



Mrs. Martha Sykes

April 21, 1928 - July 9, 2020

SYKES, Mrs. Martha - Age - 92, passed away Thursday, July 9, 2020 in San Antonio, TX. Family hour 1:30 PM Wednesday, July 22, 2020 from the Chapel of Lawrence E. Moon Funeral Home, 906 W. Flint Park Blvd., with funeral service commencing at 2:00 PM. Interment Flint Memorial Park Cemetery, G-9506 N. Dort Hwy., Mt. Morris, MI. Mrs. Sykes will lie in state in the Chapel of Lawrence E. Moon Funeral Home and may be viewed from 1:00 PM - 6:00 PM Tuesday with family present from 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM. Martha Hairston Sykes entered this world on April 21, 1928. She was the second of seven children, three daughters and four sons, born to Dallas and Ella Mae Hairston. She came of age in Crawford Mississippi, learning how to navigate the subtleties of the Jim Crow era with her own Southern brew of humility, tenacity and pride. At an early age, Martha found herself in Christ and accepted Jesus as her personal Savior. She was baptized at Charity Missionary Baptist Church in Crawford, Mississippi. As a child and into her final years, Martha maintained an immense amount of awe and respect for her parents, especially her mother who was one of the few literate blacks in town. She recounted with pride stories from her childhood of her mother teaching other adults and children in the community how to read.

On December 20, 1947, Martha married her lifetime companion, George Sykes, and soon gave birth to three sons, George Jr., J.B. and Mack Quinton. In 1953, George and Martha left an oppressive and tumultuous Mississippi and joined the Great Migration of African Americans moving from the South to

the north and west parts of the country. Pulled to Michigan during the economic expansion of the auto industry, they settled in Flint with their three young sons and over the next few years, added two more sons, Clifton and Larry, to their family. Martha, also known as “Tudda” to those who knew her from Mississippi, was devoted to her family. Her sensible and social nature transformed everywhere she was into home. In Flint, she remained the heart of family functions, and her presence, alongside her cooking was always the main ingredient. Her effortlessly scrumptious Southern dishes and desserts remain unmatched. A warm and inviting host, Martha’s definition of family extended to all those she met. If you had any “Hairston blood” or acquaintance you were kin, and she had a responsibility to take care of you. She united with Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church in 1957 and continued her Christian walk for more than 60 years. As a Senior Usher, she was a fixture at Macedonia and could be seen bustling to greet and keep up with old friends, family and newcomers in her simple, yet tastefully elaborate church hat. She filled the choir stands – and her kitchen – with her soft soprano singalongs of gospel hymns. Despite her gentle demeanor, Martha was a stern mother providing strict guidance to her five boys. For decades, her home has remained a safe house and sanctuary for generations of her children and grandchildren. In her final years, she took pride in the clarity of her mind and memory, often recounting very specific stories of her childhood and the 67 years she spent with her life partner, George Sykes, Sr. She looked forward to her Saturday night rituals of rolling her hair and doing her nails in preparation for attending church on Sunday, and the few, but cherished opportunities she had to taste the original Southern delicacies that sent her mind traveling back to Michigan, to Mississippi and to the friends and family she hosted for so many strong years. Martha Hairston Sykes completed her circle of life in this world at Las Colinas of Westover Skill Nursing Facility on July 9, 2020 at the age of 92, in San Antonio, Texas with her son George, his wife Rethon and their family. Today, she dons her earthly crown and lifts her soft soprano triumphantly in the house prepared for her by her Heavenly Father. Martha

