



## Mrs. Bessie Ruth Mays

March 22, 1936 - September 30, 2023

MAYS, Mrs. Bessie Ruth - Age 87 passed away Saturday, September 30, 2023, at Kith Haven. Family hour 10:00 AM Monday, October 9, 2023, at Southeast Christian Church, 4171 Lapeer Rd, with funeral service commencing at 11:00 AM. Interment Flint Memorial Park Cemetery, G-9506 N. Dort Hwy., Mt. Morris, MI. Friends and pallbearers will assemble at the church 10:00 AM Monday. Mrs. Mays will lie in state in the Chapel of Lawrence E. Moon Funeral Home, 906 W. Flint Park Blvd., and may be viewed from 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM Sunday. Mother Bessie Ruth Mays was born in Bossier City, Louisiana, on March 22, 1936. On September 30th, 2023, she transitioned from this life to rest in the arms of Jesus. Her family will remember her as a woman who loved cooking. To her family, holiday meals were a manifestation of love. Her love for cooking was extended to the community and even to the church. Mother Mays valued hard work; she was one of the first black women to move her family from a place of struggle to a home in a predominately white neighborhood. This translated to a better school district, a better way of life, and greater resources. As a homeowner for the first time, she often worked three jobs. Maintaining several streams of revenue became an intermittent pattern throughout her life. Ironically, cooking was an integral part of this pattern. Whether selling chicken dinners to her co-workers or opening a candy store in the back of her daughter's home; she was an industrious woman. Known to many as "Miss Bessie, Mama, and Mother Mays," she served in both the Eliezer Church and Refuge Temple Church of Our Lord

Jesus Christ for a combined total of 45 years. In the world of work, punctuality was her trademark. Mother Mays worked for Chevrolet Truck and Bus, a division of General Motors Corporation, holding many job titles in her 21 years of service, including line inspector. She was a member of UAW #598. Mother Bessie Ruth Mays leaves to cherish her memory: her brother, Lewis (Lois) Bell, Jr.; daughters, Jacquelyn (Huda) Townsend, Wonda Bearyman, and Jasmine Myles; honorary daughters, Deb Odom, NaRotha Ogden, Janice Jones, and Nancy Voilette; grandchildren, Kim Armstrong, Rendell (Unika) Odom, Roderick (Mandi) Odom, LaTasha Wilson, Alicia Bearyman, Adam (Cymone ) Bearyman, Leslie Price, Shakera (Osai) Robinson, Angielic Reed, Sarai McDonald, MarQues Ogden-Colston, Timothy House, and Timothy Harris, Jr.; great-grandchildren, Deonica Jackson, Alaysia Gatewood, Le'Asiah Odom, Dwanye R.L. Odom, Kaeli Stocker, La'Aundra Reign Archie, Teriyonna Armstrong, Kevin Jr. and Kameron Nash, Andre Armstrong, Cheyanne Bearyman, Karsyn Bearyman, Kyrah Bearyman, Adam Bearyman Jr., Aubree Bearyman, Zuri Robinson, Osai Robinson Jr., Lailah Reed and Aubryelle Wilson; great-great-grandchildren, Rylee Martin and Joh'Kae Hanson; a host of nieces including special niece, Candace Myles, a host of nephews; a host of cousins including special cousins, Gloria (Bobby) Jean Davis; Bobby Wong; John, Farron, and Stacey Hall; and Gordon (Linda) Hamilton; a host of other relatives and friends. Mother Mays was preceded in death by her husband, Dudley Mays, and husband Wallace Myles; her parents, Lewis "L.C" and Lillie Bell; her sisters, Lula Bell Daniel, Christine Bell Maxie; and Mary Ann Bell Hall. Her children, Gordon Myles and Terri (Kevin) Armstrong; grandson, Andre' Myles; and granddaughter, Tiffany Myles. The family would like to thank Mother Mays' Primary Care Physician for more than 40 years, Dr. S. Vermuri.

