

*Brought forth
in the name of the
Father, Son and Holy Spirit*



Louise Penney McElroy

July 25, 1925 - October 8, 2021

Louise Doyle Penney was born on July 14, 1925 in St. Louis, Missouri. She was the daughter of Joseph Doyle Penney and Mary Louise Penney. Her mother a homemaker, and childhood friend of Rosa Parks, was originally from Birmingham and was among the first African-American registered nurses in the State of Alabama. Her father attended Tuskegee Institute and later became a trusted friend and advisor to A. Phillip Randolph during railroad organizing efforts.

Louise was the eldest of two daughters. She was baptized and worshipped as an active member of St. James A.M.E. Church until her marriage.

She grew up in "The Ville" of St. Louis during a time when the area served as a mecca for educational excellence, cultivation of the arts and political activism. In this regard, she observed her mother's activism in the suffragette movement, reveled in close family friend W.C. Handy's composition of music during salon at her parent's home and benefitted from surrounding professionals. From a young age Louise played the piano at an accomplished level.

Louise received her primary education in the St. Louis Public School System and graduated from the historically renown Summer High School where she excelled academically and consistently remained on the Honor Roll. She participated in numerous activities including the Math Science Club and as a dancer in the "Y Circus".



Louise Doyle Penney



Venturing away from home to Jefferson City, MO *Louise* attended and graduated from Lincoln University where she received a B.S. in Elementary Education with honors. While attending "Lincoln" Louise pledged and became a member of AlphaKappa Alpha Sorority (Alpha Iota) while also excelling in campus dramatic and artistic organizations. She remained an active member of The Congress of Racial Equality (C.O.R.E.) and later encouraged her immediate family's participation as a "civil rights test family."

During her time at "Lincoln" she met Harvey S. McElroy, a "Lincoln" business administration and education major. They courted exclusively with dates on campus and dinners at the respective homes of their parents. Louise recalled fondly during their college years Harvey serenading her with Omega Psi Phi songsbeneath her dormitory window. They married on June 3, 1951 and remained lifelong partners for 60 years. Together they were confirmed and joined St.

Phillips Lutheran Church where they remained members as a family for over forty- years.

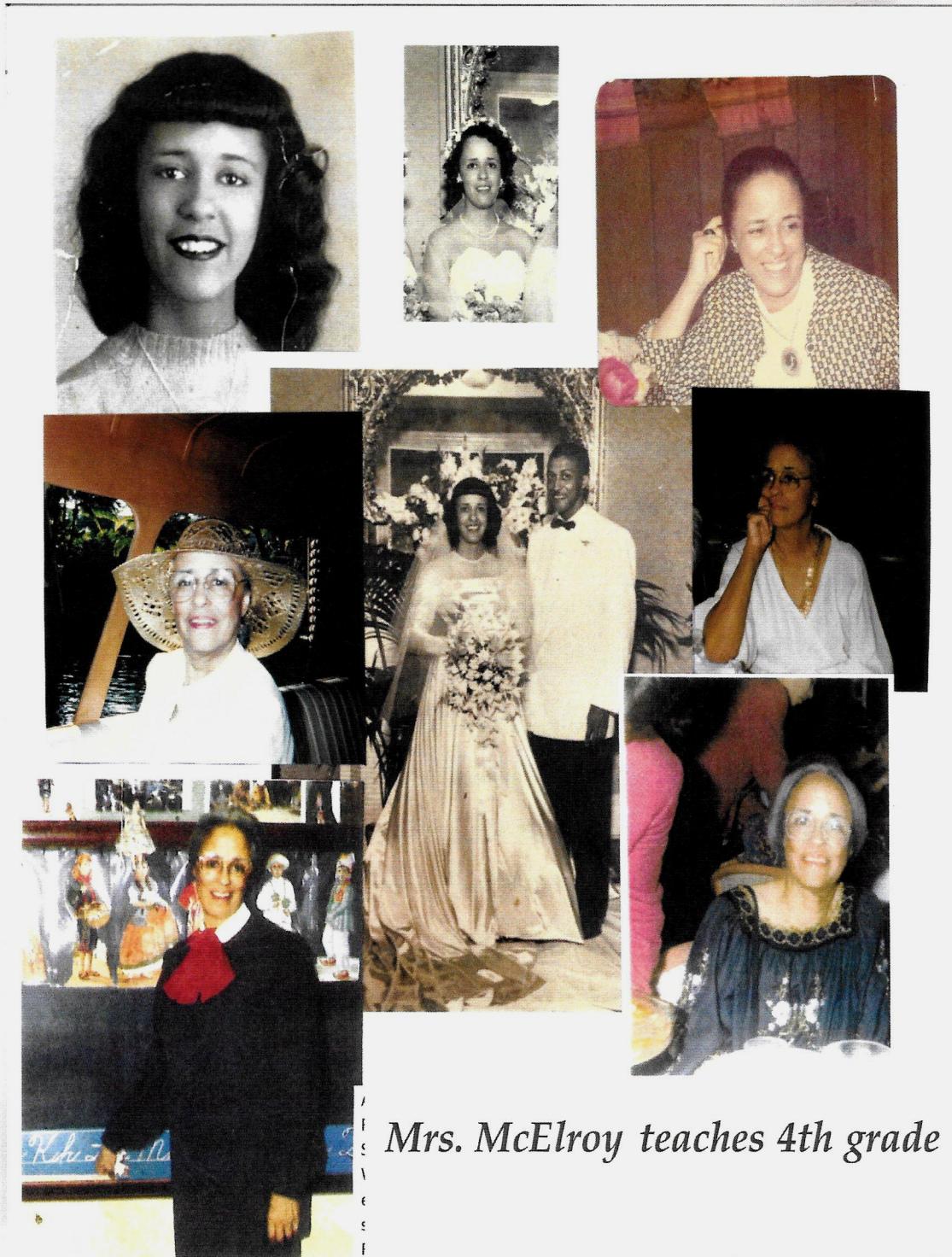
Faced with ongoing segregation within the Missouri higher education system Louise and her younger sister Carleen went on to attend The University of Illinois- Champaign, where she received an M.A. in Education, magna cum laude, from the University Graduate College, May 1951. During her later college years and following graduation *Louise* and her sister participated in numerous civil rights demonstrations and concerted actions including lunch counter sit-ins where they recalled being harassed, spat upon andhaving their braids cut by racist oppositional onlookers.