Hairston Sykes will live on through her four sons, George Jr. (Rethon) of San Antonio, Texas, J.B. (Sheri), Cliffton (Barbara) and Larry (Kimberlee). all of Flint, Michigan; her sister Ella Mae Bransford of Flint, Michigan; Martha's extended family of three sister-in-law's Hattie Hairston of Flint, Michigan, Mary L. Sykes, of Indianapolis, Indiana, and Willie Bell Sykes of Brooksville, Mississippi; eighteen grandchildren; fifty-five great-grandchildren; forty-nine great-great-grandchildren; a host of nieces and nephews; numerous cousins and many friends will also cherish their days spent with her. Martha was preceded in death by her husband, George Sykes Sr.; son, Mack Q. Sykes; parents Dallas and Ella Mae Hairston; sister, Mollie Hairston; and brothers, Dallis, Sam, John, and Robert Hairston. The family expresses special thanks to Karen Johnson, Tamyra Richard, Sharena Richard, Brenda Peters, Dr. Tahira P. Alves and the DaVita Dialysis family for their undying devotion to providing medical care for Martha.

Cemetery Details

Flint Memorial Park Cemetery

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

Previous Events

Public Viewing

JUL 21. 1:00 PM - 6:00 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

JUL 22. 1:30 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Lawrence E. Moon Funeral Home Chapel, Flint
906 W. Flint Park Blvd.
Flint, MI 48505
(810) 789-MOON (6666)
lemoonfhflint@gmail.com
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Service

JUL **22**. 2:00 PM (ET)

Lawrence E. Moon Funeral Home Chapel, Flint
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Tribute Wall



“ *Mrs. Martha Sykes*

October 09, 2023 at 07:02 AM



“ *Earnestine William's Burnrtt*

Earnestine William's Burnett - November 13, 2020 at 11:46 AM



“ *Earnestine William's Burnett lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Martha Sykes*



Earnestine William's Burnett - November 13, 2020 at 11:45 AM



“ *Tracy Hairston lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Martha Sykes*



Tracy Hairston - July 24, 2020 at 02:06 PM

JA

“ I am so sorry to hear of the loss of Aunt Martha, she will be greatly missed. I am praying for her Family you have my Sincere condolences.



Jeanette AnthonyWiley - July 23, 2020 at 11:36 AM

TC

“ Tenda Cotton-Shipp lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Martha Sykes



Tenda Cotton-Shipp - July 23, 2020 at 04:16 AM

DS

“ Debora Stitt lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Martha Sykes



Debora Stitt - July 22, 2020 at 05:41 PM

TF

“ The English Family lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Martha Sykes



The English Family - July 22, 2020 at 04:31 PM

J(

“ James & Sharon Owensby (Arizona) lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Martha Sykes



James & Sharon Owensby (Arizona) - July 22, 2020 at 04:29 PM

KP

“ Kelly & Chris Palmrose lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Martha Sykes



Kelly & Chris Palmrose - July 22, 2020 at 02:27 PM

CT

“ Mother Sykes was a beautiful soul. I will miss her smile. My condolences to this family; you are in our prayers. To George and Rethon, thank you for sharing your mother with us. Praying your strength and comfort.

Cassie Williams, San Antonio, TX - July 22, 2020 at 01:53 PM

ET

“ Elder Larry & Lady Frances Terrell lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Martha Sykes



Elder Larry & Lady Frances Terrell - July 22, 2020 at 01:44 PM

MM

“ *Myron & Michele Monroe lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Martha Sykes*



Myron & Michele Monroe - July 22, 2020 at 01:09 PM

VG

“ *Condolence to Martha family she was always so kind and full of life she will be missed*

virginia bullock gray - July 22, 2020 at 12:40 PM

JS

“ *Condolences and Love to my Sykes family. After a visit to Aunt Martha in San Antonio, I decided to write her a comment on something she said during our conversation. Concerning the Sykes Men and Uncle George in particular, she said, "I got the good one". I reflected on that and responded, Aunt Martha, " There is no good one when it comes to Sykes men. You got a Sykes and YOU made him better, perhaps even good."*

That is what Aunt Martha did for everyone she met. I know that first hand. You lived well Aunt Martha and we will strive to live out those good habits and things you shared with us.

