



## Mrs. Lennie Belle Straham

March 4, 1926 - December 11, 2023

STRAHAM, Mrs. Lennie - Age 97, passed away Monday, December 11, 2023, at her residence. Family hour 10:00 AM Tuesday, December 19, 2023, at Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church, G-5443 N. Saginaw St., with funeral service commencing at 11:00 AM. Interment River Rest Cemetery, G-4413 Flushing Rd. Friends and pallbearers will assemble at the Church 10:00 AM Tuesday. Mrs. Straham will lie in state in the Chapel of Lawrence E. Moon Funeral Home, 906 W. Flint Park Blvd., and may be viewed from 12:00 PM-6:00 PM Monday with family present from 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM to receive to friends. Mrs. Lennie Belle Carter Straham was born in Muldrow, Oklahoma on March 4, 1926, to her parents Johnnie and Leona (Starr) Carter Sr. Lennie's siblings are Lawrel, Ray, Bessie Mae, Johnnie Jr., Flossie Lee, Sadie Aretha, Samuel Houston, and Carl Edward. Lennie took great pride in her heritage her mother was a Cherokee Indian. They were farmers who owned their own land, 160 acres of land in Oklahoma in the "1920's". Her family grew and prospered despite the treatment of Black people. The family raised cotton, corn, cattle, and hogs. During Lennie's childhood she attended school in a one room building that housed the church and the school. Lennie had many fond memories of days spent walking to the Shady Grove school, along with her siblings. Upon accepting Christ early in life, she joined the Shady Grove Baptist Church. As the years passed, Lennie's childhood friend, Johnnie Straham became her sweetheart. She married Johnnie and they remained lifetime partners (59 years) until Johnnie's passing in 2000. The couple moved

to Flint on June 7th, 1943, where they promptly joined Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church on Hickory St under the leadership of Rev. Ira Watkins. Lennie met lifelong friends Alma Jordan and Tinnie Smith and their treasured friendship spanned many decades. Lennie remained a member until her passing. Lennie was devoted to study of God's word, she was a faithful member of the Sunday School class#4, and morning Bible Study under Pastor Alfred Harris Sr. She was an active member of the Floral Club, and she began a lifetime of dedication to the beautification of Macedonia. She was known for her "Pulpit" decorating. She made corsages, wedding bouquets and floral arrangements for many special occasions. During the later years, Lennie's husband joined his wife in church landscaping and decorating.

Lennie was strong in her Christian faith. She was a loving, caring, kind, and one of the most generous people who could ever meet. During the war Lennie started her career at AC Sparkplug a division of General Motors, where she started working on the line making sparkplugs for airplanes. During her years at GM, she trained and taught herself how to read blueprints. She retired in 1987 after working at GM for 47 years. She enthusiastically retired as a Special Investigator in the Quality Control Dept a position she was proud to achieve. The Strahams' were proud members of the Pingree and McAvoy St Block Clubs.

Her lifelong passion was her "Yard and Flowers". Lennie won many awards and accolades for landscaping; her yard was featured in the Flint Journal. Along with her friend and business partner Marva Dukes they were highly regarded for decorating wedding and anniversary parties in specular fashion. Through the years, numerous social events were held in her yard. Lennie and Johnnie hosted '4' weddings and '4' open houses, all featuring her beloved "Gazebo" built by her husband and family friend Dewitt Randall which was a showstopper. They hosted a "neighborhood" block party for their grandson. The turnout from the neighborhood was tremendous. It was the "talk" on the block for years. She loved plants and outdoor life, combine these two great loves with being a natural hostess and you had Lennie Belle. Lennie belonged

