



Doris Biscoe

September 30, 1946 - June 7, 2024

ANNOUNCEMENT

Doris Biscoe died of natural causes at the age of 77 at her home in Maryland on June 7, 2024.

LIFESTORY

Doris was born in Washington, D.C., and grew up with loving parents, Joseph Gregory and Corrie Faye (Hagood) Biscoe, and a brother, Lionel. She grew up with a strong Christian faith that never wavered. Her faith and compassion were part of her winning formula, dredging her to a lifetime of community work as a volunteer and advocate for causes affecting the underprivileged and underserved.

She moved to Detroit in her 20s, married and divorced, and was the proud mother to two children, Anthony and Melissa. She engrained herself in the Detroit community in every way.

Although Doris was born in and began her career in Washington, D.C., it was in Detroit that she became a legendary newscaster. Despite her celebrity status, Doris always remained humble and grounded. She felt everyone had a valuable story to tell, and she connected with everyone she met no matter their level of finance, culture, age, or origin. Although she often mingled with dignitaries and was known as a lady of fashion, she was truly just at home

with friends and family.

Her happy place that she escaped to over the years was Hilton Head Island, SC. She loved the ocean and could stare at it for hours. She had family ties to the state.

Only after retirement did she move back to her hometown of Washington DC, where she remained active in the community and was loved by all who knew her.

Doris died peacefully of natural causes at home in Maryland on June 7, 2024.

CAREER

Doris touched countless lives through her work in media and unwavering dedication to the community. She also broke the glass ceiling on many fronts, including becoming the first black female model to grace the pages of The Washington Post and the first black female disc jockey in Washington, DC (WGAY-FM, Silver Spring, MD).

She began a prestigious modeling career while attending Howard University (BA, Communications). She worked with The Washington Post, appeared in local radio and television commercials, and toured the national auto show for Pontiac.

Her introduction into the news was as Host of "Black News," a weekly public affairs TV show (WTTG-TV Washington DC). Next, she made her renowned move, joining the WXYZ-Channel 7- Detroit ACTION NEWS team in February 1973, where she shined in the community and on air for a record-making 27 years (1973-2000).

While at WXYZ and as a Feature Reporter for WGPR-FM 107.5, Detroit's first

black-owned FM radio station whose call letters were often referred to as Where God's Presence Radiates, Doris quickly became a symbol of pride for Detroit and the State of Michigan, plus a glowing role model for girls of all races. Her passion, grace, and journalistic integrity led to countless honors and awards throughout her career, including the Mayor's Award of Merit, Detroit City Council's Distinguished Service Award, the SE Michigan March of Dimes Foundation's Humanitarian of the Year Award in 1987, and American Women in Radio and Television's (AWRT) honorary "Outstanding Woman in News" in 1980. Her efforts to enhance the quality of life in Michigan were visible daily and recognized regularly.

Beginning at WXYZ as its second black female reporter (following Ann Eskridge) and only Night Reporter, she quickly kicked off her legacy in 1974 with the documentary, "Breast Surgery Rebirth or Betrayal", which received a Detroit AFTRA Golden Mike Award, a Detroit Emmy Award, and in its running for a National Emmy garnered a National Finalist Honorarium for Community Service.

From there, she went from budding reporter to major anchor in just a few short years, regularly hitting No. 1 ratings in everything she did. In 1976, she landed the role of Weekend Anchor, cohosting with Don Lark and later Ven Marshall. In 1979, she was promoted to 6 p.m. Weeknight Anchor with Jac LeGoff, replacing John Kelly, who moved full-time to "Kelly & Co." Rich Fisher later joined as her Co-Host.

During this time, Doris created many award-winning features and specials that made their way into the hearts of Detroiters and Americans and made a difference in countless lives. In 1981, she began her weekly Tuesday night "Gift of Love" segment featuring a local child available for adoption, which won an Honor from the Child Welfare League of America in 1982. In 1983, she

won a Broadcast Media Award and the Detroit Press Club Foundation Award for her Alzheimer's Disease documentary. In 1986, her Close-Up Report "Rosa Parks/Return to Montgomery" garnered three awards: First Place Award from the Detroit Press Club, a special juried award from the San Francisco International Film Festival, and a National Commendation Award from American Women in Radio and Television (AWRT). In 1987, as part of the ABC network campaign against illiteracy, the 30-part half-hour series "Learn to Read" launched with national syndication to 90 stations. "Learn to Read" received a certificate of recognition in 1987 from the International Film and TV Festival of New York. That same year, Doris produced the "Illiteracy" documentary for which she won an Emmy Award for Best Talent News.

