

Chapel Oaks Funeral Services

Dorothy Grace Berry

(March 11, 1928 - October 17, 2013)

Dorothy Grace Berry, 85, died October 17, 2013 at the Rossville Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center, after a long and eventful life. She was born March 11, 1928, in Brooklyn, New York to Rodney and Grace (Kearney) Berry. Her brother Roy's family lives in Grand Junction, Colorado. Nephew Jeff Berry and niece Dawn Kincaid and Janae Hurshman remember Aunt Dot as a special person. After graduating from Wooster College, Wooster, Ohio she completed graduate courses at Teachers College (Columbia University), Union Theological Seminary, New York School for Social Research, and Mansfield College in Oxford England. From the 1970's through retirement her vocation was in Ecumenical Ministry, serving in leadership positions on local state, regional, national, and international levels. In 2006 she received an honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters from the Theological Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri in recognition of her many years membership. She was on the staff of Tulsa Metropolitan Ministries, Kansas Ecumenical Ministries, and the National of Churches in the areas of youth ministries and Christian education. She also filled leadership roles in United Church of Christ ministries on local state, regional boards and committees. She was an interim executive secretary for the International Council for the International Christian Youth Exchange, Geneva Switzerland, 1973-74; active in the National Association of Ecumenical Staff, 1978-87, and member U.S. Steering Committee for Bossey (WCC Ecumenical Training Center in Celigny, Switzerland 1955-99. A former resident of Brewster Place Retirement Community, Topeka, she served as an officer on the Resident Council and kept detailed clear records as the historian. Overseas assignments indicate the scope of her expertise: 1) Member Decennial Exchange Delegation between the National Council of the Churches of Christ, USA, and the Churches of the Soviet Union (1984) 2) Member Teaching Delegation to the Reformed Church of Hungary on behalf of the Presbyterian Church USA (1987) 3) Member Ecumenical Delegation to the World Council of Churches (Geneva) to the Vatican (Rome) and the Christian Jewish and Muslim leadership in Jerusalem (1990). Dorothy came from a family with a long tradition of good citizenship. In the 1640's three Ambler brothers moved from Wakefield England and settled in America-one of Virginia and two in Massachusetts. Family men fought in the Colonial Wars and the others since then as well as serving in various professional and business groups in the communities. Over the past decade no one in this country had better exemplified leadership of ecumenism than Dorothy Berry. And family and friends treasure memories of her sense of humor, her careful listening ear in conversations, and her concern for the welfare of all people. We will miss her and remember her with deep respect and with love. Memorial Contributions may be sent to the Kansas-Oklahoma Conference of

the United Churches of Christ, Wichita; Central Congregation UCC, Topeka; First Congregational UCC, Topeka, Brewster Place Benevolent Care Fund, Topeka A memorial service will be held on Thursday November 14th, 2013, at 2:00 at the First Congregational Church at 1701 SW Collins in Topeka. Inurnment will be held in Tulsa, Oklahoma at a later date chapel Oaks Cremation and Funeral Services 235 SW Topeka Blvd Topeka, KS 66603 785-783-7753

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