother and grandmother, faithful friend and thoughtful teacher who—like her mother—made her family, friends, and church family the chief priorities in her life.

*She cared more than others thought was wise, risked more than others thought was safe, dreamed more than others thought was practical, and expected more than others thought was possible.*

Born into a strong God-fearing family, Mozel committed her life to Jesus Christ in her youth and weekly worship at Patton Street Church of God (which later moved to Cherry Street and became known as Cherry Street Church of God) was a central part of Brandenburg family life. Following her move to

Huntsville, she became an active member of First Missionary Baptist Church under the pastoral leadership of the late Reverend Horace P. Snodgrass and later served under the leadership of Pastor Julius R. Scruggs. For more than 60 years—Mozel was a vibrant and dynamic member of the First Missionary Baptist Church family.

At First Baptist, she was exceptionally faithful in worship, Sunday School, and Bible Study each week—serving in the following ministries: Senior Usher Board, Missionary Circle I, Meals on Wheels, Congregational Care, Church Library, Bereavement Ministry, Project Love and Keenage Ministry. Mozel's "ministry fingerprint" can be found throughout the life and ministry of First Baptist as she unselfishly served God through serving humanity.

She has been the recipient of several community awards and honors, including the Rosetta James Foundation *Honoring Our Elders Award* in 2009; the Alabama A & M University Friends of the Library 2008 Service Award; the NAACP 2008 *Through the Storm Award*; the 2008 Special Recognition *34 years of Service Citation, State of Alabama and the City of Huntsville*; 1998 Educational Excellence Award, William Hooper Council Alumni; 1995 Meritorious Leadership Award, First Missionary Baptist Church;

Additionally, she was appointed to the Board of the Alabama Public Library Service in 1994 by the Honorable Jim Folsom, Governor of Alabama.

In her retirement years, she continued to inspire youth and adults to dream impossible dreams and relentlessly pursue impossible goals. Age did not determine her friendships and her friends reflected the entire spectrum of her life—former students, professional colleagues, church members, youth, and her contemporaries. Countless persons have been blessed by the hospitality at her home. Through the years, there was an "open door" policy at the Roper home (as it had been in the Brandenburg home in Knoxville). The "open garage door" on Winchester Road was always a sign that visitors were welcome!

*She cared more than others thought was wise, risked more than others thought was safe, dreamed more than others thought was practical, and expected more than others thought was possible.*

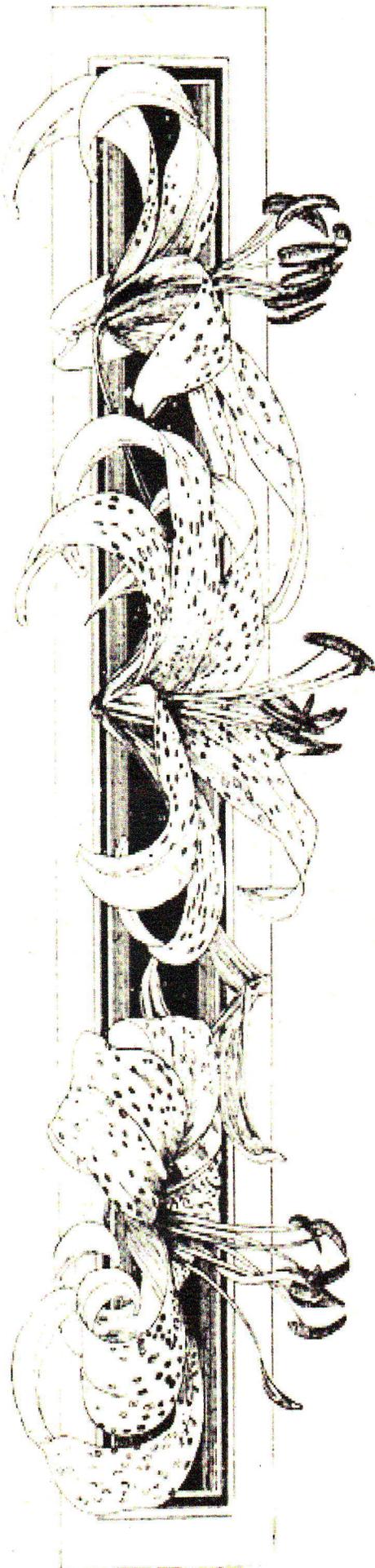
A tireless community volunteer, Mozel was an active participant with the following organizations and efforts: Huntsville/Madison County Senior Center, Progressive Homemakers' Club, Charter Member of the Harrison Senior Wellness and Advocacy Center, Huntsville Alumni Chapter of Tennessee State University, Voter Registration drives, Huntsville Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Mizpah Chapter # 37, OES, and various neighborhood initiatives.