Leonard Joe Daily Sykes

Joe Sykes - July 22, 2020 at 11:26 AM

LJ

“ Lydia James lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Martha Sykes



Lydia James - July 22, 2020 at 10:30 AM



“ MY DEEPEST CONDOLENCES TO YOU AND ENTIRE SYKES FAMILY. DEATH LEAVESA HEARTACHE NO ONE CAN HEAL, LOVE LEAVES A MEMORY NO ONE CAN STEAL, PRAYING FOR COMFORT AND STRENGTH FROM THE LORD. AMEN



Johanna Houston - July 22, 2020 at 08:25 AM

SS

“ Mother inlaw you will be truly missed love you Your Daughter in-law Sheri



Sheri Sykes - July 21, 2020 at 07:58 PM

BF

“ We are sending our love and prayers to the sykes family



Billings Family - July 21, 2020 at 07:56 PM

BM

“ Beverly Murphy lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Martha Sykes



Beverly Murphy - July 21, 2020 at 02:25 PM

BM

“ To the Sykes Family, may the love of God and the gift of time bring comfort and healing through the loss you're feeling now. Her precious memories will endure forever. You have my prayers today and in the days ahead. I love you all.

Cousin Beverly(Monroe) and Ronald Murphy

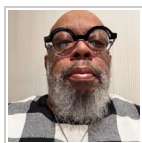
Beverly Murphy - July 21, 2020 at 02:15 PM

RW

“ Rudy And Geneva Ward lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Martha Sykes



Rudy and Geneva Ward - July 21, 2020 at 11:53 AM



“ A Jeffrey LaValley lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Martha Sykes



A Jeffrey LaValley - July 21, 2020 at 09:46 AM

TM

“ *Theresa McQuiddy lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Martha Sykes*



Theresa McQuiddy - July 21, 2020 at 06:23 AM

YT

“ *Yvonne E Taylor lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Martha Sykes*



Yvonne E Taylor - July 20, 2020 at 07:52 PM

RH

“ *My Condolences, Love and Prayers to the Entire Sykes Family. Mother Sykes was a Beautiful Woman Inside And Out. She Was Loved By So Many People. She Will Most Definitely Be Missed But Never Ever Forgotten. I Love You All George, JB, Cliff, and Larry Stay Strong Hold On To Faith, Trust And Belief. She's Alright, And Smiling Down At Her Boys R.P.I.H MARTHA SYKES* 🕊️🙏🏻🙌🏻💖



Ruthi Hill - July 20, 2020 at 07:36 PM

VG

“ *Vivian Green-Moore lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Martha Sykes*



Vivian Green-Moore - July 20, 2020 at 05:44 PM

MS

Mr. & Mrs. Timothy & Althea Steward would like to send our Condolences for the lost of your Loved one ,May God give you the Comfort you will need.

Mrs.Althea Steward - July 21, 2020 at 10:30 AM

TC

Deacon George and Sis. Re, our condolences on the loss of your Mother and Mother-In-Law. May God comfort and keep you in the days ahead and may his loving presence bring you peace, In Jesus Name, NCCF NW, Faith Alive Sunday School Class.

Trenda Cotton-Shipp - July 23, 2020 at 04:30 AM

PG

“ *Pamela Gibson lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Martha Sykes*



Pamela Gibson - July 20, 2020 at 03:48 PM

GM

“ *GLORIA MOSES-COLEN lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Martha Sykes*



GLORIA MOSES-COLEN - July 20, 2020 at 02:21 PM

BP

“ *Brenda Peters lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Martha Sykes*



Brenda Peters - July 20, 2020 at 02:06 PM

LO

“ *Linda Odneal lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Martha Sykes*



Linda Odneal - July 20, 2020 at 01:09 PM

HG

“ *Mrs. Sykes had a lovely smile, calming presence, and Christian demeanor that made her an exceptional woman. We worshipped with her for many years at Macedonia. Praying for her family.*

Henry and Gwendolyn Gaines - July 20, 2020 at 12:26 PM

SH

“ *Shelby lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Martha Sykes*



Shelby - July 20, 2020 at 11:53 AM

JW

“ *Jacqueline Woodard lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Martha Sykes*



