

[View/Sign Guest Book](#)

## MINA JO POWELL

Mina Jo Powell Family, friends and the Seminole nation can now unite to celebrate the life of Mina Jo Powell, who passed away peacefully at her home in Tallahassee on Tuesday evening. A memorial service for Ms. Powell will be held this Saturday, September 12 at 10 a.m. EDT at the Beth Moor Lounge in the Longmire Alumni Building on Convocation Way on the FSU campus. This building is adjacent to the Mina Jo Powell Alumni Green, which in 1990 was named honoring her lifelong service and generosity to Florida State University. Additional parking will be on Call Street in the Beckham lot across from the Music lot and next to the Hecht House. Mina Jo, born April 11, 1928, in Gainesville, was the daughter of Josie Mae Roberts and Caleb Allen Powell, Sr. Her father built Powell's Modern Cottages in Gainesville, and all of his children would later enter the hotel business. Mina Jo started at the Florida State College for Women in 1946 and graduated in the Class of 1950. She later was awarded a Master of Arts degree in Social Work from FSU in 1963. Mina Jo was a charter member of the Pi Alpha Sigma honorary society. For many years Mina Jo and her sister, Esther were co-owners and operators of the Holiday Inn in Thomasville. During this time the hotel began hosting the Seminole football team before its home games in Tallahassee. Mina Jo was a past President of the Thomasville Restaurant & Lodging Association, and was named by Governor George Busbee to the Board of Industry and Trade for the State of Georgia. Mina Jo founded the Southwest Georgia Seminole Club in Thomasville, and she was one of the original Golden Chiefs. She was the first woman to serve on the Board of Directors of Seminole Boosters, a post she held from 1974 to 1984. Mina Jo's generosity to FSU has included gifts to endow the Mina Jo Powell Presidential Scholarship Fund and to help establish the FSU College of Medicine. Mina Jo is survived by her younger sister, Esther Safford (Gainesville Ga.); and by her younger brother, Maxey Powell (Thomasville); her older brother, Caleb Allen Powell, Jr. passed away in 2004. She is survived by nieces, Theresa Bright (Bonifay), Debby Wheeler (Thomasville), and Leah McKay (Atlanta); and also by nephews, Raymond and David Powell (both of Thomasville) and Robert Powell (Gainesville Fla.). In lieu of flowers the family asks for donations to support the work of Big Bend Hospice.

Published in the Tallahassee Democrat on 9/10/2009

[Today's Tallahassee Democrat death notices](#)

Questions about death notices or Guest Books?

[Contact Legacy.com](#)

Powered by **Legacy.com**

[obituaries nationwide](#)

[Back](#)