



## Dorothy May "Dot" Purdy Brown

May 22, 1923 - July 25, 2016

She loved seeing young people learn and have fun! In her career as Putnam County 4-H Agent she said, "I had the best job on the face of the earth. She loved living and teaching the 4-H verse, Luke 2:52, "And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and man." Dot loved her children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, and friends. She loved singing and—really loved dancing. Though it has been awhile since she's been able to do either—she's doing them both now! Dot went to be with Jesus late Monday night, July 25, 2016.

Dorothy May Purdy Brown, daughter of the late Phillip James and Trana Jean Bailey Purdy was born on May 22, 1923 in McComas, WV. She attended public schools in Mercer County followed by earning her bachelor's degree from Concord (College) University in 1945 with majors in English, PE, and Home Economics. At age 14 she professed her faith in Jesus Christ and has been committed to the church, community ministries, and Bible studies for nearly 80 years. Following college graduation, Dot returned to teach at McComas High School for 1 year and then trained to become the 1st Putnam County 4-H Agent, where she served for four years. During that time she met and married Winston C. Brown, Sr. Dot and Winston have four children (Jim, Judy, Winston, and Cindy).

Dot taught English and PE at Poca High School for 5 years prior to the family

moving from Nitro to Pliny in 1964. In 1970 she became the Putnam County 4-H Agent again and served 21 years until her retirement in March, 1991. After her retirement, Dot (Granny Dot) remained active serving on several Putnam County Committees and Boards as well as participating in Bible studies, Church, and community service projects (Better Schools in Putnam County, 4-H Leaders Association, and S.T.A.R.S. Family Organization.). She was inducted into the WV 4-H Hall of Fame in 2003 as one of the state's influential professionals in WV Extension work. "I had the best job on the face of the earth and felt like what I did made a difference in the lives of children and their families." Dot has been lovingly cared for by Bruce and Cindy (Brown) Noffsinger (Midway, WV) since 2010.

Dot was preceded in death by her husband, Winston C. Brown, Sr. (1974), her parents, Phillip and Trana Purdy, three brothers—Bill, Ed, and Frank, and sister, Ruth Speake.

She is survived by her brother Tom and wife Norma Purdy of Pittsfield, MA, her four children and their spouses (Jim & Sue Brown of Winchester, VA; Mike & Judy Stewart of Hickory, NC; Winston & Marsha Brown of Fraziers Bottom, WV; and Bruce & Cindy Noffsinger of Midway, WV), along with 15 grandchildren and 18 great grandchildren (Robbie & Christi (Noffsinger) Gordon and children, Jenna, Ryne, & Avery; Dustin Noffsinger; Brandon Brown and children, Belle and Oliver; Josh & Rachael Brown and daughter, Gaeligh; Grace Stewart; Meredith (Brown) & Tony Craigo, and children, Luke and Levi; Gabe & Tiffany Brown and children Meleah, Kao, Archer, and Theona; Beth Noffsinger; Anna Stewart; Jake & Hannah Brown and children, Ryan, Samuel, & Ava ; Jared Brown; Michael & Lynette Stewart and son, Elijah; Hannah (Brown) & Shannon Barbe; Isaac Brown, and Simon Brown.

Granny Dot will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved her. Her children and grandchildren are eternally grateful to God for having been influenced and loved by such an incredible woman, Mother and Grandmother (Granny)!

Proverbs 31:28: "Her children rise up and call her blessed."

A service to celebrate Dot Brown's life will be held 6pm Saturday, July 30, 2016 at Chapman Funeral Home, Teays Valley, WV with son, James M. Brown and son-in-law, Michael R. Stewart officiating. Burial will be in Pliny Presbyterian Cemetery, Pliny, WV.

In lieu of flowers, the family has asked that donations be made in memory of Dorothy Brown to the S.T.A.R.S. Family Organization (14513 Charleston Road, Red House, WV 25168).

Chapman Funeral Home, family-owned and located at 3941 Teays Valley Road, Hurricane is honored to serve the Brown family.

