

Dorothy Brown Childers  
June 9, 1932 – December 9, 2022



Dorothy Lucile Brown was born in Chicago, Illinois on June 9, 1932, to George Harold Brown and Lucile Muenzenmayer Brown. Dorothy's family moved to Junction City, Kansas in 1941 and lived in the house her grandfather built and where her mother was born. She and her sister Georganne grew up surrounded by family that established roots in Kansas in 1860.

She graduated as valedictorian of her Junction City High School Class in 1950. In 1954, she earned a BS in Education from the University of Kansas, where she met a handsome guy in her physics class. He helped with her homework and they quickly fell in love. On August 22, 1954, she married Thomas Wilson Childers, and for 68 years they enjoyed an extraordinarily loving and friendly marriage, lasting until the day she died. She taught one year of high school mathematics in Eudora, Kansas, and occasionally substitute-taught in Louisiana when her children were older. Tom's deep love for Dorothy manifested in his devotion to her care for 11 years after her stroke in 2011.

Tom and Dorothy had three daughters (Karen Lucile, Laurie Frances, and Amy Lynn) and one son (Joel Thomas). As a wife of a petroleum engineer, Dorothy had to adjust to frequent moves throughout the United States and abroad, from Eudora, KS to Great Bend, KS to Jackson, MS to Metairie, LA to Woodland Hills, CA to Mandeville, LA to London, England to Oslo and Stavanger, Norway to Kingwood, Texas. They also spent 26 summers in Pagosa Springs, CO. Dorothy was incredibly resilient, able to make close friends and create a beautiful home in each place her life took her.

She loved art museums, visiting castles and ancient cities, exploring the world, and shopping for treasures. Traveling, especially with friends, gave her much joy. She climbed Machu Picchu, safaried in East Africa, walked the Great Wall of China, was followed by the KGB in Soviet-era Moscow, and explored the Galapagos and Easter Island.

She adapted to each new home with involvement in many organizations and activities. She was always active in the local Methodist Church, singing tenor (or alto) in the choir and sometimes accompanying on the piano. Her PEO sisters provided a constant source of love and support. FAWCO (Federation of American Women's Clubs Overseas), AAUW (American Association of University Women), Chi Omega Sorority, and then the Mountain Harmony Barbershop Chorus, Pagosa Arts Council, and the Grey Wolves in Pagosa Springs, CO all gave her many avenues to

express her creativity, engage with the community, and do volunteer service. She was highly organized and skilled with numbers, and often served as club treasurer if not president. Until her stroke, she enjoyed an active social life. We delight in remembering her lively sense of humor and hearty laugh.

Her oldest daughter Karen died just shy of her 21st birthday in 1976, an event that would shape Dorothy's life in many ways. Dorothy worked through her grief by writing a book and talking with church groups about grief, a courageous and rewarding experience for her. Dorothy is survived by her husband Tom, daughter Laurie Childers of Corvallis, Oregon (son-in-law John Selker, grandchildren Julia and Jordan), daughter Amy Lewis of Santa Fe, New Mexico (son-in-law Greg Lewis and grandson Brian), and son Joel Childers of Paola, Kansas (daughter-in-law Bekki, grandsons Erik and Matthew). The Childers family is grateful for the steady presence of Sharon Wheeler who helped care for Mom the last 6 years and for the hospice staff that helped us midwife our Dorothy through this transition.

A memorial service for Dorothy will take place on Saturday, January 7th at Strawbridge Methodist Church, 5629 Kingwood Dr, Kingwood TX, at 11 am. Light lunch reception to follow. Her ashes eventually will be interred in Junction City, KS in the family plot. In lieu of flowers, the family encourages donations to PEO Sisterhood or a charity of your choice.