



Dorothy H. Orebo

January 31, 1935 - July 23, 2022

<https://online.flippingbook.com/view/351891016/>

<https://livestream.com/accounts/7325565/dorothyorebo>

Dorothy Houston Orebo died on July 23, 2022, in Frisco, Texas, at the age of 87. A true force of love and light in her community, she was a devoted mother, grandmother, sister, and friend who will be missed by everyone who knew her.

The eleventh of thirteen children, Dorothy was born on January 31, 1935, at Brackenridge

Hospital in Austin — the city she called home her entire life, a most cherished and complicated place whose racist history of segregation imprinted upon her so many of her values of social justice and dreams for a better future, to mold her into the fearless, trailblazing woman she would become.

From the beginning, Dorothy knew it was her life's calling to be a teacher, and it was a challenge she tackled with grit and gusto, and with a great sense of responsibility. In educating the next generation, she was determined to impress upon them the values of love and compassion that are so needed in this world. It wasn't an easy journey — Dorothy had to work part time while attending Huston-Tillotson College — but in 1957 she graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree, becoming the first in her family to finish

undergraduate school. Later, in 1992, Huston-Tillotson also bestowed her with an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree, officially making her Dr. Dorothy H. Orebo.

After two years of working at Woodson High School in Abilene, Texas — her very first teaching job — Dorothy went on to join the Austin Independent School District (AISD), where she would spend the next 32 years of her career. In addition to working full time as a teacher, she continued to support herself through part time waitressing and bartending at Night Hawk and Lakeway.

Always aspiring to do and be more, Dorothy went on to complete her Master of Education from Southwest Texas State University in 1971, before being named the Dean of Women at Johnston High School. In 1974, she helped open Lyndon B. Johnson High School, serving first as a House Principal and then as Associate Principal. In 1982, Dorothy was appointed to Principal of LBJ, becoming the first ever Black female head of an AISD high school. It was her crowning achievement as an educator.

As a principal, Dorothy was a fair but disciplined leader who expected excellence from everyone in her school, herself included. She never asked anyone to do anything that she wouldn't do herself. An advocate of the importance of love, even the tough kind, she was known for greeting her students daily with a heartfelt "Hi, Love," holding firm to the belief that giving love begets getting love, and ultimately, spreading love.

Dorothy was a huge fan of football, from the Dallas Cowboys to the LBJ Jaguars. What she loved most about those Friday night games at LBJ wasn't who won or who lost, but the shared community experience of it all — watching as everyone from the students and faculty to the players, drill team, cheerleaders, and band — come together as one and root for the team.

Outside of her role as an educator, Dorothy was a shining pillar of the Austin community. A staunch supporter of Black aspiring professionals, single mothers, the LGBTQ+ community, and veterans, she made it her mission to be a voice for the voiceless. As a strong single Black woman, she always hoped to pave the way for other Black women; for example, as far back as the late 60s, in an era when single Black women didn't often own property, she was the owner of multiple properties. Dorothy would not let segregation stop her from attaining her dreams.

She was a faithful member of St. James Episcopal Church for over 50 years, serving as a lay reader, a member of the Bishop Committee, and the usher board. She particularly loved Jazz at St. James and Palm Sunday. In addition, Dorothy was an active member of many organizations dedicated to the advancement of society, among them the Travis County Juvenile Board, Austin Association of Public School Administrators, Texas Association of Secondary School Principals, National Association of Secondary School Principals, Greater Council of Alcoholism Board, and more. Dorothy took seriously her civic obligation to perform jury duty, twice serving as Foreman of the Travis County Grand Jury.

Dorothy was the ultimate hostess who found immense joy in gathering friends and family under her roof. As the sounds of blues music and boisterous laughter drifted through the house, she dished up her infamous homemade gumbo and showcased her mixology skills from her bartending days, making everyone their favorite cocktail (and teaching them not to stir it too much, lest they bruise the liquor). As for Dorothy, her signature drink was the incomparable Cuba Libre ~ which she enjoyed with extra lime.