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

JUL **30**. 6:00 PM (ET)

Chapman Funeral Home Hurricane  
3941 Teays Valley Road  
Hurricane, WV 25526  
(304) 757-7531  
info@chapmanfuneralhomes.com  
<https://www.chapmanfuneralhomes.com>

# Tribute Wall



“ Dorothy May "Dot" Purdy Brown

October 06, 2023 at 08:41 AM



“ Dot Brown was truly loved by many. She made such a large impact on my life at a early age and for that I will always be grateful.

Gary Casto - July 30, 2016 at 11:48 AM



“ Dot Brown was truly loved by many. She made such a large impact on my life at a early age and for that I will always be grateful.  
Gary Casto

Gary Casto - July 30, 2016 at 11:46 AM



“ I can remember my last conversation with her to this day. She was a natural leader that inspired so many by having faith in and challenging them. She could be tough if you challenged her and I saw her back down many a kid that was 2-3 times her size. She always followed up with a pat on the back or a hug. She never knew on earth how many lives she touched, but she knows now. Judy was my first Tribe chief and led just like her mom. I lead today based on the things I learned from Dot and I hope, no I know, she is proud of me because the last time I spoke with her she told me.. She was certainly one of the most influential people in my life and I will always love and never forget her.

Tracy Knapp

Tracy Knapp - July 29, 2016 at 01:43 PM

MG

“ *MuchLove  
GregVickieJacklynJaimeStephy&GanginFL  
purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for  
the family of Dorothy May "Dot" Purdy Brown.*



---

**MuchLove GregVickieJacklynJaimeStephy&GanginFL** - July 29, 2016 at 12:45 PM

VM

“ *Dear Cindy and Bruce and Family,  
You are all in our prayers and thoughts on Saturday night and  
always. We know your Mom's great memories, and love of Jesus,  
will carry you through this time in your lives. God is Great! We love  
you very much and MAY HER MEMORY BE ETERNAL!  
Keep the faith and God bless you both and your families.  
Love,  
Your Cousins, Greg, Vickie, Jacklyn, Jaime, Stephanie, Stella,  
Jason, Donna, Emma and Jax! xoxoxoxoxo*

---

**Victoria Melton** - July 29, 2016 at 11:50 AM

AB

“ *Dorothy Brown was an extraordinary woman  
whose compassion and love for her work in 4-  
H and with children helped to shape our lives.  
She was beautiful and her ministry to youth in  
our community and state could not be  
overstated. She made people's lives better. Our family was very  
lucky to know her and to learn from her grace. Thank you Dot for  
making the world a better place. And for showing so many of us  
such love. RIP with the loving God you served.*



---

**Andrea Billups** - July 28, 2016 at 09:45 PM

MS

“ As a Putnam County 4-H member I learned a lot about life from Dot. One story only she and I know occurred at Camp when I was a young adult cabin counselor when I discovered that I had been volunteered to help teach swimming lessons at the pool. Unknown to Dot , I had as a child almost drown during swimming lessons and had to be fished out of the pool and had a healthy disregard for water. I went to Dot and reported the true fact " you have me teaching swimming and I am either swimming or sinking because I cannot tread water at all ,I cannot do this! " . Dot did not lose a moment and replied in her commanding voice. "I know you will do fine" and changed the subject. I reported to pool duty and spent most of my time with my 6 foot frame patrolling the three foot water watching beginners blowing bubbles holding onto the pool side. The kids and I both survived the lessons, no one needed removal from the pool bottom. Dot's belief in me empowered me to face the dragon because I was not going to let her down. My 4-H training taught me that " I could do fine" no matter the situations , including law school, multiple jury trials as prosecutor and appearing many times in oral argument before the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia by being prepared, look people in the eyes and communicate with them. I was told in Law School I was too laid back in Moot Court mock appeal court presentation and not nervous. I replied that Moot Court was nothing but a 30 minute 4-H demonstration. My success life was molded in part by a great teacher who happened to be a 4-H agent who provided guidance and reassurance with two words often spoken "Good Job!" My thoughts are with the family in this sad time. Mark G. Sergent, Attorney-at-Law

---

**Mark Sergent** - July 28, 2016 at 06:56 PM



“ *Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of Dorothy May "Dot" Purdy Brown.*