During this time of flourish, Doris added to her workload by pivoting to the cinema through a small role as a news anchor in "The Rosary Murders." She became a solo Anchor for WXYZ's new weekday "Action News Midday" (Rob Kress, weatherman). This was a critical time when WXYZ broke away from its network programming restrictions and began original programming, entering into direct competition with WDIV and WJBK. The primary "Midday" audience of stay-at-home women gravitated to Doris's natural charisma, and she anchored both "Midday" and "6 pm" until July 1986, when she returned to "6 pm News". In 1995, Doris began co-anchoring "Channel 7 Action News This Morning" with Erik Smith, which she continued until she departed from WXYZ in 2000.

In 1998, Doris became President of a successful media training company in Clarkston, MI, Doris Biscoe Communications. Her priceless coaching clients included the United Autoworkers Union (UAW), Wayne County Airport Authority, and Health Alliance Plan (HAP). She also led media training for dozens of influential Michigan leaders, proudly ensuring all her work served the City of Detroit and the great State of Michigan. Doris retired in 2012.

FAMILY

Doris is survived by her brother Lionel Biscoe & wife Deborah (Bobbitt) (Maryland), and her niece Kristina (Maryland); her son Anthony Bailey and her grandchildren Addison and Carson (Nevada); her daughter Melissa (Bailey) Hawry & husband Liam Hawry, and her grandchildren Miles and Linden (Illinois).

Doris was preceded in death by her father, Joseph Gregory Biscoe (1969), and mother, Corrie Faye (Hagood) Biscoe (1996).

MEMORIAL

Visitation and Funeral will occur at Marshall-March Funeral Homes—Prince George's County, 4308 Suitland Rd, Suitland, MD 20746. Visitation will be Friday, June 14th, from 5-7 p.m. Funeral will be Saturday, June 15th, at 11 a.m. Private burial proceedings will immediately follow.

A Celebration of Life is being planned and will be held in Detroit at a later date. Details will be released as they are known.

CLOSING

Doris's faith, optimism, quick-witted humor, integrity, and love for everyone were contagious. She was an agent of change who sought to inspire others. An easy yet delible way to honor Doris is by reflecting on your life and legacy and perhaps adopting one or more traits that help change the world.

Cemetery Details

Heritage Memorial Cemetery

13472 Poplar Hill Rd
Waldorf, MD 20601

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 14. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Marshall-March Funeral Homes - Prince George's County
4308 Suitland Road
Suitland, MD 20746
(301) 736-1616
info@marchfh.com
<https://www.marshallmarchfh.com>

Service

JUN 15. 11:00 AM (ET)

Marshall-March Funeral Homes - Prince George's County
4308 Suitland Road
Suitland, MD 20746
(301) 736-1616
info@marchfh.com
<https://www.marshallmarchfh.com>

Tribute Wall



“ *View and Download the Funeral Program*

Marshall-March Funeral Homes - June 17, 2024 at 04:51 PM



“ *Marshall-March Funeral Homes created a Webcast in memory of Doris Biscoe*



Marshall-March Funeral Homes - June 11, 2024 at 04:37 PM



Remember you well from the news with Bill Bonds. You two and Cronkite were the news. So engaging, so comforting. Regardless of the gravity of your story, we would come to accept it as you did and be comforted that we would get through it. Thank you for being an inspiration to so many. Your good heart did make my home Detroit a better place.

Steven Decker - July 22, 2024 at 04:55 AM

DM

Doris and I(also Doris) were among the first black women on television and the radio. I worked for WJR Radio. We reconnected 40 years later in Maryland. Doris was a legend in Detroit. She was an excellent journalist and a caring one, too. I was so proud of her. We shared many a meal and lots of laughs when she moved to Maryland. She celebrated the Christmas holiday at my home one year. Doris, I'm so sorry you passed. I will see you again in Heaven because of our mutual love for Jesus Christ!

Doris McMillon - August 20, 2024 at 06:08 PM

CR

“ I'll never forgot how kind you were to me and mother at a Detroit Zoo Senior Citizens Day. You were more beautiful in real life than on the television.

Christine Rockwell - April 10 at 02:43 PM

LA

“ Farewell Doris. I always liked you. I remember when you were pregnant. My condolences to your family.

Laura - April 15, 2025 at 06:26 PM

DB

“ David M Burnham lit a candle in memory of Doris Biscoe



David M Burnham - October 04, 2024 at 01:53 AM

DM

“ Doris and I anchored the news together in Detroit. She was on television and I was on the radio. We were among the first black women to have on-air careers in the media in Detroit. Forty years later we reconnected. She joined my former church. We enjoyed great meals together (she could cook). We celebrated birthdays together. But now she's gone. At least I know I will see her again in Heaven. Melissa, if you read this, please call me. I'd be grateful.
Doris McMillon

Doris McMillon - August 20, 2024 at 05:43 PM

SM

“ I grew up in Detroit watching Doris Biscoe on channel 7.
I don't know what it was, but her generation of female newscaster were excellent. Doris, you delivered the news in a way, that I can still remember.
You will be missed - Detroit loves you.