to the “Red Hat” club and hosted several large parties for the Flint Chapter in her home. Lennie’s love for ‘Hats’, fashion, and style started as child at 6 years old. She always had a sense of style and coordinating her outfits from head to toe. She would say “you’re not completely dressed unless you are wearing a hat, and that went for men and women”. She believed in dressing up always fashionable and gracious. Back in the day she was known for being a “Church Lady” wearing her big hats and looking like a “Million Dollars” always a lady of class, grace, elegance, and love. Lennie’s grandchildren were her pride and joy, they were spoiled and had an enduring, loving bond and relationship. At the holidays she would make a chocolate silk pie for each of them because they refused to share. When her grandson Kyle graduated from medical school from the University of Michigan – Ann Arbor following in the footsteps of her brother Dr. Samuel H. Carter, it was truly one of the proudest days of her life. Kyle served as Class President and spoke during graduation ceremony, she made sure that everyone sitting around her knew that was her grandson. And from that day on he was no longer Kyle, he was Dr. Taylor. Mrs. Lennie Belle Straham is survived by: 2 Brothers - Drs. Samuel H. (Barbara) Carter of Las Vegas, NV and Carl Edward (Dorothy) Carter of Los Angeles, CA; sister-in-law, Cassina Carter of Flint; children, Emma (Raymond) Clemons of Swartz Creek, MI, and Anthanette Taylor of Flint; grandchildren, Donyale (Omar) Sims of Grand Blanc, MI, Dayna Clemons of Flint, Dr. Kyle L. Taylor of Madison, WI and Terrance Clemons of Savannah, GA; grand pup, Jazz Bailey Sims of Grand Blanc, MI; and great-granddaughter, Tara (Isaiah) Johnson of Silver Spring, MD; a host of special nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives and friends including special friends, Marva Dukes, Barbara Allmon, Edith Confer, Dee Oliver and Karen Tillage; and god-children, Deacon Arden (Gloria) Relerford and Fannie Barfield. Mrs. Straham was preceded in death by her husband, Johnnie Straham; parents,; Johnnie and Leona (Starr) Carter Sr.; siblings, Lawrel, Ray, Bessie Mae, Johnnie Jr., Flossie Lee and Sadie Aretha; and lifelong friends, Roscoe and

Earnestine Parks, Tinnie Smith and Alma Jordan.

# Cemetery Details

## River Rest Cemetery

G-4413 Flushing Rd.  
Flint, MI 48504

# Previous Events

## Public Viewing

DEC 18. 12:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

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

## Family hour

DEC 19. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church  
G-5443 N. Saginaw Street  
Flint, MI 48505

## Funeral Service

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DEC 19. 11:00 AM (ET)

Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church  
G-5443 N. Saginaw Street  
Flint, MI 48505

# Tribute Wall

MH

“ *MS. HILL-SYKES lit a candle in memory of Lennie Straham*



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**MS. RENEE HILL-SYKES** - December 30, 2023 at 09:23 AM

SM

“ *Sharon Mixon lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Lennie Belle Straham*



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**Sharon Mixon** - December 27, 2023 at 06:44 PM

GA

“ *My condolence to the Stratham Family May the comfort from the Holy Spirit hold you tight Mrs. Straham was a Beautiful Person always spoke nice words to lift my Spirit remembering coming to her Home as her Nephew (Tyrone) maintain her yard work she had a way to get your attention and it was stern. Take your rest you were a Flower to many will miss you mightily...*



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**Gloria Blacksure (San Antonio)** - December 23, 2023 at 12:56 PM

MB

“ We send our heartfelt prayers of comfort to all my Strahams family as we celebrate the life of "Aunt" Lennie Belle Straham's life full of love for all! She completed her life cycle and now resting in the bosom of God our father and creator all. Missionary Mary Toles Brice Muskogee Oklahoma

Mary Toles Brice - December 19, 2023 at 01:25 PM

EB

“ Sending prayers to the entire family today. Mrs. Straham was a sweet and beautiful woman. Love to you all.

Ellen Balentine - December 19, 2023 at 09:15 AM

GD

“ Praying for the family.



Greg & Cynthia Davis - December 19, 2023 at 08:18 AM

JB

“ Our Prayers for Comfort and Strength for the Straham Family may they uplift you at this time. She was a Beautiful lady and she will truly be missed.  
Betty Bell & Family



Jennifer Ballard - December 19, 2023 at 06:45 AM

MS

“ Our condolences to the Straham family.  
We will continue to keep the family in  
our PRAYERS.

*Benny & Mae Vern Spence  
April Harris  
Katina & Monty Jr.*

*Marietta GA.*



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**Mae Vern Spence** - December 19, 2023 at 12:19 AM

KT

“ Keith & Yvonne Taylor



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**Keith & Yvonne Taylor** - December 18, 2023 at 12:42 PM

CN

“ Cynthia Straham-Tolbert, niece purchased the Cr  
ystal Cross Bouquet for the family of Mrs. Lennie  
Belle Straham.



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**Cynthia Straham-Tolbert, niece** - December 18, 2023 at 11:37 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mrs. Lennie Belle Straham.



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December 18, 2023 at 09:08 AM



“ Melvin Gentry and Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mrs. Lennie Belle Straham.

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**Melvin Gentry and Family** - December 18, 2023 at 09:08 AM



“ Debra LaCour sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Lennie Belle Straham



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**Debra LaCour** - December 18, 2023 at 07:04 AM



“ Those we hold in our hearts, never truly leave us. They live on in the kindnesses, comfort, and love they brought into our lives. Beyond this time of sadness, lies the comfort of grace. Sending prayers and love during this difficult time. We love you Lennie.