Following graduate studies *Louise* began her teaching career in Springfield, Missouri. She subsequently taught primary education grades for the Webster Groves School system before obtaining her goal of a permanent teaching position with the St. Louis Public School System where she taught an array of grades as well as Special Education for over 42 years. In each step of her progression as an educator she was known by all her colleagues as an exemplary teacher who wentto great extents to enhance her students learning experience and aptitude.

Often in instances where her students were economically challenged shepersonally provided needed assistance.

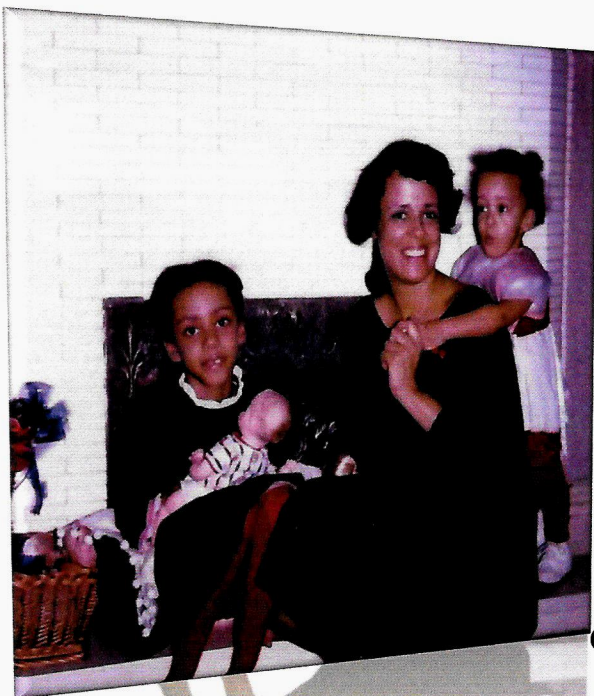
During the three years prior to retirement she requested the opportunity to teachprogressively from the sixth through eighth grade the same group of students pursuant to her desire to nurture and develop their academic skills. Many of those students went on to attend top colleges and obtain advance degrees.

