



## Mrs. Rose Lena Byrd

January 29, 1940 - June 16, 2015

BYRD, Mrs. Rose Lena - Age 75, passed away Tuesday, June 16, 2015 at University of Michigan Health System - Ann Arbor, MI. Family hour 10 a.m. Tuesday, June 23, 2015 at House of Prayer Missionary Baptist Church, 1851 W. Carpenter Rd., with funeral service commencing at 11 a.m. Pastor Kenneth L. Stewart officiating. Interment River Rest Cemetery, G-4413 Flushing Rd. Friends and pallbearers will assemble at the church 10 a.m. Tuesday. Mrs. Byrd will lie in state in the Chapel of Lawrence E. Moon Funeral Home, 906 W. Flint Park Blvd., and may be viewed from 12 p.m. - 8 p.m. Monday.

Mrs. Rose Lena Byrd was born on January 29, 1940 to Celia and Alfred Mayfield in Boynton, Oklahoma. Upon the death of her mother at a young age, Rose went to Haskell, Oklahoma to live with her grandparents Ollie "Buela" and Johnny Prince. After graduating from Booker T. Washington High School, she moved to Flint, Michigan to live with her father and step-mother Juanita. There she married Joe Byrd and with their union, were born eight children. During the early 60's and 70's, Rose assisted with training her husband Joe as he prepared for professional matches. This assistance compelled Rose to become more active in boxing when it was not popular for women to coach and/or work the corner of boxers. Rose went against the norm and became a licensed boxing coach. It is believed that she was the second licensed female boxing coach in the nation and first in the State of Michigan. Rose worked City, Regional, State and National tournaments. She served as team manager

for the 1986 Region V U.S. Boxing Federation Tournament, traveling to Lake Placid, New York.

Rose assisted her husband Joe when her five sons and daughter turned professional. She worked the corner for her daughter Tracy who became two-time world boxing champion.

Rose worked the corner for her youngest son Chris when he won the World Boxing Organization Championship (WBO) in Germany, and the International Boxing Federation World Championship (IBF) in Atlantic City. It was during one of her son's boxing outings that Rose and her husband Joe accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior!

Through boxing, Rose has traveled extensively. She served as former secretary for the National Coaches Committee and the Michigan Amateur Boxing Association. She was a member of the Michigan Association Registration Committee and prior to becoming ill, served as coach and secretary at the Joe Boxing Academy. Rose and her husband Joe were role models to not only their own children but hundreds of youth throughout the City, State and Nation.

Upon being inducted into the Greater Flint Afro-American Hall of Fame (GFAAHF) for Community Service in 1997 and the GFAAHF in 2000 as Coach, Rose said that her connection with the sport of boxing began even before she and her husband met. It began with her grandfather who would listen to Joe Louis on the radio. She never dreamed of having a family full of boxers and athletes. Rose has been there for her family mentally, physically and spiritually throughout their days.

Throughout her life Rose was very instrumental in her children's lives as a constant presence at their athletic events. She was a woman of wise counsel

to the youth at Hamady High School, where her children attended school or at the Joe Byrd Boxing Academy where she was assistant coach with her husband Joe.

Mrs. Rose Byrd leaves to cherish her wonderful memories: husband Joe, eight children: Joe Jr., Timmy (Linda); Laurie, Kay, Tracy, Patrick, and Chris (Tracy), all of Flint; 10 grandchildren: Stephen (Leah), Jordan, Nicholas, Justin, Ka'shonda, Lanae, Sydney, Cameron, Andre and Kennedy; and 1 great-grandchild, Omari; her only living maternal aunt Ollie Hughes; two brothers: Donnie and Larry Mayfield; a host of nephews, nieces, relatives, and friends.

Mrs. Byrd is preceded in death by her parents, Alfred and Juanita Mayfield and her mother Celia; brother Alfred Jr., and grandson, Kyle Kelly.

# Cemetery Details

## River Rest Cemetery

G-4413 Flushing Rd.  
Flint, MI 48504

# Previous Events

## Public Viewing

JUN **22**. 12:00 PM - 8:00 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

JUN **23**. 10:00 AM (ET)

House of Prayer Missionary Baptist Church  
1851 W. Carpenter Rd.  
Flint, MI

## Service

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JUN **23**. 11:00 AM (ET)

House of Prayer Missionary Baptist Church  
1851 W. Carpenter Rd.  
Flint, MI

# Tribute Wall



“ *Mrs. Rose Lena Byrd*

October 09, 2023 at 07:02 AM



“ *Loria Corder sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Rose Lena Byrd*



**Loria Corder** - June 23, 2015 at 09:14 PM



“ *Barbara Graham sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Rose Lena Byrd*



**Barbara Graham** - June 23, 2015 at 10:14 AM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Mrs. Rose Lena Byrd.*



June 23, 2015 at 01:22 AM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Mrs. Rose Lena Byrd.*



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June 22, 2015 at 09:59 PM



“ *Dear Joe and Family: It's been many years since I was Tim's teacher at King School. I remember Joe and Rose ALWAYS being present for Parent-Teacher conferences. As a young teacher I always appreciated your support. I also respected all the support and guidance you provided many young people in the neighborhood. You made a huge difference in their lives. I send you and your family my prayers and condolences and pray that God will comfort you. Sincerely, Jack Wagner, King School 1970-73*

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**Jack Wagner** - June 22, 2015 at 05:00 PM



“ *Garden of Serenity Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mrs. Rose Lena Byrd.*



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June 22, 2015 at 01:27 PM

PM

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with the family.