*Drs. Samuel and Barbara Carter Family*

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**Drs. Samuel and Barbara Carter** - December 17, 2023 at 11:17 PM

GA

“ Sending my prayers and condolences in the loss of your loved one 🙏



glenda alexander - December 17, 2023 at 10:09 PM



“ Joyful Memory was purchased for the family of Mrs. Lennie Belle Straham.



December 17, 2023 at 09:30 PM

EP

“ Evelyn Pitts sent a virtual gift in memory of Lennie Straham



Evelyn Pitts - December 17, 2023 at 02:21 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mrs. Lennie Belle Straham.



December 17, 2023 at 12:04 PM

YC

“ *Yolonda Cross lit a candle in memory of Lennie Straham*



**Yolonda Cross** - December 17, 2023 at 10:44 AM

UG

“ *Ulyses Nichelle Grant lit a candle in memory of Lennie Straham*



**Ulyses and Nichelle Grant** - December 16, 2023 at 11:23 PM

J(

“ *James Sharon Owensby (Arizona) lit a candle in memory of Lennie Straham*



**James & Sharon Owensby (Arizona)** - December 16, 2023 at 05:35 PM

WA

“ *Wendell & Maggie Anderson purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Mrs. Lennie Belle Straham.*



**Wendell & Maggie Anderson** - December 16, 2023 at 02:03 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mrs. Lennie Belle Straham.



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December 16, 2023 at 04:05 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Mrs. Lennie Belle Straham.

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December 16, 2023 at 04:05 AM



“ The Tillage Family, lit a candle in memory of Mrs Lennie Belle Straham



*Mrs. Straham was a longtime friend and neighbor to our family. Whether we were borrowing a cup of sugar or taking a walk around her beautiful yard, we always will treasure her genuine love , kindness and laughter. Our memories of her will live forever in our hearts. We are keeping the family in our prayers.*

*The Tillage Family*

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**Karen Tillage** - December 15, 2023 at 05:11 PM

RC

“ *Rahsheem J Covington lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Lennie Belle Straham*



Rahsheem J Covington - December 15, 2023 at 04:33 PM

MW

“ *Mamie Wiggins lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Lennie Belle Straham*



Mamie Wiggins - December 14, 2023 at 09:23 PM

KW

“ *K. Wilson lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Lennie Belle Straham*



K. Wilson - December 14, 2023 at 09:02 PM

EO

“ *Aunt Lennie thank you for the memories.* ❤️



Elaine “Lannie” Owens - December 14, 2023 at 07:33 PM

LR

“ *Lavonda Rimmer lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Lennie Belle Straham*



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**Lavonda Rimmer** - December 14, 2023 at 03:15 PM

BF

“ *Benton/Parks Families lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Lennie Belle Straham*



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**Benton/Parks Families** - December 14, 2023 at 02:05 PM

AH

“ *Annie Mae Holland lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Lennie Belle Straham*



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**Annie Mae Holland** - December 14, 2023 at 02:04 PM

PP

“ *Pat Parks-Deason lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Lennie Belle Straham*



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**Pat Parks-Deason** - December 14, 2023 at 02:02 PM



“ *Frances Palmer sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Lennie Belle Straham*



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**Frances Palmer** - December 14, 2023 at 10:51 AM



“ *Frances Palmer lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Lennie Belle Straham*



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**Frances Palmer** - December 14, 2023 at 10:51 AM

DF

“ *Our sincere condolences to the entire family. What a blessing to have lived 97 years. May the peace of God fill your hearts and His arms comfort you all through it all.*



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**Driskell Family** - December 14, 2023 at 09:32 AM

MT

“ *Precious memories and sincere condolences to Emma, Anthanette, and my nephew Kyle. Mrs. Straham will be missed. Rev. Dr. Meriann Taylor*



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**Meriann Taylor** - December 14, 2023 at 12:34 AM

BT

“ *Beatrice Taylor lit a candle in memory of Lennie Straham*



Beatrice Taylor - December 14, 2023 at 12:32 AM

SL

“ *Sandr Lewis lit a candle in memory of Lennie Straham*



Sandr Lewis - December 13, 2023 at 10:18 PM

PW

“ *Pam Williams lit a candle in memory of Lennie Straham*



Pam Williams - December 13, 2023 at 09:01 PM

PW

“ *Pam Williams lit a candle in memory of Lennie Straham*



Pam Williams - December 13, 2023 at 09:00 PM

GT

“ As Mrs Straham makes her transition to her heavenly home may your families God continue to comfort strengthen and bless you..My mother, Alma Jordan, and our family adored Mrs Straham..She'll always have a special place in my heart and I will always cherish her memory