---

July 28, 2016 at 03:15 PM



“ *The smile on her face as in the picture is how I remember Dot. She was a great example of the caring and enthusiasm one should have as an Extension Agent. She was a great model. She influenced and impacted the lives of so many. Her passing leaves a great legacy for family, friends and 4-H youth across the state.*

*Sally Howard  
WVU Extension Agent - retired  
Braxton County*

---

**Sally Howard** - July 28, 2016 at 02:35 PM



“ *We are so sorry for your loss. Our deepest sympathy goes out to the Brown and Noffsinger families. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.*

*Calvin, Sylvia, Jeff and Hannah*

*Henderson Insurance, Inc.*

---

**Sylvia Smith** - July 28, 2016 at 10:44 AM

CP

“ So many memories of times w/Dot & her family during my years involved in Putnam Co. 4-H

*Connie Butler Pitman*



---

**Connie Pitman** - July 28, 2016 at 10:36 AM

MF

“ I remember Dorothy as a wonderful teacher at Poca High School during my years there from the fall of 1951-1955 when I graduated with the Class of 1955. She was a strong woman who taught her students with kindness, firmness and fairness. She will be remembered warmly by the hundred (perhaps thousands) of students who passed through her classrooms and gyms. Rest in peace and God be with her family.

*Melva Garrison Fisher*

---

**Melva Garrison Fisher** - July 28, 2016 at 09:29 AM

CS

“ I feel so blessed to have known and to have learned from this amazing, dynamo lady! She was my mentor, my role model, and my friend when I was honored to be chosen as the Putnam County 4-H Agent upon her retirement. She welcomed and nurtured me like a "mother". I could never have filled her shoes, but she inspired me to be as successful and a champion for the 4-H program and families, as she continued to be! Dot gave me priceless advice (over a piece of apple pie and a glass of coke at her Pliny home) which has been valuable throughout my careers and life. I celebrate her life on Earth; but even more, I celebrate her homecoming with Jesus in Paradise!

4-H and Christian love and admiration,  
Cristina ("Just Criss")

---

**Cristina Stout** - July 28, 2016 at 08:14 AM



“ Crystal Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dorothy May "Dot" Purdy Brown.



---

July 27, 2016 at 07:01 PM

HT

“ The earth has lost and heaven gained a truly great lady. I will miss you Dot.

---

**Heather Toler** - July 27, 2016 at 01:24 PM

SS

“ Dorothy May "Dot" Brown was "hands down" the best 4-H Agent ever! She was the most fair and the most encouraging person in our lives. She treated us all like her own children. She gave every one of us a Cross pen engraved with our initials for our high school graduations. She came to almost all our weddings and I still have the beautiful etched crystal glass, column-style, candle holder that she bought for Mark and me. When Mark and I were "courting" at 4-H camp, she used to follow us down the road with her VW bus headlights on us to "keep us in line." (Mostly as a joke because she trusted us!) I can still see her little gleeful smile when she related doing that bus trick years later. She was a dynamo, an organizer, a task master, but compassionate, funny, and not above making fun of herself or doing something silly to make us all laugh! She crowed like a rooster to get us out of bed and it was pretty darn authentic! She also won National 4-H Agent of the Year, so you can tell that she was outstanding at her job. I was so proud of her when she came home with that award. We have always known that WV has the best 4-H camping program in the USA - we invented it and we are the best! When I was growing up in the 1970's, Putnam County was said to have the best 4-H Camp in WV! That is the legacy that Dot Brown left me. I will miss her dearly....but I will never forget what she taught me! "Well done, good and faithful servant...."

*All our love to Jim, Winston, Judy, Cindy and all the family.....Mark and Sheryl Sergent*

---

**Sheryl Sergent** - July 27, 2016 at 11:19 AM

JH

“ I didn't really know Dot but I've heard so many good things about her. I do know Winston and his family and I just wanted to say how sorry I am for your loss. Knowing that she is in the arms of our Lord must surely be a comfort to you.

---

**Jackie Hunter** - July 27, 2016 at 10:44 AM

FA

“ That loud rooster crow was my first experience with Dot. It was my first year as a camper at the Putnam County 4-H camp in the 1970's. She would wake us with that loud rooster crow.

