



## Mrs. Ruth Gates

March 20, 1930 - March 12, 2026

GATES, Mrs. Ruth - Age 95, passed away Thursday, March 12, 2026 at her residence. Family hour 10:30 AM Friday, March 20, 2026, at New Jerusalem Full Gospel Baptist Church, 1035 E. Carpenter Rd., with funeral service commencing at 11:00 AM. Elder Veodis Jones, officiating. Pastor Alfred J. Harris II, Host Pastor. Interment River Rest Cemetery, 4413 Flushing Rd, Flint, MI. Friends and pallbearers will assemble at the church 10:30 AM Friday. Mrs. Gates 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, with family present 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM, Thursday.

Mrs. Ruth Gates was born on March 20, 1930, as Margretta Ruth Tipton, in Dyersburg, Tennessee to the late Newt Tipton and Ezra (Wynn) Tipton. She was one of thirteen children; blessed with 7 brothers and 5 sisters.

Ruth moved to Flint, Michigan at the age of 17, in 1947. She eventually met and married James "Jimmy" Gates, and to that union there were 7 children: 3 boys and 4 girls. Ruth was employed and retired as a bartender in 3 of Flint's prime social spots; The Elks, Trio Lounge, and 50 Grand. All owned and operated by black proprietors. She had a very kind attentive spirit with her customers. As she moved from one location to another, her clientele would follow her to her new location. This would always lead to the previous owners begging for her to return. She was also a member of Model Cities Planning

Committee, helping to develop and design many of the programs in the City of Flint.

Mrs. Ruth Gates never met a stranger. Everyone she met learned to love and respect her. She was just one that you would never forget. She was noted as one of the best cooks in the world. In her cooking days, any day of the week you could smell those enticing aromas in the kitchen. If you stopped by on any given Sunday, a feast was truly prepared. You were always welcome at her table. Family and friends often made request for her to prepare for them one of her dishes, especially her hog head cheese.

Ruth was always dressed to the 9's. On Sunday's, heading to church, she topped off every outfit with a fancy hat. She also loved playing the blues. One of her secret lines was, "Let's go for a ride" which meant we are going to the casino. She looked forward to those trips. Ruth especially enjoyed the family gatherings at her home. One of her most absolute joys was her 18 grandchildren and 28 great grandchildren.

Mrs. Ruth Gates leaves behind a legacy of love and laughter. She is survived by: her 4 daughters, Deborah Hughley of San Antonio, Texas, Kathleen "Kitty" Sanders, Tammy Gates Boodie-Bey, and Sheila Gates, all of Flint, Michigan; son, Frederick (Wanda) Gates of San Antonio, Texas; sister-in-law, Kathryn Tipton of Flint, Michigan; 18 grandchildren, Reginald Suggs, Christopher (Keisha) Gates, Brian Burnett, Natasha (Chad) Jones, LaTrisha (DeAndre) Chilton, Geral Singleton, Shontel (Cisco) Gates, Kotorian (Reshenda) Woodley, Nichole Giles, Camilla Evans, Margretta Ruth "Sparkles" Gates, Miguel Woodley, Shaquetta Keels, Delores (Marquan) Johnson, Charlie Harvey III, Finus Harvey, Denisha Gates, and Kiara Gates; 28 great-grandchildren.

Ruth also leaves to cherish her memory: James Robert Wardlow, her special

nephew and best friend, Lucille Brown, Charlie Harvey Jr., Mrs. Pepper, Renee Cobbs, Broderick Washington, Sha'Quaytia Wright, Lynn Johnson, Delores Knuckles and Duran "Mook" Wilson.

Ruth was preceded in death by her beloved husband, James "Jimmy" Gates; sons, Gregory and Dennis Gates; parents, Newt and Ezra Tipton; brothers, Miller Filmore Tipton, Herbert Tipton, Artra Lee Tipton, Newt Tipton and Daniel Tipton Sr.; sisters, Eidora Collins, Dovie Wardlow, Lovie Roundtree, Calli Sue Sanders, Mary Harris, NZ Tipton and Eddie Tipton.

