



Flora B. Ponder (DOWNTOWN)

December 9, 1930 - October 20, 2025

Flora McGuire Ponder, beloved wife, mother, grandmother, friend, and pioneering nurse, passed away peacefully on October 20, 2025.

Born in Elkton, Kentucky, Flora moved with her parents to Louisville as a child. She excelled in school, graduating as a proud member of Central High School class of 1949. It was at Central High School where she met her husband, Raymond Ponder, whom she spent 63 loving years.

Early in their marriage, Flora and Raymond joined friends in creating a family-friendly social circle. For nearly two decades, this community gave Flora joy in fulfilling her passion for hosting family and friends at her home. In 1954, she made history as one of the first African American students admitted to the University of Louisville School of Nursing. With determination and steadfast faith, she paved the way for generations to follow. Flora's nursing career was defined by groundbreaking firsts and fearless dedication. She served in many roles as nurse, leader, and educator at Louisville General Hospital, Park DuValle Community Health Center, Watterson College, and Louisville and Jefferson County Health Department.

Guided by faith throughout her life, Flora was a devoted member of Peace Presbyterian Church and later Westwood Presbyterian Church. Leading the health ministry, she organized sickle cell support groups, health fairs, diabetes education, and caregiver programs that uplifted and empowered countless families.

Flora's greatest joy was her family. She loved being a mother and

grandmother, cherishing every holiday, special occasion, and moment celebrating her children and grandchildren's achievements.

Flora was preceded in death by her parents, James and Elizabeth McGuire; husband, Raymond Ponder; daughter, Jacqueline Ponder; and grandson, James Ponder.

She is survived by her daughter, Martha Daniel; granddaughter, Flora Elizabeth Phillip (Lyle); aunt, Susie Mayes; cousin, Savonia Taylor; and a host of family, friends, and former colleagues who celebrate her remarkable life. Flora Ponder's life stands as a testament to courage, compassion, and the power of faith in action. She leaves behind a radiant legacy that will continue to inspire all who were touched by her light.

Visitation: 10am-12pm, Monday, October 27, 2025, at Westwood Presbyterian Church, 4432 Greenwood Ave., funeral service to follow at 12 noon. Burial: Evergreen Cemetery.

Cemetery Details

Evergreen Cemetery

4623 Preston Hwy.
Louisville, KY 40213

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT 27. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Westwood Presbyterian Church
4432 Greenwood Ave
Louisville, KY 40211

Funeral Service

OCT 27. 12:00 PM (ET)

Westwood Presbyterian Church
4432 Greenwood Ave
Louisville, KY 40211

Tribute Wall

SV

“Mrs. Ponder was the Director of Nursing at Park DuValle Health Center when I began to work under her supervision in 1969. She was an exceptional leader in the Nursing profession, dedicated to her family and community. I was blessed to know her and to have visited with her in 2023. My deepest condolences to her family and friends in Louisville.

Sonja Herring Vaughan, RN, MSN

Sonja Vaughan - October 31, 2025 at 04:56 PM

TF

“Though she is gone from our sight, she is never gone from our hearts. A life like hers doesn't end; it transforms.”

The Mason Family - October 28, 2025 at 11:51 AM



“Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Flora B. Ponder (DOWNTOWN).



October 27, 2025 at 08:16 AM

KD

“Aunt Flo has now joined Mother(Sara White) and they can talk forever. Martha and family my sincere condolences. May memories give you peace. Much love.



Katrina (White) Dixon - October 26, 2025 at 04:20 PM

PS

“ A beautiful loving lady that always had a twinkle in her eyes. Sending my love to my dear friend and the family. May precious memories comfort you during your time of bereavement.



Phyllis Slaughter - October 22, 2025 at 01:01 PM

TF

“Though she is gone from our sight, she is never gone from our hearts. A life like hers doesn't end; it transforms.”

The Mason family - October 28, 2025 at 11:44 AM