



## Dr. Mary L. Smith-Stowe

January 30, 1936 - November 28, 2020

Frankfort – Dr. Mary Levi Smith-Stowe, age 84, passed away at home on Saturday, November 28, 2020. Private services will be held.

She was born in Hazlehurst, Mississippi, on January 30, 1936, to the late Elder William Monroe Levi and Mrs. Byneter Markham Levi. Dr. Smith-Stowe was a 1957 graduate of Jackson State University where she earned her Bachelor of Arts degree. She then earned her Master's Degree and Ph.D. in education in 1964 and 1970, respectively, from the University of Kentucky. With a strong dedication to education, Dr. Smith-Stowe was named to both the University of Kentucky and Jackson State University Alumni Hall of Fame. In addition, she received an Honorary Doctorate in Public Service from Kentucky State University. In 1991, Dr. Smith-Stowe was named the 11th President of Kentucky State University, leading her to accomplish the titles of the First Female President of Kentucky State University, and the First African American Female President in the State of Kentucky. In addition to her education field, she was also a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Dr. Smith-Stowe retired after serving as the President of Kentucky State University.

She is survived by her husband, Pastor James H. Stowe; children, Dr. Darryl V. Smith (Kristel) and Danee L. Smith (Lillibeth); son-in-law, Rance Williams; step-daughter, Melanie Robbins; and by her grandchildren, Danielle, Morgan, Brittany, Blake, Raven, Henry, Janae, Shiloh, and Noelle. She was also blessed with 4 great-grandchildren and many nieces, nephews, beloved relatives and friends.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her first husband, LeRoy V. Smith; daughter, Angela Williams; step-son, James H. Stowe, Jr. and by her siblings.

Serving as pallbearers will be family and friends.

In lieu of flowers, expressions of sympathy may be made to the Mary L. Smith Endowed Scholarship at Kentucky State University.

Live Streaming will be available on Friday, December 4, 2020, after 12:00 p.m. via <https://kysu.zoom.us/j/96422591180>

Arrangements are under the direction of Harrod Brothers Funeral Home & Crematory.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Dr. Mary L. Smith-Stowe*

October 06, 2023 at 03:15 PM



“ *Sister Mary Smith Stowe was my friend. I had known Mary since I was a child living on Upper St. in Lexington. She could be found visiting her in -laws across the street frequently. She had the prettiest smile and she was so easy to talk to. She was all about family. I recall one Easter when she was getting her children prepared for church services the next day. There she was in curlers and using the curling iron with finesses. I asked, "Could you do my hair too?" "why YES", she replied. She adeptly handled those hot irons with aplomb and gave me "Shirley Temple" curls. I was elated. I had dinner many times with Mary and her children who were close in age to me. We played cowboys and Indians running and hiding all over the neighborhood. She never chastised us for being loud or rambunctious. She gave the best hugs and was so welcoming. I will miss this great lady for her kindness and joyful nature.*

*Sister Lisa Blythe Stuckey*

**Lisa Blythe Stuckey** - December 11, 2020 at 06:52 AM



“ *I want to extend my condolences and love to the Rev. J. H. Stowe in this significant loss. Both Kristy and I are praying with and for you. . .and the Payne Chapel AME Church Family Nashville wishes to let you know that you have our deepest sorrow for your loss. The earth's loss is indeed heaven's gain!*

**Rev. Dr. & Mrs. W. A. & Kristy Sinkfield** - December 03, 2020 at 06:46 PM

DF

“ *Desiree Howard & Family lit a candle in memory of Dr. Mary L. Smith-Stowe*



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**Desiree Howard & Family** - December 03, 2020 at 06:21 PM

VL

“ *To the Family,  
I had the pleasure of serving on the KSU Board of Regents during Dr. Smith-Stowe's presidency. She loved her family dearly and served the university with grace and dignity. My prayer is that God will give you the peace and comfort that only He can give.*

*Valinda E. Livingston  
KSU Class of 1958.*

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**Valinda Livingston** - December 03, 2020 at 05:05 PM

RJ

*We want to extend our deepest sympathy to you and the family during this difficult season. Our prayers are with you and know that God is our Refuge and Strength. May God be with you. Rev and Mrs Walter Reid Jr and the Greater BethelAMEC family.*

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**Rev Walter Reid Jr.** - December 07, 2020 at 10:44 AM

DA

*I just learned of Dr. Mary Smith-Stowe's passing. We are praying for her husband and family during this difficult time. We were neighbors of theirs for several years. She was such a dear lady. We moved out of state and therefore just learning about her passing. Love and prayers to her family.*

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**Daniel and Paula Arnold** - January 09, 2021 at 05:47 PM

FK

*Hi my IS frank Keenan and my biological mother name is Mary L Smith my dad is Jhon R smith and I have been looking my whole life to know my real parents I was born and raised in Chicago Illinois my adopted mother name is Lorena jeaett Keenan my dad that I know of is Charles Daniel Keenan lam 38 my birthday day is November 23 1982 I just want to just want know my real family I lost all my family they all passed away and if this not her am sorry for yall lost I live in Springfield Ohio 45505 my number is 872 808 6513 my email is Keenanfrank88@gmail.com if you have any information please let me know and thank again*

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**Frank Keenan** - September 04, 2021 at 05:37 PM

MH

*“ Dr. Smith was always a pleasure to have in our office. We always thought she was one of the most beautiful and distinguished of our patients. I know her family will miss her dearly. Our thoughts and prayers are with them at this time. Especially thinking of you Darryl.*

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**Michael and Jackie Hillyer** - December 03, 2020 at 01:32 PM

RW

*“ Phenomenal Woman! We shall remember the days gone bye but those days are still "ALIVE" in our hearts and minds! Your "SON In Love"! Rance*

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**Rance D Williams** - December 02, 2020 at 08:30 PM

DA

“ Mom you have always been the inspiration of our life, you taught us about getting a higher education and more importantly about Jesus.

*I know right now you are dancing with Jesus.*

*We will always love you!*

*Danee*

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**Danee** - December 02, 2020 at 07:56 PM



*Heartfelt sympathy. Is being conveyed to the Stowe, Levi and Smith families. May it comfort you to know that others care. May God strengthen you for this time of sorrow.*

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**Mary Falls Scott** - December 03, 2020 at 07:40 PM

BI

*It is with heartfelt sympathy that I extend my condolences to the Reverend James H. Stowe Sr. and family with the love of God in my heart for all that you have endured knowing and taking comfort in the fact that our God is a loving God who does all things well. My prayer is that He will continue to strengthen you daily . He brought you through before and He will do it again, I am a living witness and testament to tthis fact. Hallelujah and Amen.*

*Billie Dixon Irving  
Greater Bethel Nashville, TN*

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**Billie Dixon Irving** - December 07, 2020 at 06:06 PM