The family wishes to thank Felicia Warthorn, Caregiver, Dr. Ravikumar Peddireddy, McLaren Hospice Care, Bountiful Love Ministries, New Jerusalem Full Gospel Baptist Church, and Lawrence E. Moon Funeral Home.

# Previous Events

## Public Viewing

MAR 19. 12:00 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 Present

MAR 19. 4:00 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

MAR 20. 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

New Jerusalem Full Gospel Baptist Church  
1035 E. Carpenter Rd.  
Flint, MI 48505

## Funeral Service

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MAR **20**. 11:00 AM (ET)

New Jerusalem Full Gospel Baptist Church  
1035 E. Carpenter Rd.  
Flint, MI 48505

# Tribute Wall

DE

“ Debra Evans sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Ruth Gates



Debra Evans - March 27 at 12:51 AM

J(

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



James & Sharon Owensby (Arizona) - March 26 at 11:55 PM

TF

“ The English Family lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Ruth Gates



The English Family - March 26 at 11:49 PM

J(

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



James & Sharon Owensby (Arizona) - March 26 at 11:47 PM



MS

“ Our sincere Condolences to the family and friends of Mrs.Ruth Gates.  
So sorry to hear she had passed. We will keep you in our PRAYERS.  
GOD BLESS. 🙏🙏🙏



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

Marietta GA.

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**Mae Vern Spence** - March 20 at 07:05 AM

PW

“ To my extended family.. Time has come to say your last goodbye to Mrs Gates.. she was such a wonderful and fun person. My mom will miss her making hog head cheese at Christmas time.  
Praying for my nephews Torrie and Miguel in the passing of their grandmother.. love yall.. Fred, Deb, Kitty, Sheila and Tammie.. along with the other grands( MY tasha)

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**Patricia Louise Walker Woodley** - March 20 at 01:07 AM

JM

*With sincere condolence to the family of Ruth Gates in your time of bereavement. The scripture teaches us that Blessed are they that mourn for they shall be comforted. May the peace of God which passeth all understanding keep your hearts and minds in perfect peace. As you celebrate the life of the matriarch of the family who served her family, church and community remembering legacy will bring great joy. Best Regards, Jerome Maben a personal friend of Frederick Brown.*

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**Jerome Maben** - March 20 at 10:14 AM

TG

“ MY ANGEL MY MAMA MY FRIEND ❤️  
YOUR DAUGHTER TAMMY GATES ❤️



TAMMY GATES - March 20 at 12:45 AM

TG

“ MY LOVING MAMA HAS GOTTEN HER  
WINGS  
I LOVE YOU SO MUCH... TAMMY GATES



TAMMY GATES - March 20 at 12:44 AM

TG

“ REST IN GOD'S ETERNAL HEAVENS  
MAMA  
I AM MISSING YOU ALREADY... YOUR  
LOVING DAUGHTER TAMMY 💋



TAMMY GATES - March 20 at 12:41 AM

TG

“ RUTH GATES MY MOTHER THE MOST WONDERFUL BEAUTIFUL CLASSIEST WOMEN IN THE WORLD SHE TAUGHT ME EVERYTHING SHE KNEW SO I COULD BE THE WOMAN I AM TODAY SHE INSTILLED WORK VALUES IN ME DURING A TIME WHEN WOMEN WERE EXPECTED TO STAY AT HOME AND TEND TO A MAN MY MOTHER TAUGHT ME INDEPENDENCE AND TO ALWAYS HAVE MY OWN AND I PASSED DOWN THAT KNOWLEDGE TO MY CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN AND I WOULD LIKE TO TELL THE WORLD YOU WERE MY BIGGEST INSPIRATION AND I'M YOUR BIGGEST FAN AND I'LL TAKE EVERYTHING YOU TAUGHT ME EVERYWHERE I GO THANK YOU MAMA I LOVE YOU FOREVER... LOVE YOUR DAUGHTER TAMMY GATES



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**TAMMY GATES** - March 20 at 12:40 AM

TC

“ Trina Campbell lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Ruth Gates



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**Trina Campbell** - March 19 at 10:22 PM

RK

“ Reshenda, Karter, and Kennedy purchased the S imply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Mrs. Ruth Gates.