She lovingly shared her home with and cared for her mother, Mrs. Willie T. Bigby Brandenburg for several years prior to her death in 1999. Caring for her mother was one her greatest joys and she often mentioned how blessed she was to have had that privilege.

In addition to her dear parents, Obie Brandenburg, Sr. and Willie T. Brandenburg, her loving husband, Howard Roper, her beloved brothers Obie, Jr. and Leroy also preceded her in death.

*She cared more than others thought was wise, risked more than others thought was safe, dreamed more than others thought was practical, and expected more than others thought was possible.*

Precious memories are cherished by her son, Rodney Roper of Beaverton, OR; daughter; Carletta (Joe) Richardson of Apopka, FL; one sister Barbara Frye of Saint Louis, MO; one granddaughter, Alicia Richardson of Apopka, FL; one grandson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Jon Richardson of Santa Maria, CA; one sister-in-law, Jeanette Brandenburg of Knoxville, TN; nieces, nephews, and cousins. Additionally, colleagues, students, friends, neighbors and church members will also treasure her precious memory.



## *A Beautiful Life*

*Each day I'll do a golden deed,  
By helping those who are in need,  
My life on earth is but a span,  
And so I'll do the best I can,  
The best I can.*

*To be a child of God each day,  
My light must shine along the way;  
I'll sing His praise while ages roll  
And strive to help some troubled soul,  
Some troubled soul.*

*The only life that will endure,  
Is one that's kind and good and pure;  
And so for God I'll take my stand,  
Each day I'll lend a helping hand,  
A helping hand.*

*I'll help someone in time of need,  
And journey on with rapid speed;  
I'll help the sick and poor and weak,  
And words of kindness to them speak,  
Kind words I'll speak.*