*The Old Beaches Basketball Team (Long Beach, CA.) and Rosa Wong (Glendale, CA.)*



Penny Moore - June 22, 2015 at 12:36 PM

PG

“ Pasadena Senior Women's Basketball Group purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Mrs. Rose Lena Byrd.



Pasadena Senior Women's Basketball Group - June 22, 2015 at 01:09 AM

PF

“ Penny Moore and the White Family purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Mrs. Rose Lena Byrd.



Penny Moore and the White Family - June 21, 2015 at 09:59 PM

LM

“ Louise Jones, Athleen Novak, Linda Moakes and Coach Marbut purchased the California Healthy for the family of Mrs. Rose Lena Byrd.



Louise Jones, Athleen Novak, Linda Moakes and Coach Marbut - June 21, 2015 at 09:26 PM



“ To the entire Byrd family I send my condolences in the loss of your wife, mother, sister, auntie. Mrs. Byrd was a sweet and caring lady that I met through playng in the Flint Pal leagues under her husband Joe Byrd. May God comfort your hearts with all the precious memories she left behind.



*Shawnee Foster*

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**Shawn Foster** - June 21, 2015 at 12:32 PM



“ *Elsie Smith lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Rose Lena Byrd*



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**Elsie Smith** - June 20, 2015 at 10:38 AM



“ *Blooming Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Mrs. Rose Lena Byrd.*



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June 19, 2015 at 09:14 PM

TM

“ *Tammy Moore lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Rose Lena Byrd*



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**Tammy Moore** - June 19, 2015 at 05:27 PM

JW

“ *Janice Williams lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Rose Lena Byrd*



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**Janice Williams** - June 19, 2015 at 04:59 PM

SJ

“ *To THE BYRD FAMILY:  
You have my deepest condolence @ this most difficult time.  
Know that MY PRAYERS are with you & for you!!!*



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**Sharon Jackson** - June 19, 2015 at 04:02 PM



“ *A Devoted Heart Casket Insert was purchased for the family of Mrs. Rose Lena Byrd.*



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June 19, 2015 at 08:59 AM

LM

“ Whenever I saw you, It was all about love....We will miss you Aunt Rose!



Latrice Mayfield - June 19, 2015 at 08:37 AM

CG

“ Carol Gardner lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Rose Lena Byrd



Carol Gardner - June 18, 2015 at 10:59 PM

EV

“ To Mr Byrd and Family. I'm so sorry to hear of the passing of Mrs Byrd. She was such a sweet Lady with a kind spirit. Know that you and your family are in my prayers and thoughts. May God comfort and give you the strength you need at this difficult time.

*Elaine Wells Vaughn and Family*

Elaine Wells Vaughn - June 18, 2015 at 05:08 PM

EV

“ Elaine Wells Vaughn sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Rose Lena Byrd



Elaine Wells Vaughn - June 18, 2015 at 05:01 PM

AW

“ *Annette Woodley lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Rose Lena Byrd*



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**Annette Woodley** - June 18, 2015 at 04:40 PM

AS

“ *Sending our sincere condolences! Your family is in our prayers!*

*Andrea & Armondo Solid*

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**Andrea Solid** - June 18, 2015 at 01:07 PM

PM

“ *In memory of Mrs. Rose Byrd. Our prayers are with the family.*



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**Penny Moore** - June 18, 2015 at 12:39 PM

JH

“ *JOHANNA ANDERSON HOUSTON lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Rose Lena Byrd*



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**JOHANNA ANDERSON HOUSTON** - June 17, 2015 at 08:20 PM

JH

*TO UNCLE JOE AND FAMILY, OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHIES ARE WITH YOU DURING THIS DIFFICULT TIME. TRY TO REMEMBER THE LITTLE THINGS, THE SHARED SMILES, THE WARM HUGS, THE LAUGHTER. THE PAIN MIGHT SEEM UNBEARABLE NOW,BUT IN TIME,IT IS THESE MEMORIES THAT WILL WIN THROUGH AND YOU WILL FND HAPPINESS AGAIN.OUR THOUGHTS ARE WITH YOU. TO GOD BE THE GLORY. LOVE YOU ALL. THE ANDERSONHOUSTONFAMILY.*

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**JOHANNA ANDERSON HOUSTON** - June 17, 2015 at 08:27 PM

CR

*Our Deepest Sympathy go out to you and your family Tracy! Our Prayers are with you! Love you! From Trina Robinson and Moms*

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**Catrina Robinson** - June 18, 2015 at 07:24 PM

EB

*To Tracy & the entire Byrd's family, may GOD comfort your heart. For he careth for u. Love Evg Sallie Brooks*

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**Evg Sallie Brooks** - June 23, 2015 at 09:26 AM

DH

*Joean and family. It has been many years since we have last seen any of you. We send our deepest sympathy and pray for deep peace for all of you. Rosie was an amazing woman in every role she participated in. Delphine Herman and Mark Danko*

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**Delphine Herman** - June 26, 2015 at 09:59 PM