Jacqueline Woodard - July 20, 2020 at 10:30 AM

LY

“ *Lydia, Rhonda, Brenda lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Martha Sykes*



Lydia, Rhonda, Brenda - July 20, 2020 at 09:26 AM

EE

“ *Elder Edgar & Rhonda Frank lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Martha Sykes*



Elder Edgar & Rhonda Frank - July 20, 2020 at 09:24 AM

YC

“ Yolonda Cross lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Martha Sykes



Yolonda Cross - July 20, 2020 at 09:18 AM

D"

“ Duane Gibson "OPB" lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Martha Sykes



Duane Gibson "OPB" - July 20, 2020 at 09:05 AM

CB

“ CheeYl Barber sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Martha Sykes



CheeYl Barber - July 20, 2020 at 04:01 AM

MH

“ Marsha Hill lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Martha Sykes



Marsha Hill - July 20, 2020 at 03:49 AM

MA

“ Margaret Anderson sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Martha Sykes



Margaret Anderson - July 20, 2020 at 03:48 AM

SR

“ Sis Marsha Hill RN lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Martha Sykes



Sis Marsha Hill RN - July 20, 2020 at 03:48 AM

CC

“ My prayers and condolences to the entire Sykes family.



Charlene Causey - July 20, 2020 at 12:59 AM

SR

“ Grandma you was the best thing God gave me. Words cant describe how such a great woman you were. You taught us so much and always wanted the best for us all. I thank God for giving me precious moments with u. You're truly missed. Your grandchildren was the beat to your heart.Love your Great Granddaughter Sharena Richard 🥰🙏💜👩



Sharena Richard - July 20, 2020 at 12:34 AM

LB

“ *Lois Bell lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Martha Sykes*



Lois Bell - July 19, 2020 at 11:27 PM

MA

“ *So sorry for your loss! Our prayers are that God will Strengthen you all during this time.*
❤️❤️❤️



Mary - July 19, 2020 at 10:48 PM

DS

“ *Deacon Theodis Smith lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Martha Sykes*



Deacon Theodis Smith - July 19, 2020 at 10:08 PM

TB

“ *Tommie (Johnson) Beverly lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Martha Sykes*



Tommie (Johnson) Beverly - July 19, 2020 at 09:03 PM

TH

“ *Theresa Harrison lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Martha Sykes*



theresa harrison - July 19, 2020 at 08:04 PM

AC

“ *Annie Coburn lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Martha Sykes*



Annie Coburn - July 19, 2020 at 07:22 PM

BT

“ *My condolences to the family. Mrs. Beatrice Taylor*



Beatrice Taylor - July 19, 2020 at 05:53 PM

MC

“ *Condolences to the Sykes family. I know Mrs. Sykes will be missed. Cherish the memories. Meriann Taylor Campbell*



Meriann Taylor Campbell - July 19, 2020 at 05:52 PM

DS

“ Deidre Spight-Woodson sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Martha Sykes



Deidre Spight-Woodson - July 19, 2020 at 04:10 PM

CM

“ Carolyn McClendon lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Martha Sykes



Carolyn McClendon - July 19, 2020 at 02:43 PM

MB

“ Mary Brady lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Martha Sykes



Mary Brady - July 19, 2020 at 02:41 PM

WS

“ My condolences to the family your loving sister in-law Willie Bell Sykes I will truly miss you.



willie bell sykes - July 19, 2020 at 02:41 PM

MT

“ *Mary Brady, Missouri City TX lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Martha Sykes*



Mary Brady, Missouri City TX - July 19, 2020 at 02:40 PM

LA

“ *My condolences to the family Linda Adamsbrooks*



Linda Adamsbrooks - July 19, 2020 at 02:20 PM

SC

“ *Sheila Collins lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Martha Sykes*



sheila collins - July 19, 2020 at 12:59 PM

GB

“ *Sweet Lady very kind indeed.
Condolences to the Family
May God give peace in the midst of sorrow.
Lifting you in prayer...*