# Cemetery Details

## Flint Memorial Park Cemetery

G-9506 N. Dort Hwy.  
Mt. Morris, MI 48458

# Previous Events

## Public Viewing

OCT 8. 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Lawrence E. Moon Funeral Home Chapel, Flint  
906 W. Flint Park Blvd.  
Flint, MI 48505  
(810) 789-MOON (6666)  
lemoonfhflint@gmail.com  
<http://www.lawrenceemoonfuneralhome.com>

## Family hour

OCT 9. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Southeast Christian Church  
4171 Lapeer Rd.  
Burton, MI 48509

## Service

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OCT 9. 11:00 AM (ET)

Southeast Christian Church  
4171 Lapeer Rd.  
Burton, MI 48509

# Tribute Wall

AC

“ *Antionette Cook lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Bessie Ruth Mays*



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**Antionette Cook** - October 11, 2023 at 01:02 PM

AT

“ *Areillian Taylor lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Bessie Ruth Mays*



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**Areillian Taylor** - October 10, 2023 at 12:56 AM

SD

“ *Shelby Davis lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Bessie Ruth Mays*



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**Shelby Davis** - October 09, 2023 at 11:54 AM



“ *Mrs. Bessie Ruth Mays*

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October 09, 2023 at 07:02 AM

DB

“ Darline Baker sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Bessie Ruth Mays



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**Darline Baker** - October 08, 2023 at 08:13 PM

AS

“ Aileen Spence sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Bessie Ruth Mays



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**Aileen Spence** - October 08, 2023 at 02:10 PM

KN

*im going to ms her she was a good grandma*

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**kj nash** - February 09, 2024 at 02:16 PM

AS

“ Aileen Spence sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Bessie Ruth Mays



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**Aileen Spence** - October 08, 2023 at 02:10 PM

AS

“ *Aileen Spence lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Bessie Ruth Mays*



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**Aileen Spence** - October 08, 2023 at 02:09 PM

MW

“ *Monique Williams sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Bessie Ruth Mays*



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**Monique Williams** - October 08, 2023 at 07:44 AM

BG

“ *Barbara Graham sent a virtual gift in memory of Bessie Mays*



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**Barbara Graham** - October 07, 2023 at 08:24 AM

LP

“ *Linda Prewitt lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Bessie Ruth Mays*



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**Linda Prewitt** - October 06, 2023 at 11:52 AM

YC

“ Your Univ of MI OAMI Colleagues purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Mrs. Bessie Ruth Mays.



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Your Univ of MI OAMI Colleagues - October 06, 2023 at 09:58 AM

YC

“ Your Univ of MI OAMI Colleagues planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mrs. Bessie Ruth Mays.

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Your Univ of MI OAMI Colleagues - October 06, 2023 at 09:58 AM

NO

“ NaRotha Ogden lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Bessie Ruth Mays



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NaRotha Ogden - October 05, 2023 at 11:16 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mrs. Bessie Ruth Mays.



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October 05, 2023 at 11:24 AM

DD

“ *Dani Dye lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Bessie Ruth Mays*



**Dani Dye** - October 04, 2023 at 06:16 PM

TS

*Mrs. Mays will be missed. My Prayers to Kim and Family*

**Tanya Sanders** - October 05, 2023 at 02:53 PM

SC

“ *Sister Paulette Clemons lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Bessie Ruth Mays*



**Sister Paulette Clemons** - October 04, 2023 at 04:50 PM

KC

“ *I am so sorry to hear about Bessie. She has been a member of Krapohl Senior Center since 2008. She loved her Bingo! She always had a smile on her face. My thoughts and prayers to the family.*

**Karen Reid, Krapohl Senior Center** - October 04, 2023 at 10:31 AM

SB

“ Sorry for the loss of Mrs Bessie Mays, we worked together and her husband for many years, a beautiful kind spirited lady, the family have my prayers, my condolences.



Shirley Blassingame - October 03, 2023 at 03:56 PM

DC

“ Deborah Carter lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Betsy Mays



Deborah Carter - October 03, 2023 at 12:50 PM

GP

“ Gloria Proby lit a candle in memory of Bessie Mays



Gloria Proby - October 02, 2023 at 05:22 PM

DH

“ Sending our love, prayers and condolences to the family of Mother Bessie Mays.



Deacon James and Mother Carolyn Hudson - October 01, 2023 at 10:06 PM

NO

“ *NaRotha Ogden lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Bessie Ruth Mays*



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**NaRotha Ogden** - October 01, 2023 at 03:30 PM