



Mavis Campbell Madsen Dodson

August 5, 1937 - February 27, 2021

Mavis Campbell Madsen Dodson was born on August 5, 1937 to parents Merlin and Manila Campbell. She shared entrance into this life with her twin brother Mavin, joining older siblings Ralph, Fae, Albert, and Kay.

Fittingly named after the Song Thrush referenced by poets (including Robert Browning and George Orwell) Mavis was as naturally melodious and carefree as a bird sitting aloft, pouring her lovely song and soul into the world. When she was still a little girl, her wise mother taught her that it was better to be interested than interesting—and though Mavis was ever captivating with her colorful scarves and witticisms, she surely did master the rare art-form of being interested.

Among Mavis' many interests were literature and the arts, dancing and athletics, gardening, philosophy and religion; but most and rarest of all—in people! She noticed, valued, befriended and sought sincere connections with anyone fortunate enough to cross her path. Mavis could make a lifelong friend while perusing the produce in the market, dining at a restaurant, hiking a trail in Zion, or riding the Greyhound Bus from Salt Lake to see her beau J.R.

In the late 1950's, while visiting Zion for the summer, Mavis cheekily interrupted a competitive ping-pong match between brothers. After handily defeating the younger one at his own game, and sashaying away with his

heart, she thereafter became Mrs. J.R. Madsen when on June 24, 1960, she married her former ping pong opponent in the Logan LDS Temple. This darling duo went on to become the parents of 9 children, 26 grandchildren, and 9 great grandchildren with one more currently on the way— all equally adored and adoring. To all these children and posterity she has had an incalculable and profound effect. But her positive influence also extended far beyond the walls of her own home.

In her beloved Zion Canyon community, Mavis worked at Springdale Elementary for three decades, doing what she did best: caring for, reading to, playing with and building up children in the capacities of school secretary, librarian, nurse, and teacher's aide, and in numerous other roles. She was devoted to every student, parent, volunteer, fellow educator and co-worker who walked through the doors. With her talents and opportunities for meeting new people, Mavis was an extraordinary ambassador for the school; she would invite talented people from all over the world including artists, musicians, and scientists to visit and enlighten the students. She set up exciting reading initiatives—including one which eventually rewarded students by seeing their Principal, Stephen Eberhard, skydive from an airplane; followed by her own skydive over the West Temple a year later. Each day was a new opportunity to serve and to look good while doing it in a perfectly coordinated outfit.

Mavis was a natural entertainer, a captivating orator and teacher, and an instinctual comedienne. She was an extremely involved and influential member of her community where she cheerfully served on committees, chaired on councils, accepted awards, spear-headed fund-raisers, built up libraries, planted trees and gardens, sang in choirs, taught in Sunday school— always with a sparkle in her eye, and an unfeigned and contagious enthusiasm. Mavis had an unwavering and heartfelt faith, but also a respect for all beliefs. She was never threatened or agitated by different viewpoints;

but recognized truth and sincerity in everyone, and was as slow to anger as she was quick to compliment. She was the wind in everyone's wings as she truly wished us all to soar.

A peacemaker and an unfaltering lover of life, Mavis departed this earth on February 27, 2021, leaving it a much better place than she found it. Like the little Mavis bird, her distinctive song oft repeated to all she met, was one of joy and love, good humor and hope. She is survived by devoted husband Ron Dodson; adoring children Melanie Madsen, J. Richard Madsen (Sheralyn), Holly Rowland (Paul), Kristina Madsen, Lise Jones (Wayne), Christopher Madsen, Ticia Harding (Mike), Heidi Lee (Zachary), Jeremy Madsen (Whitney) and darling grands; and loving brothers Ralph, Albert (Coy) and Mavin. Beyond this veil, Mavis is reunited with father, mother, sister Fae, brother Kay and eternal sweetheart J.R.

Funeral services will be held on Saturday, March 6, 2021 at 11:00 a.m. at the Springdale LDS Chapel located at 1584 Zion Park Blvd. A viewing will be held prior at the same location from 9-10:45 a.m. Interment will follow at the Springdale City Cemetery.