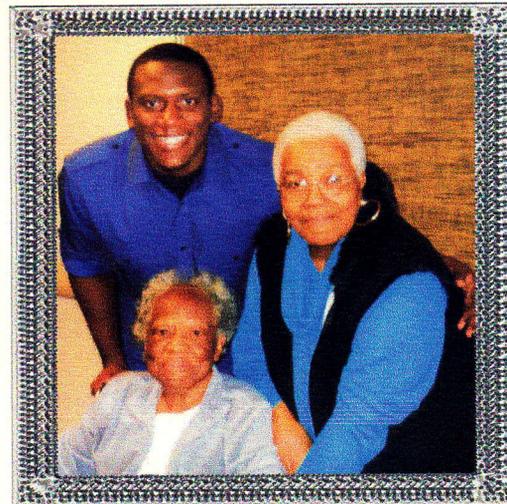
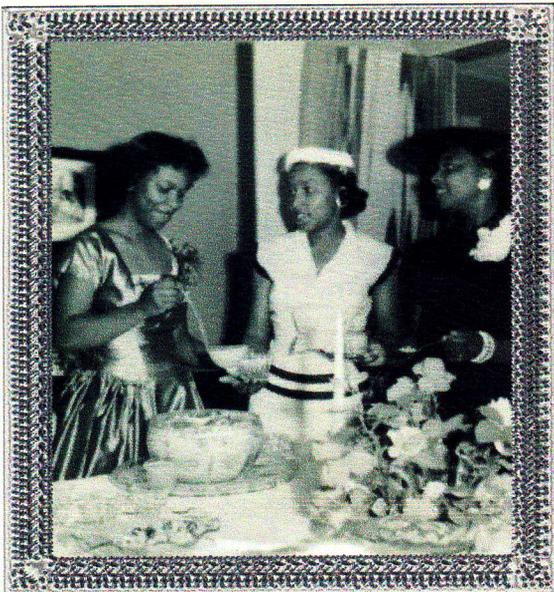
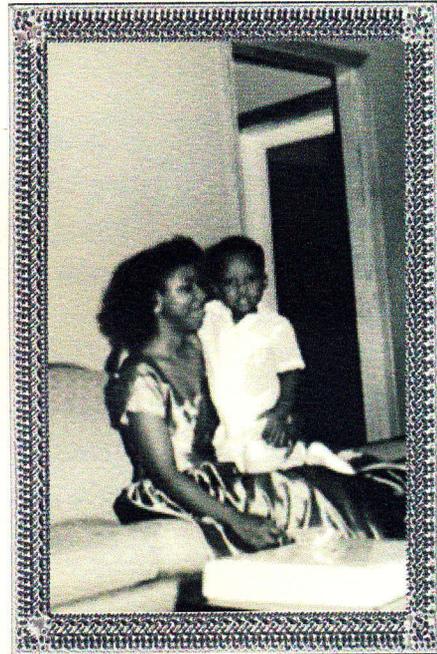
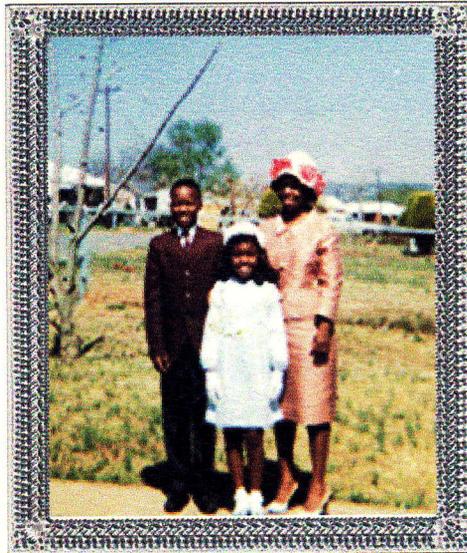
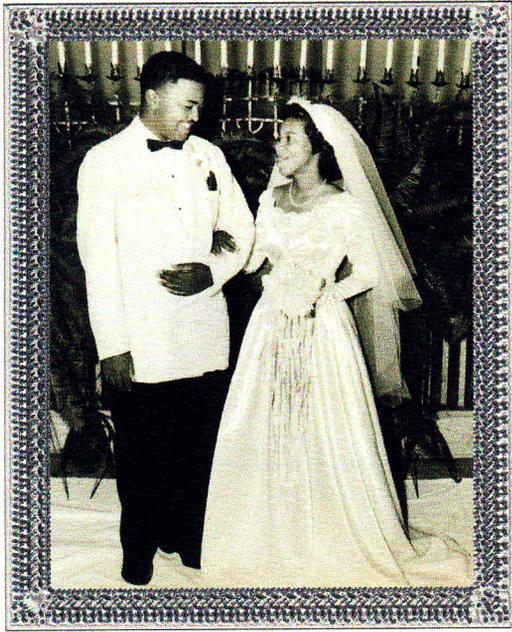
*While going down life's weary road,  
I'll try to lift some traveler's load;  
I'll try to turn the night to day,  
Make flowers bloom along the way,  
The lonely way.*