Come Christmastime, she would revel in cooking dinner for the often more

than thirty loved ones who stopped by her house and hanging candy canes on the boughs of her tree; candy canes that her nephews would take down to eat with glee — that is until they discovered she used the same ones over and over again for many years!

Dorothy was fond of cars and could tell you the makes and models of most any one she saw. She was the proud owner of several Thunderbirds, and an eager driving instructor for anyone who wanted to learn. After her eldest sister introduced her to photography, Dorothy became an avid amateur photographer, taking thousands of pictures and meticulously organizing and captioning them in dozens and dozens of albums. She was a keeper of things, from her daughter's birthday cards and Halloween costumes to her never-ending collections of trinkets. First, it was owls, then elephants, then All God's Children figurines, then coffee mugs — of which she amassed over 200! Her home was like an art gallery, with every bit of wall space covered in art; her yard was her happy place where she gardened and mowed and kept fit in her own way. Dorothy had a knack for making people feel special by finding them the perfect gift, always keeping her eyes peeled for little surprises — “sussies,” as she called them — that she could give to the ones she cared for.

Dorothy traveled voraciously. In her lifetime, she was able to see forty out of fifty states, including Alaska and Hawaii, and five of the seven continents. Her favorite places were London, New York, and, of course, her beloved city of Austin, and after every trip she always looked forward to coming home. “There's no place like Austin,” she always said.

A passionate and principled soul, Dorothy was a luminary of Black women, single mothers, and educators, who was far ahead of her time. A woman whose spirit lit up every room she walked into, Dorothy will be remembered as kind, fiercely determined, intrepid, hardworking, fun loving, honest, and just. She made it her responsibility to make sure people knew they were loved:

“Give love, get love, spread love.”

Dorothy was preceded in death by her parents Gus and Elee; ten of her siblings, brothers Tom, Elmo, Owens “Banty”, Eddie B., Raymond, and Melvin, and sisters Gussie, Ella, Gracie, and Betty; and her beloved dogs Mortiz and Alex.

Her legacy will be carried on through her daughter Tonya Orebo Edwards and son-in-love LeMonte of Lewisville; grandson Jourdain Davis Edwards of Fort Worth; granddaughter Peyton Elee Edwards of Frisco; sisters Artrell Gordon of Houston and Doris Calloway of Austin; sisters-in-law Ruth Houston of Port Arthur and Johnnie Houston of Austin; devoted best friend Mary Alice Williams; and many nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

The visitation will be hosted at St. James' Episcopal Church on Friday, August 19, 2022, from 4-6 pm. An Omega Omega Ceremony by the Delta Theta Sigma Sorority Inc. will follow at 6:30 pm. The Celebration of Life will be held at St. James Missionary Baptist Church on August 20, 2022, at 1 pm, followed by a graveside service at Cook-Walden. The family repast will follow at Founders Hall at St. James' Episcopal Church.

In lieu of flowers, the family has asked that friends and family of Dorothy consider honoring her memory by donating to the Dr. Dorothy H. Orebo Scholarship, which recognizes students of LBJ and Huston-Tillotson who embody the qualities we all cherished so deeply in her as a role model. To donate: <https://invest.htu.edu/campaigns/dorothy-orebo-scholarship#/>

Cemetery Details

Cook-Walden Memorial Hill Cemetery

14501 North IH 35
PFLUGERVILLE, TX 78660

Previous Events

PUBLIC VIEWING FOLLOWING CDC GUIDELINES

AUG **19**. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

St. James Episcopal Church
1941 Webberville
Austin, TX 78721

Celebration Service

AUG **20**. 1:00 PM (CT)

St. James Baptist Church
3417 E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd
Austin, TX 78721

Tribute Wall



LS

“ Hello!