For live stream of the Service, follow the link below:

<https://zoom.us/j/97567421961?pwd=UXppMjVndHd2aUFwSmRTWEVVTG5ldz09>

Meeting ID: 975 6742 1961

Passcode: 147068

Cemetery Details

Springdale Cemetery

Paradise Road
Springdale, UT 84770

Previous Events

Viewing

MAR 6. 9:00 AM - 10:45 AM (MT)

Springdale Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Chapel
1584 Zion – Mount Carmel Hwy
Springdale, UT 84767

Funeral Service

MAR 6. 11:00 AM (MT)

Springdale Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Chapel
1584 Zion – Mount Carmel Hwy
Springdale, UT 84767

Tribute Wall



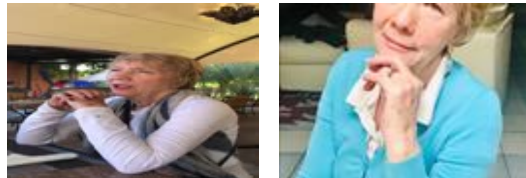
“ *Serenity Funeral Home of Southern Utah created a Tribute Video in memory of Mavis Campbell Madsen Dodson*



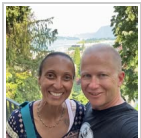
Serenity Funeral Home of Southern Utah - March 08, 2021 at 12:03 PM



“ *2 files added to the album Memories Album*



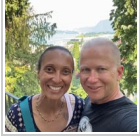
Chris Madsen - April 28, 2021 at 11:54 AM



“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



Chris Madsen - March 24, 2021 at 10:55 PM



“ 5 files added to the album Memories Album



Chris Madsen - March 21, 2021 at 09:11 PM



“ 29 files added to the tribute wall



Holly Rowland - March 08, 2021 at 04:53 PM

HR

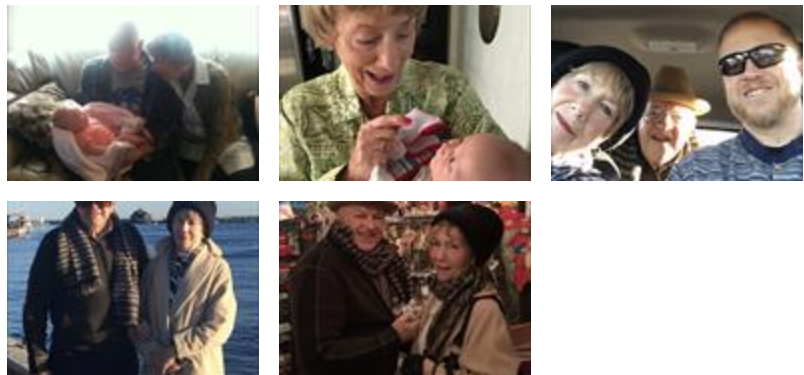
“ 9 files added to the tribute wall



Holly Rowland - March 08, 2021 at 04:44 PM

HR

“ 47 files added to the tribute wall



Holly Rowland - March 08, 2021 at 04:41 PM

SJ

“ We just finished watching Mavis' funeral. What a BEAUTIFUL celebration for a BEAUTIFUL, faithful, loving friend!! We treasure our friendship and her great example of love and kindness for everyone! We're impressed with Mavis' example of remaining faithful and staying on the covenant path! "Thanks, Mavis and family for befriending Gary when he worked at Zion and serving him those 'famous golden eggs", which he didn't appreciate!!" LOL!

SANDY JOHNSON - March 06, 2021 at 03:09 PM



“ Sweet, beautiful Mavis!!! You will be missed so much by so many of us! We are so blessed to have had you in our lives. Ginger and Zeb are the luckiest kids to have been able to be with you daily while going to Springdale Elementary. You had the kindest heart of almost anyone I know. I don't think I ever saw you not smiling. You had such a beautiful light of Christ within you. Thank you so much for being such an amazing woman. What a great example you were always, not only to our kids, but to everyone you encountered. We love you so much and will miss you. So grateful you will be reunited with JR!!!! What a beautiful moment that must have been!!!!

Tiffany Farnsworth - March 06, 2021 at 01:32 PM

CO

“ Beautiful, graceful Mavis. The whole canyon will miss her. I first met her at the elementary school while visiting the Canyon. One does not forget Mavis. Then later we reconnected at the library book club. Always friendly, smiling, honest and outspoken. The delicious cookies ended a heated discussing about the current book She was a very rare lady and I'm so happy that I got to meet her and experience her ever so positive presence.