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**Reshenda, Karter, and Kennedy** - March 19 at 06:58 PM

CB

“ Christine Brown lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Ruth Gates



Christine Brown - March 19 at 06:16 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mrs. Ruth Gates.



March 19 at 03:58 PM



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

March 19 at 03:58 PM

JO

“ Joy Nero Overton lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Ruth Gates



Joy Nero Overton - March 19 at 03:44 PM

SH

“ Shane purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Mrs. Ruth Gates.



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Shane - March 19 at 02:44 PM

SH

“ Shane planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mrs. Ruth Gates.

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Shane - March 19 at 02:44 PM

VB

“ Vickie Broome lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Ruth Gates



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Vickie Broome - March 19 at 12:49 PM

CJ

“ Prayers and sincere condolences from my mom Bettie carter jones to the entire family. They'd been neighbors for 55 yrs, She's surely gonna miss seeing her. 🙏💔😭



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Cheryl Jones - March 19 at 11:49 AM

CJ

“ Rest in Love Mrs. Gates, we were neighbors for 55 yrs. May her soul rest with the Lord. My prayers, love and sincere condolences goes out to the entire family 🙏



Cheryl Jones - March 19 at 11:44 AM

CT

Your beautiful smile and hugs will be in my heart always, continue to rest in Heavenly peace

Carolyn Turk - March 19 at 01:34 PM

RT

“ Ronald Turner lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Ruth Gates



Ronald Turner - March 19 at 08:59 AM

JD

“ Jean Durrett lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Ruth Gates



Jean Durrett - March 19 at 02:14 AM

SC

“ *Sandra Copeland lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Ruth Gates*



Sandra Copeland - March 18 at 10:33 PM

CG

“ *Chris, Keisha, Christopher, And Jaylen G sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Ruth Gates*



Chris, Keisha, Christopher, and Jaylen G - March 18 at 03:21 PM

MY

“ *My sincere condolences to the family and prayers for strength and peace in this time of bereavement Ms. Ruth was one-of-a-kind classy lady a fun person that kept it real you will truly be missed Rest in power*

Magnolia Younger - March 18 at 09:19 AM

CH

“ *My condolences and praying for all the families may your beautiful Mom RIH Cheryl D Harris, FtWorth TX*



Cheryl Delores Harris - March 18 at 12:12 AM

JF

“ Jo Franklin sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Ruth Gates



Jo Franklin - March 17 at 03:19 PM

MF

To the Gates ladies may God bless you all.RUTH was truly a great lady full of love and happiness ❤️ . SHE will be Greatly Missed. MAY SHE R.I.P. God Bless You All . MARCELLUS JACKSON & FAMILY 💜

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MARCELLUS JACKSON & FAMILY - March 19 at 07:58 AM

JC

“ Jerry Chaney lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Ruth Gates



Jerry Chaney - March 17 at 11:16 AM

BH

“ My heartfelt condolences to the family of Mrs.Ruth Gates.Praying for and with you.