My name is Lindsay and I am reaching out to share some exciting news and request permission from the family for a special honor. As part of the ongoing development in the Colony Park community, we are naming new streets to reflect and celebrate individuals who have made a lasting impact here in Austin. I am pleased to inform you that a community member has nominated Dr. Dorothy H. Orebo for this recognition, and her name was highly regarded for this honor.

With your permission, we'd like to throw her name in the ring to name one of the new streets after her — a lasting tribute to her leadership, service, and contributions to our community.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss further details, I would be happy to arrange a time to connect.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Lindsay

Lindsay Smith - April 28, 2025 at 04:12 PM



“ Dorothy H. Orebo

October 06, 2023 at 07:08 AM



Jim Steamer

“ *I recall being a substitute teacher at LBJ High School in the mid 1980s in Austin when she was the principal. Hard to believe so much time has passed. Those often were rough times teaching.*

Jim Steamer - January 27, 2023 at 03:57 PM

YW

“ *Your HT Framily, Dr. Melva K. Williams purchased the Treasured Lilies Spray for the family of Dorothy H. Orebo.*



Your HT Framily, Dr. Melva K. Williams - August 23, 2022 at 12:58 PM



“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



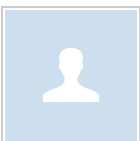
A Life Celebration by Franklin - August 23, 2022 at 01:40 AM

TH

“ *Tyra Humphries lit a candle in memory of Dorothy H. Orebo*



Tyra Humphries - August 22, 2022 at 03:55 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Dorothy H. Orebo.*



August 22, 2022 at 03:54 PM

CF

“ Tonya,

I have fond memories of Ms. Orebo walking the halls of LBJ gently ushering students into their respective classes, all the while laughing and chatting about this or that. I will always remember her as being a strong leader and educator. She wanted (and encouraged) ALL of her students to strive to be the best they could be. And her being a black woman was just the icing on the cake.

My deepest condolences to you and your family. May God bless and keep you during this difficult time.

RIH,

*Crystal Flowers
Class of 1984*

C. Flowers - August 21, 2022 at 12:16 PM

FM

“ Faye Jewell Williams McGee
Albert Sidney Johntson
Class of 1969



Faye J McJee - August 20, 2022 at 09:07 PM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family
of Dorothy H. Orebo.



August 19, 2022 at 08:00 PM

MA

“ I met Ms. Dorothy in 1988 when my family moved in next door to her. She always made us feel welcome and a part of her family and vice versa. Whether it ensuring her yard was perfect every week, taking care of her pup Alex, she was always so warm and loving. She would always call my Dad "Bubba" and we would always laugh. I will be forever grateful as a LBJ ALUM to have grown up next to such an icon.

RIH

Maurice Whitfield

Maurice - August 19, 2022 at 03:15 PM

JL

“ Sending our condolences to the Family with continued prayers 🙏. Nakia and Janice Lee



Janice Lee - August 19, 2022 at 08:58 AM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Dorothy H. Orebo.



August 19, 2022 at 01:51 AM

VF

“ Sending my condolences and prayers to you and your family. What a wonderful person and educator she was.

Valerie Hall and Family - August 17, 2022 at 12:33 PM

SO

“ Until highschool, I had not seen a black woman as the head of anything. It was always a man! Ms. Orebo was one of the first "Black Girl Magic" Leaders in my life!
She was just-- a strong presence...and you just knew she expected more than just "passing" grades...she expected excellence! She was among the first adults to inspire me to be about community, and not just self. My prayers and condolences to her Family. God Bless you all.

Stacy Offord - August 17, 2022 at 06:49 AM

SO

*presence

Stacy Offord - August 17, 2022 at 06:52 AM

FW

“ Dorothy was a wonderful lady and a great school administrator. I only worked with her for a few weeks while she served as an "Interim" Principal. I would have loved to have served with Ms. Orebo for a much longer period. We all will cherish our memories of Dorothy.