Louise Penney McElroy



Mrs. McElroy teaches 4th grade

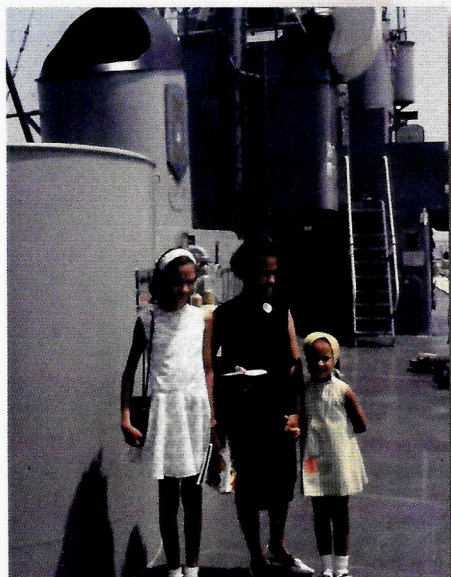
A highlight of *Louise's* career in education included her selection as a multi-year Fellow to the Ford Foundation where she represented the St. Louis Public School System. As a Fellow, Louise experienced business travel to San Francisco, Washington, DC and New York where she attended Foundation conferences. She engaged in group dynamics, spoke before the UN on challenges facing urban school systems and developed numerous educational initiatives used throughout Foundation points of contact.



Mother

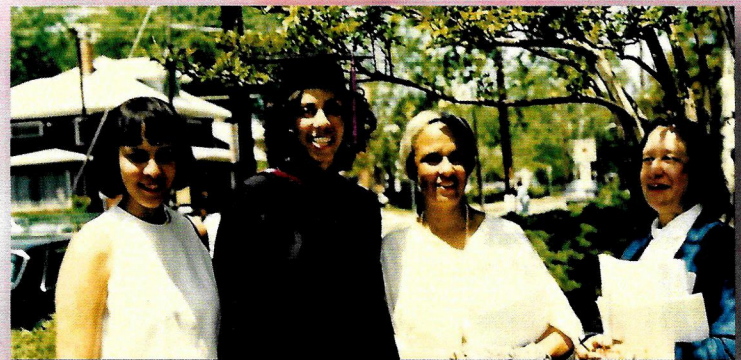
Following the birth of her daughters, Carleen and Joy respectively, Louise was involved in every dimension of their growth and development. While enjoying summers off with "her girls" during the K-8 grade years she created an in-house summer school/camp. She also enjoyed planning in minute detail family summer vacations which ranged from attending conventions at upscale hotels, visiting historical sites, to motorhome camping throughout all national parks. As a member of Jack and Jill of American, Inc. Louise was a group sponsor and officer. She was continually a full supporter in all things involv-

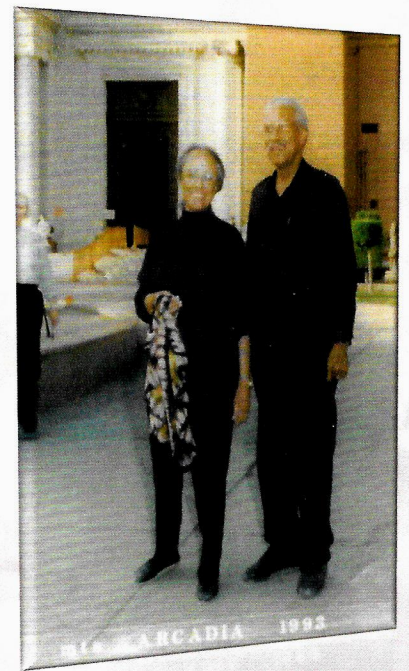
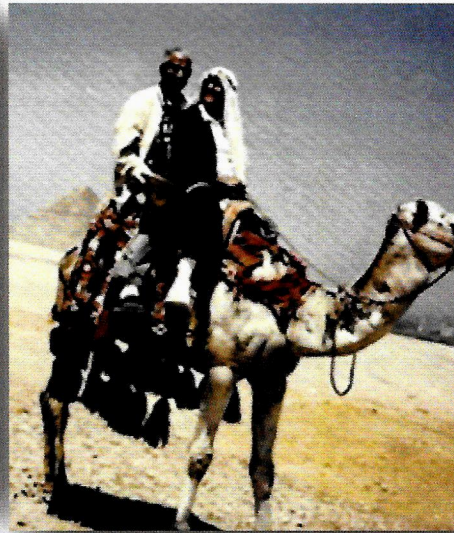
ing her girls, academic, artistic and sports pursuits. Activities pursued on behalf of her daughters included: the St. Louis Muny Opera, exhibition opening at the St. Louis Art Museum and our own special Christmas season day at Toyland followed by the Fox Theatre.