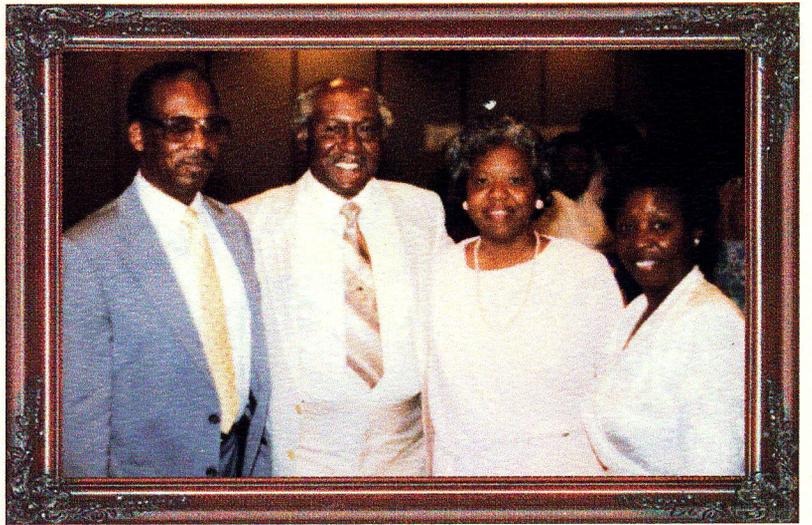
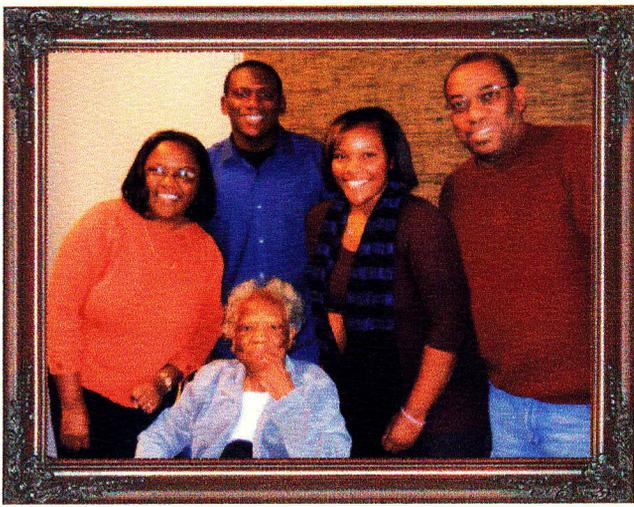
*Life's evening sun is sinking low,  
A few more days and I must go  
To meet the deeds that I have done,  
Where there will be no setting sun.*

*William M. Golden*

# Order of Service

- Prelude
- Processional
- Musical Selection.....*"Blessed Assurance"*.....The Sanctuary Choir
- Readings from the Holy Scriptures:  
Old Testament.....*Psalms 23*.....Reverend G.W. Lindsey, Jr.  
New Testament.....*I Corinthians 13*.....Deacon Morris Smith
- Prayer.....Reverend Dr. Wayne P. Snodgrass  
*Progressive Union Missionary Baptist Church*
- Selection.....*"The Solid Rock"*.....The Sanctuary Choir
- Memorial Tributes  
As a Former Student/Church Member.....Reverend Earla S. Lockhart  
As a Friend.....The Honorable Laura Hall  
*State Representative  
Alabama House District 19*
- Solo..... *"I Know Who Holds Tomorrow"*.....Mr. Charles Briggins, Sr.
- Eulogy.....Pastor Julius R. Scruggs
- Musical Selection.....*"I'll Fly Away"*.....The Sanctuary Choir
- Mortician.....Royal Funeral Home, Inc.
- Recessional.....*"When We All Get To Heaven"*





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## *Flower Bearers*

Huntsville Alumnae Chapter Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated

### *Honorary Pallbearers*

Willie M. Clark  
Cornell Drake  
Langdon Conaway

David Thompson  
Charles Curry  
Everett Wheeler

### *Active Pallbearers*

Wilbert Brown  
Arthur McDonald  
Stanley E. Curtis Jr.

Randy Reed  
Trent Griffin  
Jon Richardson



### *Interment*

## *Northside Cemetery*

1715 Jordan Lane • Huntsville, Alabama

### *Acknowledgement*

The Roper Family wishes to express their sincere appreciation for the many expressions of kindness and sympathy shown during the illness and death of our beloved Mozell B. Roper. Your support has been invaluable as we cope with this great loss. We extend special appreciation to members of the Huntsville Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, Mrs. Barbara S. Jones (caregiver), friends and church members, and the staff of the Crestwood Medical Center.

FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS ENTRUSTED TO:

*Royal Funeral Home, Inc.*

*"Over 95 Years of Dedicated Service"*

4315 Oakwood Avenue, Huntsville, Alabama 35810

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*"When only memories remain, let them be beautiful."®*

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