Suzu from Sterling Heights, MI - June 18, 2024 at 09:28 AM

LM

“ Linda M. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Doris Biscoe.

Linda M. - June 15, 2024 at 02:22 PM

JA

“ To my dear cousin,
We shared so many wonderful memories growing up. You came to visit us as a child and finally made Detroit your home as an adult.
We supported each other in both good and bad times. I am blessed that you were part of my life.
Your loving cousin,
Curtis

John Curtis Anderson - June 15, 2024 at 08:36 AM

TW

“ I grew up in Detroit watching Doris Biscoe on Channel 7 News. She was classy elegant lady who delivered the news in a stellar professional manner. My family enjoyed watching her. Ms. Biscoe was indeed an excellent role model.



To her children, grandchildren, brother and sister-in-law and nieces and nephews, you're resting in my thoughts and prayers. It is at this time when beginning the journey of grief that you need shoulders, quiet whispers of your name before the throne of God, and the quiet of the healing presence of the Lord. May peace like a river attend your way, and may the God of all comfort, comfort you in a most tangible way.

Blessings,
Tanya M. Word

Tanya Maria Word - June 15, 2024 at 12:21 AM

TF

“ The Jackson Family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Doris Biscoe.



The Jackson Family - June 14, 2024 at 04:16 PM

LF

“ LOVE, Edward Hanna & Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Doris Biscoe.

LOVE, Edward Hanna & Family - June 14, 2024 at 03:37 PM

LF

“ LOVE, Edward Hanna & Family purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Doris Biscoe.



LOVE, Edward Hanna & Family - June 14, 2024 at 03:37 PM

WJ

“ My sincere condolences to Anthony, Melissa, their immediate and extended families.

William (Bill) Jones - June 14, 2024 at 11:03 AM

MA

“ She had a lovely demeanor when reporting. She appeared genuine, not fake. God bless her.

ms alden - June 14, 2024 at 06:24 AM

LF

“ Love, Ken and Jackie Hagood & family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Doris Biscoe.



Love, Ken and Jackie Hagood & family - June 13, 2024 at 10:47 PM

MQ

“ Doris – thank you for sharing a part of your life and a part of your career with this intern when I was at channel 7 in Detroit. Your kindness, warmth, love, humor, and overall gracious attitude will always be close to my heart. Praise the Lord Jesus Christ, as your soul is hugged by God. M.Q.

Michael Quinn - June 13, 2024 at 06:32 PM

MP

“ She was so beautiful and gracious! Prayers for her family.

Margaret Preston - June 13, 2024 at 04:19 PM

TF

“ The Pina-Hagood Family purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Doris Biscoe.



The Pina-Hagood Family - June 13, 2024 at 07:57 AM

TF

“ The Pina-Hagood Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Doris Biscoe.

The Pina-Hagood Family - June 13, 2024 at 07:57 AM

SF

“ Steve & Breitfeld Family purchased the Your Light Shines for the family of Doris Biscoe.



Steve & Breitfeld Family - June 12, 2024 at 11:43 AM

TO

“ I met Doris twice first at the Alzheimer’s chocolate jubilee and then at a function for a mutual friend and she remembered me. What an incredible woman she was. Detroit has lost an icon RIP sweet Doris

Tona - June 12, 2024 at 08:06 AM

CS

“ Carl & Gloria Statham purchased the Beautiful Dreams for the family of Doris Biscoe.



Carl & Gloria Statham - June 11, 2024 at 07:32 PM



“ We the March Family and Marshall-March Staff wish to extend our deepest and heartfelt sympathy in the passing of your loved one. Our prayers go out to you and your family in your time of loss. We know and understand that you have received many expressions of love and we will continue to lift you up in prayer. May the memories you cherish of brighter and happier days help to ease your sorrow and comfort you always.

Marshall-March Funeral Homes - June 11, 2024 at 04:11 PM

RD

I met Doris Biscoe several times in Detroit at a friend of hers party. She was very charming and elegant. She will be missed. My sincere condolences to her family.

Robbie Dargin - June 14, 2024 at 01:03 PM

CS

Certainly Doris Biscoe was one of Detroit's finest news anchors of all times - brilliant, stunning, well dressed, articulate, caring, and professional. A wonderful role model for those in communication, especially to minority women. Long live the memory of this great woman.

C M SCOTT - June 14, 2024 at 02:05 PM