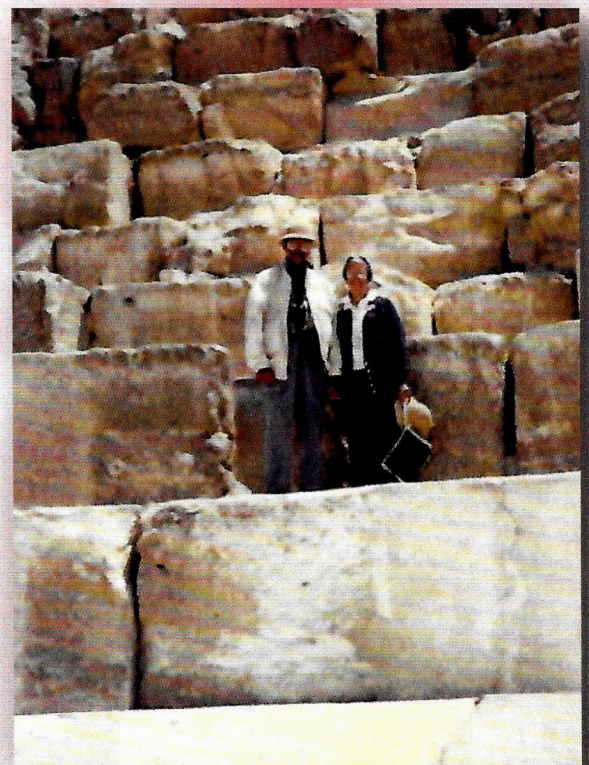
Louise encouraged her daughters' intellectual growth and continued academic excellence. As a result of her encouragement, resourcefulness and continual prayers her youngest daughter Joy completed her M.D. at University of Missouri-Kansas City, College of Medicine followed by training in dermatology at Brown University and the Mayo Clinic. Her eldest daughter Carleen received her LLM from Indiana University- The McKinney School of Law, her JD from North Carolina Central University- School of Law and MA from the University of Illinois - Champaign.

