

## Give me my flowers while I yet live

Written by Robert McClain  
Monday, 22 April 2013 14:16

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A number of people gathered on Saturday, April 13th, at the Kellogg Square Residences-Boulevard Room to recognize one of St. Paul's African-American business pioneers, Mary Fletcher, and to celebrate her 80th birthday with a surprise party. Fletcher was the sole owner operator of Selby Avenue's Tom Thumb Superette, once located at 1025 Selby Avenue, for over thirty years, and remains a strong advocate of African-American economic development through business ownership. The love and appreciation gathering was attended by many people who were frequent patrons, friends and well-wishers of this great matriarch, who provided many years of service and goodwill to the Summit-University community.

This surprise celebration was an effort organized by Fletcher's children to provide an opportunity for the community to bestow upon her symbolic flowers through their expressions of love, appreciation and recognition of her impact on the lives of individuals and the community in general. Fletcher provides some of these individuals, as young men and women, with their first job at her Tom Thumb Superette. Many now in their forties, fifties and sixties came to reminisce about the good, the testing, and the fun times they had working for her. If anyone would give you a chance, Mary Fletcher would!

Mary Fletcher no longer resides in St. Paul, the town she loves so much, but will be here visiting

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for a few months. She was certainly surprised and overjoyed with emotions while experiencing this beautiful outpouring of love by those in attendance.

Please accept the family's apology if anyone was overlooked in the process of figuring out whom to issue invitations, due to outdated contact information.