



## Mrs. Melba Hill Kabrich Foster

October 27, 1928 - February 18, 2020

Melba Hill Kabrich Foster, 91, of Lithia, Florida, born on October 27, 1928, entered into eternal rest on February 18, 2020. Melba was born on Welcome Road across the street from Welcome Baptist Church. The family had a Delco Motor for electricity. Her dad ran a wire across the road to furnish lights for the church. This was the beginning of a strong connection to Welcome Church.

Melba started school at the one room Welcome School. In third grade, she along with her classmates moved to Pinecrest School. Melba graduated from Pinecrest in 1945. Along with Ann Allen and Marceline Broughton, she moved to Mulberry to work at Badcock's Furniture office. While still in Mulberry, she began working for the railroad. During her tenure with the railroad, she took advantage of her travel benefits and took a vacation trip to New York and Washington, DC. From Mulberry, she took a job in the railroad freight office in Sarasota. There she met Harry Kabrich, also a railroad employee who in her words, "stole my heart."

Harry and Melba were married and moved to Tampa from Sarasota. They went to church at Seminole Heights Baptist Church with Harry's family. Steve and Linda were born while living in the house near Lowry Park. The family then moved to a larger home because the one-bedroom house was getting a little tight. Harry Lee was born in 1960. In 1962, Melba and her family returned to Welcome Road.

After Harry Lee started to school, Melba went back to work at Pinecrest School. She had several jobs, library aide, classroom aide, and finally as a clerk in the Elementary School office. She loved that in her job she regularly saw and spent time with children as well as a wonderful community dedicated to educating children. While working at Pinecrest, she was one of the members of the "DTG's". A group of women that called themselves either the "Dead Tired Group, or the Dog-Tired Group." They may have been tired, but they sure seemed to have a lot of fun when they were together.

In 1981, after 30 years of marriage, Harry passed away and Melba was alone for several years. In 1988, Melba married Frank Foster. With this marriage she became a member of the much larger Foster Family. She retired from Pinecrest and was able to travel as she and Harry had planned. She made several trips to the West Coast and many trips to Missouri to visit Frank's children and grandchildren. Frank built a house in Houston, Missouri, so that they could spend more time there, particularly during football season.

Melba was preceded in death by her husbands, Harry Lee Kabrich, Sr., and Franklin D. Foster. She is survived by her children, Steven Kabrich (Marilyn) of Plant City, Linda Kabrich Evans (Tim) of Livermore, California, and Harry Lee Kabrich Jr. (Rhonda) of Lithia; grandchildren, Yvonne Scott (Troy), Jennifer Calkins (David), Nicholas Evans, Laura Lee Evans, Kyle Kabrich (Kellie), Courtney Kabrich Davis (Michael), and Cody Kabrich (Katie); great-grandchildren, Maegan, Chris (Cassie), Ashley, Alyssa, Amanda, Bryson and Wyatt; and many other family and friends. A funeral service will be held on Monday, February 24 at 11:00 A.M. at Welcome Baptist Church, 11308 Welcome Church Street, Lithia 33547, where the family will receive friends beginning at 10:00 A.M. Graveside committal to follow at Welcome Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Welcome Baptist Church and/or LifePath Hospice at [chaptershealth.org/give/donate/](http://chaptershealth.org/give/donate/).

Expressions of condolence at [HopewellFuneral.com](http://HopewellFuneral.com).

# Cemetery Details

## Welcome Cemetery

2437 Welcome Road  
Lithia, FL

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB 24. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Welcome Baptist Church  
11308 Welcome Church Street  
Lithia, FL

## Celebration of Life

FEB 24. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Welcome Baptist Church  
11308 Welcome Church Street  
Lithia, FL

# Tribute Wall



“ Hopewell Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Mrs. Melba Hill Kabrich Foster



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**Hopewell Funeral Home** - February 20, 2020 at 01:12 PM

JM

“ Jason Mattair lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Melba Hill Kabrich Foster



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**Jason Mattair** - February 28, 2020 at 03:07 AM

JM

“ Jason Mattair lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Melba Hill Kabrich Foster



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**Jason Mattair** - February 28, 2020 at 03:07 AM

JM

“ Jason Mattair sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Melba Hill Kabrich Foster



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Jason Mattair - February 28, 2020 at 03:07 AM

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“ Aunt Melba was always welcoming with a smile and a hug. I can remember being in Pinecrest and being able to give her a hug in the office and having one of the teachers refer to my brother and I as "Melba's Twins". She will be greatly missed, prayers and love from Donna and I.

Love,  
Tommy and Donna Holland

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Thomas Holland - February 22, 2020 at 10:06 AM

LE

“ 13 files added to the album Life Tributes



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Linda Evans - February 21, 2020 at 05:23 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mrs. Melba Hill Kabrich Foster.*



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February 21, 2020 at 11:56 AM



“ *Larry K Summers purchased the Large Basket Garden for the family of Mrs. Melba Hill Kabrich Foster.*



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**Larry K Summers** - February 21, 2020 at 04:48 AM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Mrs. Melba Hill Kabrich Foster.*



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February 20, 2020 at 03:12 PM



“ *The memories that I have of the Tuesday evening Beauty shop crew! I loved all the ladies that came to have my Mom (Sylvia) do their hair. I loved your Mom and her witty quips she could throw out to these women. Loads of laughter, friendship, Love and Fun was shared during those nights. Linda I will be praying for comfort and peace to you the the guys. Denise Watts Seckel*

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**Denise Seckel** - February 20, 2020 at 02:43 PM



“ 53 files added to the album LifeTributes



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**Hopewell Funeral Home** - February 20, 2020 at 01:14 PM



“ Aunt Melba (really a cousin) will always have a place in our hearts. She will be missed. My heartfelt condolences go out to the family.



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**SandraShirley Waldron** - February 20, 2020 at 12:19 PM