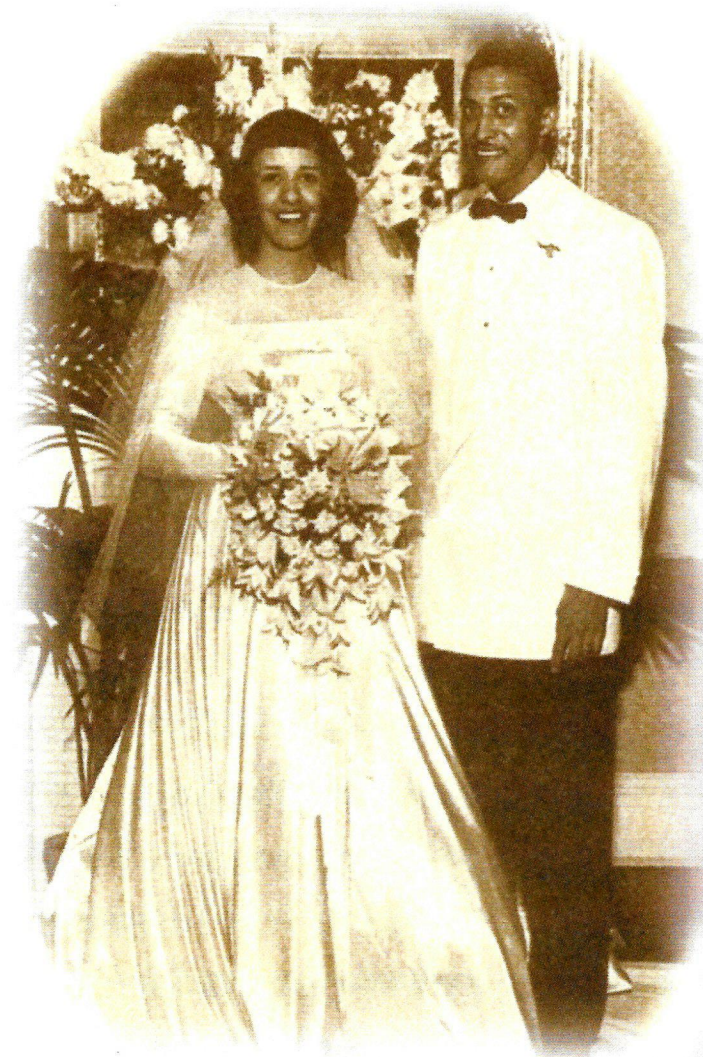


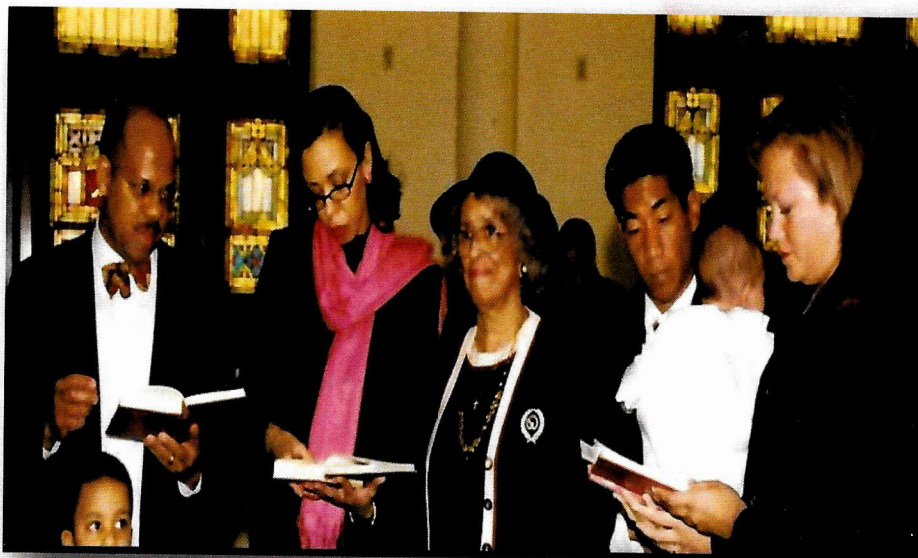


After retirement, *Louise* traveled globally with her husband to over 25 countries. During this time, they transitioned their long-term membership in the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod, St. Phillips Church to the Episcopal Church - All Saints Episcopal Church. As a member of All Saints, Louise was active in St.

Anne's Guild and church activities. She also continued to entertain friends socially in their home. Louise along with Harvey as an "honorary" member was continually active in the Sumner High School Alumni group where they enjoyed weekend activities and annual excursions.



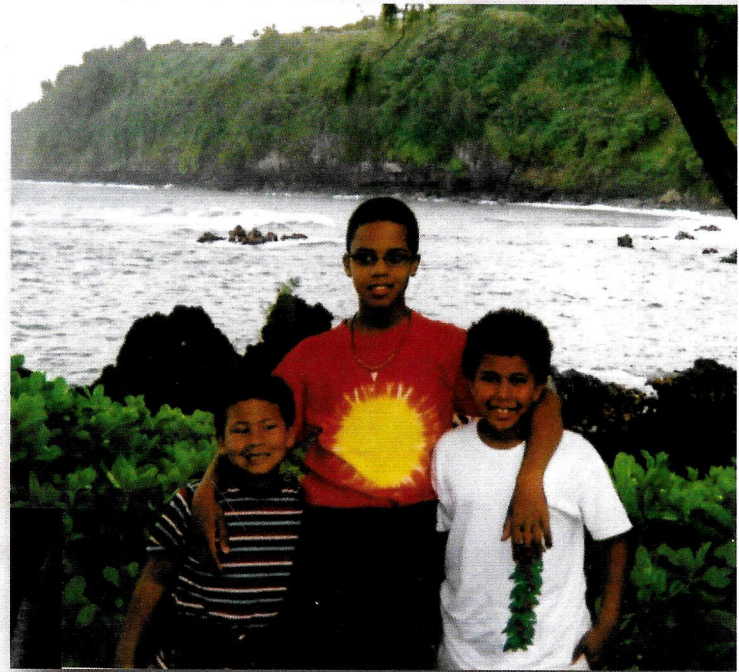
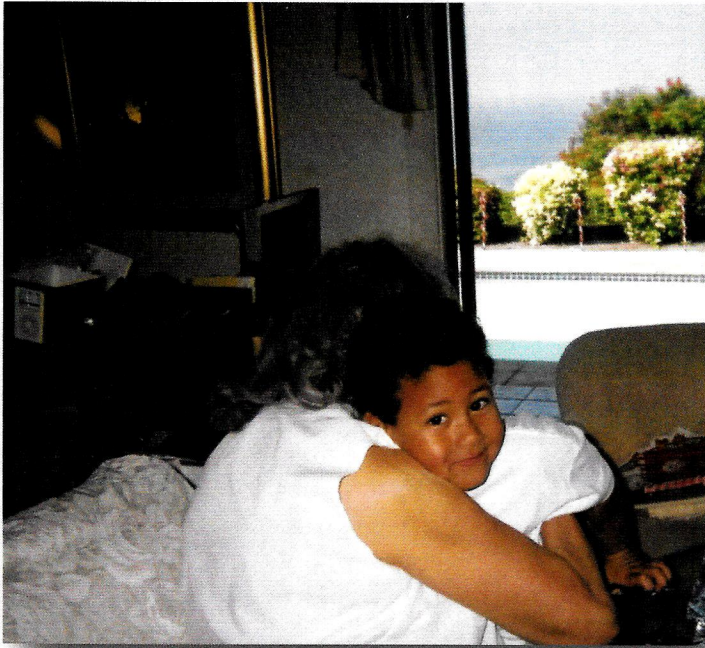