Cornelia - March 06, 2021 at 11:59 AM

PC

“ *Lovely Mavis, I met you at the school taking care of the children, teachers, parents, and anyone who walked through the door. I remember how you made sure every student had a talent to share at the school talent show - even if it was climbing into a tight plexiglass box. To you, everyone was special. To us, Mavis, you were the special one. We will miss you.*

Peggy Childs - March 06, 2021 at 12:40 AM

TB

“ *I lit a yellow candle to represent the color of my favorite popsicle flavor. The last visit I had with Mavis and JR was unannounced. I took a last-minute trip to Zion and wanted to say hello. I was welcomed with open arms, and we had a long visit, even though they were not expecting company. While I am not able to make it to the funeral, I am so glad I did make it to the parade in her honor a few weeks ago. Mavis will be missed terribly.*

Taryn Beck - March 05, 2021 at 01:28 PM

TB

“ *Taryn Beck lit a candle in memory of Mavis Campbell Madsen Dodson*



Taryn Beck - March 05, 2021 at 01:18 PM

SF

“ Dear Family,
I was so saddened to hear about Mavis' passing, the memories I have of her and JR are so many, I don't even know where to start. My last one was when I saw her when I was down for a visit and she saw me and said SUE!! and rushed to give me a hug, she always made me feel loved. She is and will ever be the incomparable Mavis Madsen, fashion icon, eternal beauty and a light to all. A part of her light is in each of you. God bless you through this tough time and my love goes out to each of you.

Sue Fraley

SUE FRALEY - March 05, 2021 at 12:40 PM



“ Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant was purchased for the family of Mavis Campbell Madsen Dodson.



March 04, 2021 at 08:19 PM



“ Graceful Wreath was purchased for the family of Mavis Campbell Madsen Dodson.



March 04, 2021 at 06:19 PM



“ *Rose Garden Heart was purchased for the family of Mavis Campbell Madsen Dodson.*



March 04, 2021 at 05:43 PM



“ *Tender Tribute was purchased for the family of Mavis Campbell Madsen Dodson.*



March 04, 2021 at 01:11 PM



“ *My life has absolutely been lifted and enhanced by this remarkable lady! She has always made me feel truly seen, heard, supported and admired.. as she has for everyone! The obituary sums it all up in the most beautiful way. Im inspired to live in her light, to truly see the beauty and gifts in people. To be more interested than interesting! And of course, always wear a flashy scarf or pop of color to brighten up the place! My heart is bursting for the family. So much love to you all! Drey Lee*

Drey Lee - March 04, 2021 at 12:26 AM



“ *Serene Reflections Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mavis Campbell Madsen Dodson.*



March 03, 2021 at 07:03 PM

KK

“ *Kyndra Middleton, Henry & Ruth King purchased the Serene Reflections Bouquet for the family of Mavis Campbell Madsen Dodson.*



Kyndra Middleton, Henry & Ruth King - March 03, 2021 at 06:58 PM

DC

“ *Mavis—you raised a wonderful family. Nine children. Married for over fifty years to your husband, JR. Many years of love and being wonderful. Losing your Mate and finding a another true gentleman and continuing on. What a great, pretty, kind Lady . Doris*

Doris Campbell - March 03, 2021 at 06:27 PM

RT

“ *Rockford & Helen Terry purchased the Sunny Memories for the family of Mavis Campbell Madsen Dodson.*



Rockford & Helen Terry - March 03, 2021 at 05:50 PM

RY

“ Mavis was truly one-of-a-kind! Incredibly deep and thoughtful with the perfect amount of humor and sunshine. Though our time knowing her was brief, she left a loving impression that will be felt for years to come.

With love,

Ryan & Misty Griffith

Ryan - March 03, 2021 at 03:28 PM



“ Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of Mavis Campbell Madsen Dodson.



March 03, 2021 at 02:51 PM

CS

“ What endearing, ethereal note of love! What a legacy she created for her family. I had the opportunity to speak with her by phone just a week before she left this planet. I will forever remember her gratitude for life in the midst of her circumstance. She was cheerful, positive and thankful. She assured my dad that she had lived a full life, full of love. She expressed her heart-felt anticipation in meeting-up with those who she will join in her next journey. I feel I missed out not knowing more about my dad's little sister, my Aunt Mavis. ❤️



PS: I told her it wasn't fair that I have more wrinkles than her! She giggled ❤️

Carol Lynn Campbell Stagge - March 03, 2021 at 02:02 PM



“ *Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant was purchased for the family of Mavis Campbell Madsen Dodson.*



March 03, 2021 at 02:02 PM



“ *Tender Tribute was purchased for the family of Mavis Campbell Madsen Dodson.*



March 03, 2021 at 12:54 PM