*I would come to love this sweet lady. She was strict, yet kind and sweet. She was like a mother or grandmother to all the campers and 4-Hers.*

*We remained friends and I would always welcome a visit with Dot. We shared a lunch or two over the years, usually at the Winfield Dairy Freeze. She would always have rubber bands around her wrist to remind her of tasks she had to do. She could tell a funny joke or two, that grin of hers was contagious.*

*When I wanted to create an event for young people to introduce area youngsters to positive role models, Dot and Leon McCoy and Rev Frank Frye were the first three people I called. We called the event "Something Positive" and it was a success.*

*Dot was always willing to help. She was a fine example of a good role model. She didn't have to tell you she was a Christian, you could see it in the way she lived and carried out her life. It was obvious she was. Her actions spoke volumes.*

*The world was better off because of Dot. All of us that knew her are better. My wife and I send our prayers for the family and our love. Dot was very special and will be missed.*

*I can still hear that rooster's crow... Love you Dot Brown. Thanks for the memories.*

*Frank Addington  
Seneca Tribe*

*Texas*

---

**Frank Addington** - July 27, 2016 at 08:01 AM

SM

“ *When I was homesick and wanted to leave 4-H camp after 1 day, she kept me busy and worked to keep me there. I am forever grateful for the impact she made on my life. I still chuckle when I think of her changing the song to hymn when the kids started singing a song she didn't approve of.*

-----  
**Stephanie Witt McPherson** - July 27, 2016 at 06:07 AM

RH

“ *Dot was a very special lady in my life. She was my anchor in 4-H. She was a strong believing Christian. I will always cherish her memories. Her family has blessed my life too. Prayers to the family.*

-----  
**Rebecca Haer** - July 26, 2016 at 11:20 PM

SS

*She taught me at poca from 59 to 62. I will always remember her.*

-----  
**sue Amos story** - July 27, 2016 at 04:14 PM

AN

“ *So sorry for your loss. Dot was an amazing woman. For a long time I thought she was in charge of everything in Putnam Co. Don and Amy Newman*

-----  
**Amy Newman** - July 26, 2016 at 10:01 PM

MH

“ *What wonderful memories of 4-H and Dot!! All of the great times at 4-H camp, all the regional things she drove us to - all the meetings, projects, the Scottish dancing events, the list is endless!!! She was such a sweet and tolerant soul. She was a mentor and exemplified the values - head, heart, hands and health and because of it, so many of the youth of Putnam County learned life skills that carried us into adulthood. My prayers to the family and thank you for always sharing your Mom with the kids of Putnam County 4-H. Those were the days..... Mary Pat Davis Hanson*

---

**Mary Pat Davis Hanson** - July 26, 2016 at 09:59 PM

SN

“ *I simply loved this woman who was my teacher and a friend. I learned so much from her in school. I still use her teachings in my life today. I love her family They were an important part of my life. Her daughter, Judy was so dear to me. I want to send my love to her children. Please know that I know what it like to lose a parent. Our comfort comes from knowing they are with God and truly at peace. Love to all, Sandra Carr Neely*

---

**Sandrs Carr Neely** - July 26, 2016 at 09:52 PM

TW

“ *Heaven gained a great angel and she has left quite the legacy here. Thoughts and prayers are with you all during this difficult time. Wallace Family*

---

**tish wallace** - July 26, 2016 at 09:45 PM

CP

“ Mrs. Brown was my 9th grade English teacher as well as PE teacher at Poca High. It wasn't until much later in life that I came to appreciate all the things I learned from her. Most of which was not in the books. When my daughter was in her 4-H group, she invited me to be a chaperone at Camp Virgil Tate, now that was a wonderful learning experience and I saw first hand how efficient she was. She woke us with her 'rooster' call, and of course she had already been up for hours getting things organized for the day, making sure things ran smoothly and we learned as well as enjoyed. She was indeed a wonderful woman, so full of fun, love and compassion. My sincere condolences to her family.

*Carol Eads Payne*

---

**Carol Payne** - July 26, 2016 at 07:56 PM

TT

“ A woman who made a great impact in my life. Her and her family Showed me great kindness and I loved 4-H because of her. R I P. Ms Dot Brown ..

---

**Tammy Watson Tomaszewski** - July 26, 2016 at 04:34 PM