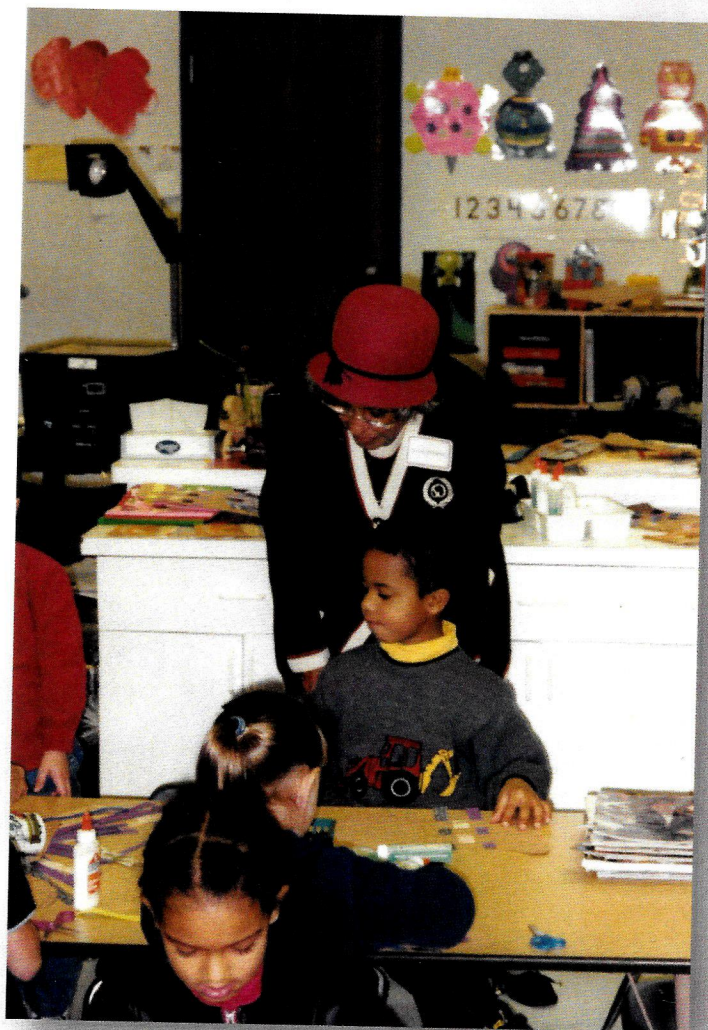


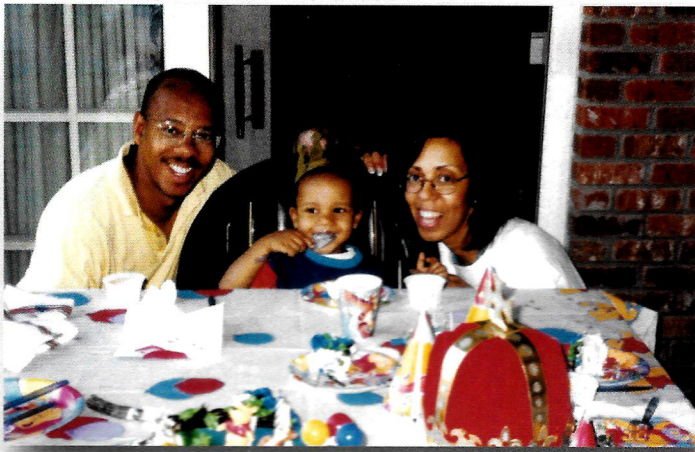
A joyous part of her retirement included the marriage of her daughters and the subsequent the births of her grandsons. He first grandchild Tarik born to Carleen and Robert Thompson in 1996. Tarik was rapidly followed by Loi Harvey and August Gabriel in 1998 and 2001 respectively to Joy and Loi Stroman. The "boys" were the light of *Louise's* love and sparked her energy and creativity. She