Fred Woody - August 16, 2022 at 07:49 PM

AH

“ I met Dorothy just after I had graduated from TWU. We attended the viewing of President LBJ in the 1970s together. She always told me that women had to work twice as hard and be more educated. So, I worked hard to get a master's degree in library science. And, I pursued that as a school librarian for 33 years. Thanks Dorothy, my friend.

Annette Heye - August 15, 2022 at 11:52 PM



“ Rose Garden Heart was purchased for the family of Dorothy H. Orebo.



August 13, 2022 at 01:24 PM

EW

“ Ella White lit a candle in memory of Dorothy H. Orebo



Ella White - August 11, 2022 at 10:19 PM

LM

“ From the time I could walk, I roamed the halls of LBJ while my mom set up for the first day of school, homecoming dances, etc. DO always had a smile for me. When I grew up some and attended LBJ I grew to love and respect her leadership as well as her warm and caring persona. She had a special way of letting you know she loved you but also letting you know she meant business, and that's a rare gift. Thanks, DO, for the love and inspiration through the years.

Leia Morris - August 10, 2022 at 09:54 AM

TF

“ The Reese Family lit a candle in memory of Dorothy H. Orebo



The Reese Family - August 08, 2022 at 02:43 PM

TB

“ The Don Haynes family and the LBJ Band purchased the Sweet Sincerity for the family of Dorothy H. Orebo.



The Don Haynes family and the LBJ Band - August 06, 2022 at 01:16 AM

BS

“ My prayer and condolences go out to Tonya and family. Great lady stayed on me Fantastic leader @ the J.



Bryon L Swisher Sr - August 05, 2022 at 08:44 AM

LZ

“ The incomparable Mrs. Dorothy Orebo graced the halls of our school at LBJ and graced our hearts, imprinting each of us students with her wisdom, example, high standards, kindness, enthusiasm, trailblazing and encouragement. Thank you for always calling us "love" and answering to it too, Mrs. Orebo. We are so lucky to have had you as a light in our world. We'll see you "on tomorrow."

Lisa (Funk) Zolidis - August 04, 2022 at 05:21 PM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Dorothy H. Orebo.



August 04, 2022 at 05:09 PM

WH

“ May God continue to lift the family in prayer. Praying for your strength during this difficult. God bless you. She was a wonderful person who meant business. Wanda Hayes &:Family

Wanda Hayes - August 04, 2022 at 12:11 PM

TT

“ Tonya you are in my thoughts and prayers. I remember your mom taking me to the circus when I was little and my mom was watching you after school. Then in high school as my principal at LBJ, she always said hello love and she knew I played volleyball and if she wasn't at the home games she always asked how I played and how the team played. We may not have won many games but to her we were champions. She always said hold your head high you played your best and that is what makes you a winner. She will be missed but she will not be forgotten.

Traci Thoene - August 04, 2022 at 11:51 AM

AC

“ In 1982, I served as an aid during 5th period. This was her way of keeping an eye on me, cause I was a bit out of control back then. Thanks Ms O for being a friend and getting me through that last year....

Andre Chambers - August 03, 2022 at 07:54 PM

TA

“ One of the things I most enjoyed about St. James Episcopal Church in Austin was seeing Ms. Orebo. She was a wise person and gracious in sharing her wisdom with me and many others. I will miss Ms. Orebo, but I will remember always and fondly. May God's peace be with all who loved Ms. Orebo.

Teddy Adams

Teddy Adams - August 03, 2022 at 07:45 PM

MS

“ My mom, my dad, and Ms. Orebo. The three major influences in my life. From 1974 to 2000, at least one member of the Spivey generation attended/graduated from LBJ. That's 26 consecutive years. Ms. Orebo knew us all. I graduated in 1977. My second oldest son graduated in 1997. 11 of my 13 siblings graduated from LBJ. The only constant during all those years was Ms. “O”.