Gloria Blacksure - July 19, 2020 at 12:30 PM

DR

“ *Damita Richard lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Martha Sykes*



damita richard - July 19, 2020 at 12:28 PM

DH

“ *LOVE Y'ALL QUINTON SYKES GRANNY
DIANE HARPER MOBILE ALABAMA*



DIANE HARPER - July 19, 2020 at 12:25 PM

KH

“ *Mrs. Sykes May you rest Peacefully ,you were a true ANGEL on earth so I know your gonna be an AMAZING ANGEL in Heaven ,So Tammy , Cheryl , Tamyra , Quez, Nukki and the rest of the grans just know , y'all have an BEAUTIFUL ANGEL watching over y'all , love you all so much, and you all are in my prayers* 💜💜💜



Kesha H - July 19, 2020 at 12:14 PM

DT

“ *Debby Taylor lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Martha Sykes*



Debby Taylor - July 19, 2020 at 11:46 AM

DS

“ *Deborah Smith lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Martha Sykes*



Deborah Smith - July 19, 2020 at 11:03 AM

KJ

“ *Karen Johnson lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Martha Sykes*



Karen Johnson - July 19, 2020 at 10:21 AM

RP

“ *REV PJACKSON sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Martha Sykes*



REV PJACKSON - July 19, 2020 at 09:18 AM

PA

“ *Pamela lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Martha Sykes*



Pamela - July 19, 2020 at 12:14 AM



“ *Wanda Baker sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Martha Sykes*



Wanda Baker - July 18, 2020 at 09:51 PM



“ *Barbara Sykes lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Martha Sykes*



Barbara Sykes - July 18, 2020 at 08:10 PM



“ *My mother inlaw Martha Sykes I will forever miss you the bond and love we had for each other will always be cherished and never forgotten but one day we will all be together,so rest on in the arms of Jesus, it's not goodbye but see you later!*

Barbara Sykes - July 18, 2020 at 08:09 PM

CA

Such Love

Carolyn Allen - July 19, 2020 at 08:37 AM

MW

“ *Mary & Diane Williams lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Martha Sykes*



Mary & Diane Williams - July 18, 2020 at 04:39 PM

LT

“ *Larry Tubb lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Martha Sykes*



Larry Tubb - July 18, 2020 at 03:55 PM

RS

“ *Momma I would like to give love and honor to you.. We talked and I TRULY listened...I rest assured knowing you and daddy are reunited..... I thank God for having in-laws that treated me life your own... I love and miss you beyond words... Fly High Momma... Give daddy my kiss on his forehead... RIP. ❤️❤️❤️❤️❤️❤️❤️❤️*



RENEE (HILL) SYKES - July 18, 2020 at 03:13 PM

SS

Praying for you and your family AND you all have my deepest condolences Sheila Sanders

Sheila Sanders - July 19, 2020 at 04:34 PM

AC

George and Rethon, you have our deepest sympathy. May the precious memories you carry in your heart help you through this very challenging and difficult time. Our prayers and blessings are with you.
Curtis & Aretha Cunningham

Aretha Cunningham - July 20, 2020 at 07:08 PM

RS

Thank you for your prayers.. God bless you.

RENEE (HILL) SYKES - July 20, 2020 at 07:49 PM

IG

To the entire Sykes family, my deepest condolences. I had the pleasure of getting to know Mother Sykes as she resided here in San Antonio, Tx with her son, Deacon George Sykes and his lovely wife Ree. I can say that she had great joy in coming to church and interacting with our members at the New Creation Christian Fellowship Northwest Campus. I would always make a point to touch her and see her smile that sweet smile that would always shine brightly in her eyes. As we continue to love on and support the Sykes family here in San Antonio, I pray that God will surround each of you with earthly Angels to walk with you through this season. God is faithful and sure, and Mother Martha is now resting in his presence. May you find great joy in your precious memories, and great peace in your faith in God. Elder Irma Gunnels.

Irma Gunnels - July 22, 2020 at 03:51 PM