relished giving them their first reading lessons, staging Easter egg hunts in her beautiful home and expansive yard along with dressing them up for fine dining.

Throughout the remainder of her life, she continued to be proud of their every academic, athletic and artistic accomplishments.

Grandmother

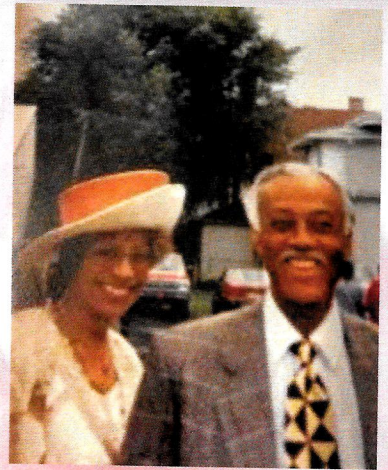


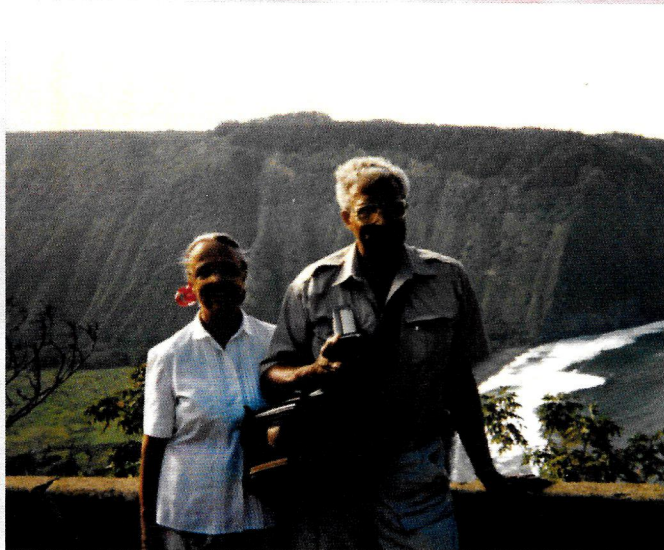
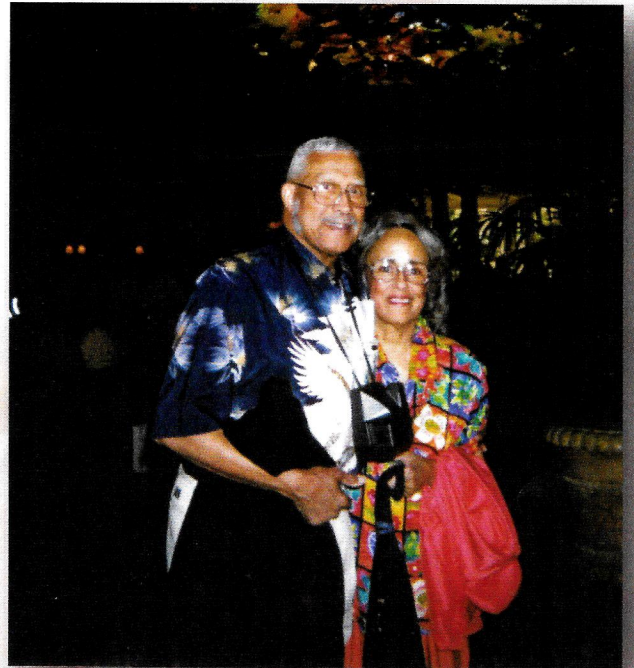
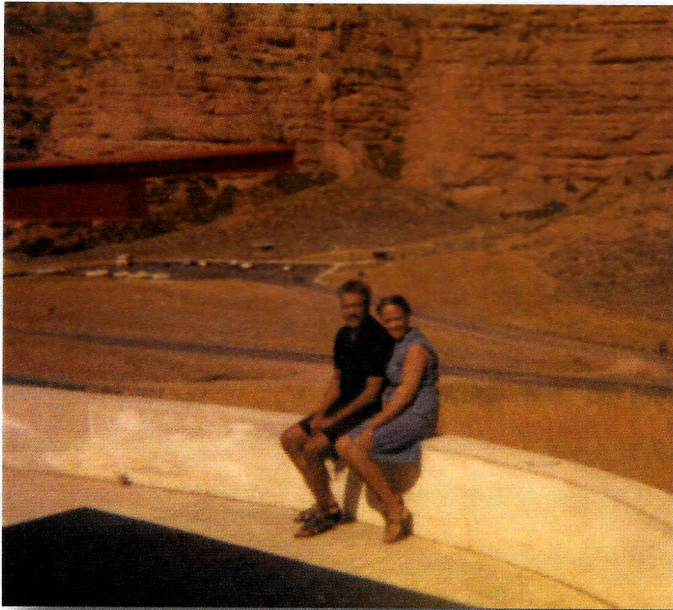