She was my dad's good friend and someone my mom admired. I have so many stories to tell about this wonderful lady. Thanks for all you've done for me and my family.

Mark Anthony Spivey, Sr. LBJ77

Mark Anthony Spivey, Sr. - August 02, 2022 at 06:16 PM

CC

“ I could fill a book with all my memories of Dorothy! One of her favorite stories was when I asked her to keep my last period class so I could go get tables reserved for HH. She couldn't believe I asked her and that she did it! I loved her dearly and will always miss hearing “Hi, love”!

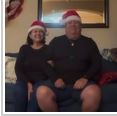
Cathy Cave Cartwright - August 02, 2022 at 01:50 AM

TC

“ My condolences to the Orebo Family. She was my principal at LBJ in the 90's....



Tianna Clark - August 01, 2022 at 11:26 PM



My sincere condolences to Ms. Orebo's family. She was our Dean at A.S. Johnston High before she left for LBJ. May God bless her sweet soul! 🙏💕

Mary Benavides Bernal - August 15, 2022 at 09:31 PM

KW

“ *Tonya,
I am so sorry for your loss. Your mom was also my principal at one time, too. I will never forget her. Continued prayers for you and your family.*

Kim Williams (Brew)

Kim Williams - August 01, 2022 at 11:17 PM

AL

“ *Anjelia Lincoln-Graham purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Dorothy H. Orebo.*



Anjelia Lincoln-Graham - August 01, 2022 at 04:27 PM

AL

“ There are many people that we meet in our lives but only a very few will make a lasting impression on our minds and hearts. These people will always listen and talk to you. They will care about your happiness and well-being. They will like you for who you are, and they will support you at all times.

Mrs. Dorothy H. Orebo and her daughter Mrs. Tonya Orebo Edwards are one of these rare people that I will think of often and who will always remain important to me as true friends. When they give, it's easy to see that it comes straight from the heart.

Mrs. Dorothy was a triumphant, shining example of a woman who truly knew how to survive life's ups and downs. She understood the value of family, friendship, and most importantly the gift of time. She set aside all judgment and she generously shared her wisdom and unconditional love for everyone, and I am very fortunate to have met and loved her.

I will never forget what Mrs. Dorothy told me the first day she met me in Tonya's office; "You are such a beautiful woman graceful woman, and I can tell you are highly intelligent; keep it up! Tonya is very lucky to have you as her assistance; listen and learn." I took those words in stride and learned so much not only from Tonya but also from Mrs. Dorothy because every time I saw her, she always commended my efforts and gave me sound advice.

Family, stay strong and know that you are loved!

Anjelia Lincoln-Graham

Anjelia Lincoln-Graham - August 01, 2022 at 04:13 PM

PM

“ *My funniest and fondest memory was you, newly purchased fish, and the garbage...I will treasure our time and talks, and promise to continue my sista-hood with Tonya! For these things and more... THANK YOU! 💕*

Philecia M McCain - August 01, 2022 at 12:00 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dorothy H. Orebo.*



August 01, 2022 at 11:50 AM

TJ

“ *My deepest condolences goes out to The Orebo family. She will be truly missed. RIH.
Tonya Jones*



Tonya Jones - July 31, 2022 at 10:14 PM

GG

“ My sincerest heart felt condolences to Tonya , THE OREBO as well as the CALLOWAY FAMILY ..
Miss OREBO will Always be REMBERED BY BEING THE TRUE DEFINITION OF CLASS , ELEGANCE , AND EXTREME PROFESSIONALISM.
SHE WILL BE TRULY MISSED AND ME SHE REST IN PEACE AND POWER 🙏

- GIRAUD LEE GORDON

Giraud Lee Gordon - July 31, 2022 at 02:29 PM

LH

“ My deepest condolences to the family of Ms. Orebo, the classiest principal I've ever known.



Lisa Houston - July 30, 2022 at 10:47 PM

KH

“ I offer my deepest condolences to the Orebo Family.