Bob Howard - March 17 at 09:48 AM

MC

“ *Marlene Cleveland lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Ruth Gates*



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**Marlene Cleveland** - March 16 at 08:42 PM

DR

“ *Deacon Robert Rawls lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Ruth Gates*



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**Deacon Robert Rawls** - March 16 at 06:44 PM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Mrs. Ruth Gates.*

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March 16 at 03:20 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mrs. Ruth Gates.*



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March 16 at 03:20 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mrs. Ruth Gates.*



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March 16 at 08:00 AM



“ *Yolonda Cross lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Ruth Gates*



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**Yolonda Cross** - March 15 at 10:15 PM



“ *Sorry for your loss praying for the family.*



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**Roy Beverly Cummings** - March 15 at 09:14 PM



“ *Diane (Johnson) Crowder lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Ruth Gates*



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**Diane (Johnson) Crowder** - March 15 at 06:28 PM

MM

“ *Marva Mcdaniel lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Ruth Gates*



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**marva mcdaniel** - March 15 at 06:25 PM

LB

“ *Linda Banks lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Ruth Gates*



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**linda banks** - March 15 at 02:55 PM

CA

“ *My deepest sympathy the entire Gates family Mrs Ruth lived a beautiful and full life Gods blessing upon you all.Sincerely Colvin Arnold*

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**colvin arnold** - March 15 at 10:59 AM

VL

“ *Vincent Lipford lit a candle in memory of Ruth Gates*



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**Vincent Lipford** - March 15 at 08:30 AM

DQ

“ Deacon Bill R. Quarles lit a candle in memory of Ruth Gates



Deacon Bill R. Quarles - March 15 at 07:50 AM

JB

“ My condolences goes to the entire Gates Family



Jeanette Brown - March 14 at 10:20 PM

VJ

“ VANESSA JORDAN sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Ruth Gates



VANESSA JORDAN - March 14 at 12:54 PM

MH

“ Michael S Harper lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Ruth Gates



Michael S Harper - March 14 at 12:53 PM

AS

“ Anita (McGaughy) Smalls lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Ruth Gates



Anita (McGaughy) Smalls - March 14 at 12:47 PM

TM

“ Twana Matthews lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Ruth Gates



Twana Matthews - March 14 at 11:19 AM

CT

“ Cynthia Tipton lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Ruth Gates



Cynthia Tipton - March 14 at 10:22 AM

MA

“ Margaret Anderson lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Ruth Gates



Margaret Anderson - March 14 at 09:38 AM

PW

“ Patricia Louise Walker Woodley lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Ruth Gates



Patricia Louise Walker Woodley - March 14 at 08:55 AM

LB

“ I am so sorry to hear about the passing of your love one. May God be with you in your time of sorrow.



Lisa and James Blakley - March 14 at 08:52 AM

VD

“ I'm going to miss you Auntie Every Christmas and New Year at 12:01a.m. I would call her and each time she would say "I was waiting on your phone call" and we would laugh and talk. I'm truly going to miss my auntie ❤️  
REST IN GOD'S ETERNAL HEAVENS AUNTIE I LOVE YOU ❤️



Virginia Dantzler - March 13 at 11:58 PM

KC

“ Kim E. Carpenter lit a candle in memory of Ruth Gates



Kim E. Carpenter - March 13 at 07:07 PM

VT

“ VALERIE TIPTON lit a candle in memory of Ruth Gates



VALERIE TIPTON - March 13 at 06:52 PM

D?

“ Diane Williams lit a candle in memory of Ruth Gates



Diane Williams - March 13 at 06:43 PM

GP

“ Gloria Powell lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Ruth Gates



Gloria Powell - March 13 at 12:33 PM

DK

“ Dorothy Kendall-Dickerson lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Ruth Gates



Dorothy Kendall-Dickerson - March 13 at 11:53 AM

DS

“ *Dixie Smith lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Ruth Gates*



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**Dixie Smith** - March 12 at 10:13 PM

ST

“ *Stephanie Tipton lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Ruth Gates*



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**stephanie tipton** - March 12 at 03:11 PM

SR

“ *Praying for the family!*  
*Sharon Woodley-Robbs*

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**Sharon Robbs** - March 12 at 11:44 AM

LH

*MY deepest condolences from Larry And Gary Hill from Myrtle st and those great days and nights when she work at Britt Hall's club she was a great lady and mother to all pretty woman she raised to be fine ladies*  
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**Larry Hill and Garry Hill** - March 19 at 06:00 PM