**Gloria Thompson** - December 13, 2023 at 07:41 PM

WH

“ Wanda Harrison lit a candle in memory of Lennie Straham



**Wanda Harrison** - December 13, 2023 at 05:48 PM

BH

“ My Aunt Lennie Bell was a kind, generous and and loving person. I remember how she liked this picture at family day at church... always with a smile and in our hearts. Bobbie Houshiar



**Bobbie Houshiar** - December 13, 2023 at 03:27 PM

TJ

“ Tanya Jefferson sent a virtual gift in memory of Lennie Straham



Tanya Jefferson - December 13, 2023 at 12:05 PM

EO

“ Aunt Lennie I'm gonna miss you when I come to Flint, you are the first person I would want to see when I got there, you will always hold a place in my heart. When you look up the word phenomenal your name is right there. Love you . ❤️



Elaine “Lannie” Owens - December 13, 2023 at 11:45 AM

DT

“ The loss of a parent and especially a mother is a profound experience of the heart, mind, soul and body. I'm praying for Anthenette and the entire Straham during this sacred time & season. That they may find a peace that passes ALL understanding and comfort of all of the “fruits of the spirit”. Anthenette has been a rock for her mom, who was blessed to live a full life. May the memories of the good times comfort you today! Anthenette and I played together BEFORE we started Kindergarten; when our moms would go to the hairdresser in someone's home back then! I have fond memories of my lifelong friend & the life we were afforded growing up in Flint when it functioned as one big family! God bless you and keep you! ❤️🙏❤️

Debra Taylor - December 13, 2023 at 11:19 AM

CJ

*Although Mrs. Straham often had that stern stare about her face, she had the kindest and sweetest spirit. To the family we are praying that God's loving arms will be with you during your periods of grieving. Be thankful for her long life and if you are in the body of Christ you will see her again. Be blessed.*

Cherie R. Johnson - December 13, 2023 at 12:45 PM

MM

“ Mary McGee sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Lennie Belle Straham



Mary McGee - December 13, 2023 at 09:58 AM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Mrs. Lennie Belle Straham.



December 13, 2023 at 09:50 AM

JW

“ James Wesley sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Lennie Belle Straham



James Wesley - December 13, 2023 at 09:15 AM

JM

“ *Janice Moore-Womack lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Lennie Belle Straham*



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**Janice Moore-Womack** - December 13, 2023 at 07:29 AM

CT

“ *Cleo Thompson sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Lennie Belle Straham*



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**Cleo Thompson** - December 12, 2023 at 10:47 PM

FM

“ *Farrow Malone sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Lennie Belle Straham*



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**Farrow Malone** - December 12, 2023 at 10:07 PM

JM

“ *Jerdine Malone lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Lennie Belle Straham*



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**Jerdine Malone** - December 12, 2023 at 10:05 PM

OC

“ Aunt Lennie was truly one of a kind. She will always be loved and missed. Thoughts and Prayers 💔



ORA CARTER - December 12, 2023 at 08:54 PM

CH

“ Praying for your entire family!

Carol Hill - December 12, 2023 at 07:21 PM

RU

“ Sorry for your family's loss

Ronald C Urquhart - December 12, 2023 at 04:10 PM

MP

“ Mrs. Carmen Patterson lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Lennie Belle Straham



Mrs. Carmen Patterson - December 12, 2023 at 10:57 AM

TL

“ Terry Lynn Love lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Lennie Belle Straham



Terry Lynn Love - December 12, 2023 at 10:33 AM

BS

“ May God comfort and strengthen the family. Mrs. Straham was a beautiful child of the king who will definitely be missed @ Macedonia, her presence while here will always be present there. I send my condolences and offer up my prayers.

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**Benita Smith** - December 12, 2023 at 09:45 AM

PL

*Praise God for the blessing to have Mrs. Lenny Strand in my life, watching her BNA Strong, Christian, loving mother, grandmother, sister, friend, and member of the Macedonia Baptist church family watching her can too her flowers making everything beautiful was her charm. Anette Aunt Emma Uncle Raymond, Donyale, Dana, and Master Kyle were the Jewels in her crown.....God Bless the Rest of the CARTER and STRAHAM FAMILY*

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**Patricia Lockett** - December 14, 2023 at 06:34 AM