Kimberly Houston - July 30, 2022 at 09:16 PM

JB

“ To Tonya and Family-Our family express our deepest sympathy for your loss. My brothers and I were all students at LBJ under Dr. Orebo's incredible leadership. She was definitely a person who recognized and greeted everyone with her famous, "hello love." Dr. Orebo was an Austin institution who will be missed by many. We're keeping you all in prayer.-The Broaders Family

Jimmie Broaders - July 30, 2022 at 05:21 PM

AP

“ *My Sincerest Condolences to this dear family. Mrs. Orebo & Family and I attended the same church & was my high school principal and role model. You will be missed but never forgotten!*

Andrea Petit - July 29, 2022 at 12:09 AM

LS

“ *Condolences to the Family of Mrs. Orebo she was the Dean of Girls at Johnston High School, and she was forever reminding us girls to always be a lady and how to properly carry oneself. I thank God to have known her and will always treasure her memory.*

Lela M Shackles - July 28, 2022 at 07:55 PM

JH

“ *Sending our sincere condolences to Tanya and the rest of Mrs. Orebo's family. She was my counselor at Johnston High, my mentor, and my friend. She will always hold a place in my heart for the lessons she taught me about the importance of getting a good education and being a person of good ethics and setting high standards for myself. You will be missed but not forgotten Mrs. Orebo.*

Jennifer Smith Haynes - July 28, 2022 at 09:55 AM

MG

“ *Ms. Orebo as I recall Ms.Houston was my English teacher at KEALING. What a joy it was to have her at Kealing. She taught me a lot. She was also my sons Principal at LBJ. She gave a great deal of love to all that was associated with her. I miss her and will never forget this wonderful lady.*

Margaret w Goddard - July 28, 2022 at 09:07 AM

FM

“ Ms Orebo was my principle at LBJ my high school years in the 80's. She stayed on me and kept me on the right path until I graduated. She was special to the Spivey family. She will be truly missed.

Felissa Spivey Martin

Felissa Spivey Martin - July 28, 2022 at 03:53 AM



SE

“ Sammie A Eppright lit a candle in memory of Dorothy H. Orebo

Sammie A Eppright - July 27, 2022 at 11:04 PM



DW

“ Ms. Orebo was an inspiring leader, outstanding educator, and compassionate. Her uncompromising allegiance to equity, high standards, and excellence flourished the LBJ schoolhouse and mystic throughout the years. As the 1993 Band Drum Major and a current C.E.O. in education, i know her leadership skills and qualities all have influenced me to follow and take the same path. I applaud her and her unique style of excellence in loving and leading her LBJ fail, RIH Queen. THERE WILL BE NO OTHER1

Dr. Maury Wills - July 27, 2022 at 01:01 PM

MA

"-LBJ Family"

maury - July 27, 2022 at 01:05 PM

CA

Working for Dorothy Orebo was the highlight of my 42 year career in education. Ever loving and protective of her flock of teachers!. She loved the arts and supported our every endeavor. Fly high my friend and enjoy the arms of Jesus!

c ament - August 07, 2022 at 02:28 PM

LG

I was so lucky to have known Ms. O. Luckier still that she took me under her wing and guided me through my early years as an educator at LBJ high school. Her guiding words, loving care and sense of humor continued to guide me through out my entire career as an educator. I taught at other schools after LBJ and worked with other principals, but the guiding voice in my head was always Ms. O's. More than that, she was my friend and mentor and her wisdom and love also guided me through some of the darkest days of my life. I am forever grateful for her love and my life was made better because I knew her.
Laura Grayson

Laura Grayson - August 16, 2022 at 08:23 PM



“ *My condolences to the family of Mrs. Orebo.*

Mary Diggs - July 27, 2022 at 08:07 AM



“ *Mary Diggs lit a candle in memory of Dorothy H. Orebo*



Mary Diggs - July 27, 2022 at 08:06 AM