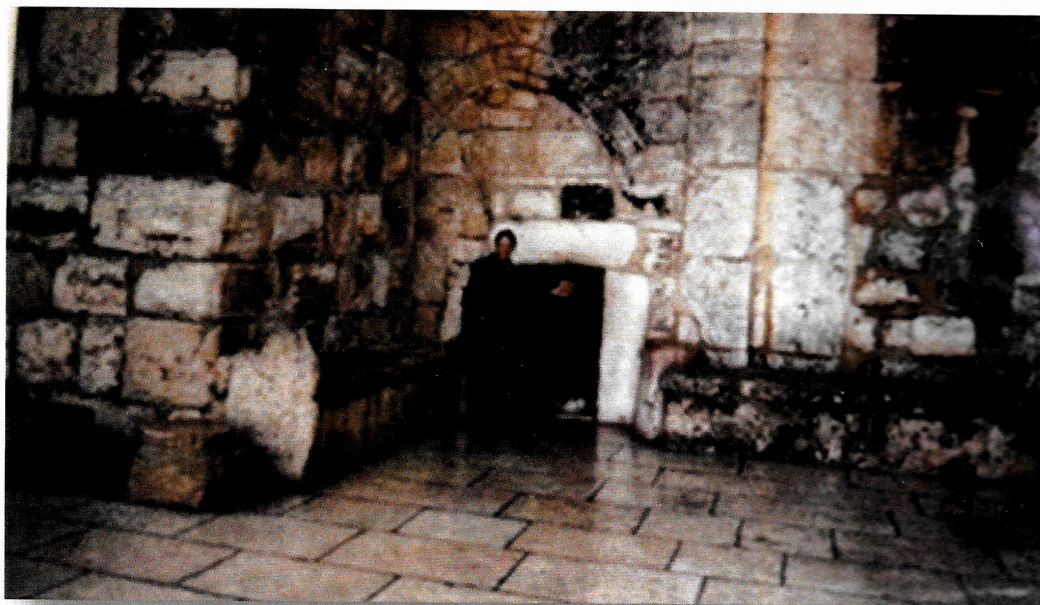




*Lifelong
Friends*







After her husband's passing *Louise* spent her final years in the loving care of her daughter Joy in Kona Hawaii where she participated in travelogue discussions, lunches and brief shopping trips. She found happiness in the kindness of the native Hawaiian people and family visits.

Louise Penney McElroy joined Harvey in His heavenly care on October 8, 2021. Survivors include her daughters, Carleen McElroy Thompson (Robert Thompson/deceased), Dr. Joy A. McElroy, MD (Dr. Loi M. Chang-Stroman, MD) and grandsons, Tarik Robert Thompson, Loi Harvey Stroman and August Gabriel Stroman. She was preceded in death by her husband Harvey S. McElroy (September 21, 2011) and her sister Carleen Penney Davis (January 15, 2020).

