



Mrs. Laura Mae Matthews

January 10, 1928 - November 19, 2015

Mrs. Laura Mae Matthews passed peacefully into her next life on Thursday, November 19th, 2015 after battling illness for several months. She was born January 10, 1928 in Natchez, Mississippi (Adams County). The youngest daughter of Mr. Earl and Mrs. Elisa (Scales) Davis, she spent many a day and night at church with her family and she knew and accepted Christ at a very young age and instilled this love of Christ in her own children. For the rest of her life, as long as she was able, Laura would get on her knees to pray every night, she would say she was “heading to the roundhouse”.

At age 18, she married her high school sweetheart, Lonnie B. Matthews, Jr. As their family grew, they decided to head north in 1957 eventually settling in Kalamazoo, MI by way of Chicago, IL. They found a church home at Galilee Missionary Baptist Church under the direction of founder Reverend Mabry Gardner in which she and her family were very active. Laura worked for Kalamazoo County for 33 years and the last 30 were at the Juvenile home until her retirement in 1993.

Her love for family and tireless devotion made her a pillar for many. She enjoyed baking cookies, breads and making candy during Christmas time. Playing badminton, kickball and softball at the family gatherings and would spend her evenings and Saturdays watching Westerns and Soap Operas and loved to play cards or solitaire now and then.

She is preceded in death by her parents Earl Davis, Sr. and Elisa Scales Davis; her sister Mary Jones, her husband, Lonnie B. Matthews, Jr.; a daughter Henrietta Matthews, a son Lonnie B. Matthews, III; 3 grandchildren and 1 great great grandchild.

She leaves to cherish her memories daughters, Lynel M. Hackley, Mary Alice (Earl) Pratt, Celia (Larry) Davis and Barbara A. Matthews all of Kalamazoo and Irma L. Matthews of Kansas City, KS; A son, Loren Darryl Matthews of Kalamazoo and a special daughter, Gloria (Arthur) Poplar of Atlanta, GA; a brother Earl (Erma) Davis, Jr. of Chicago, IL and a brother in-law, Arcell Matthews of Southfield, MI. She also leaves 16 grandchildren, 18 great grandchildren, 8 great-great grandchildren and a host of nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Laura who was affectionately known as “Mama Dea” or “Dea” as well as “Chief” and “Grams” was devoted to her family all of her life and we know her spirit will peacefully live on through all those who know and love her for the special person that she was.

Special thanks to Dr. Gary Ruoff and Westside Medical center, Pharmacist Brian Hansen and Westside Pharmacy, the staff at Medilodge Nursing Home, Fresenius Medical Care/Kalamazoo-East and Dr. Robert Williams and Advanced Cardiac Healthcare.

Cemetery Details

Riverside Cemetery

1015 Gull Road
Kalamazoo, MI 49048

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV **29**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Harper Funeral Home - Chapel
521 Douglas Avenue
Kalamazoo, MI

A Service in Loving Memory

NOV **30**. 1:00 PM (ET)

The Galilee Baptist Church
1216 North Westnedge Avenue
Kalamazoo, MI 49007

Visitation

NOV **30**. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (ET)

The Galilee Baptist Church
1216 North Westnedge Avenue
Kalamazoo, MI 49007

Tribute Wall



“ Harper Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Mrs. Laura Mae Matthews



Harper Funeral Home - November 27, 2015 at 06:52 PM

RM

How lovely

rev glen miller - November 28, 2015 at 07:58 AM

ET

This was really BEAUTIFUL!

Elizabeth Coleman Tucker - November 28, 2015 at 09:33 AM



This is so beautiful. Brings tears to my eyes. She lived a great life and fought a good fight. Well done faithful servant says the Lord. Fly away to heaven.

Barbara Hemphill - November 28, 2015 at 10:29 AM

ME

This is lovely. My thoughts and prayers are with the family. May God comfort you in your time of sorrow.

Meshera - November 28, 2015 at 04:21 PM

SM

beautiful I love it

sandra macon - November 28, 2015 at 06:59 PM

SM

i am her niece

sandra macon - November 28, 2015 at 06:59 PM

SS

Such a wonderful tribute for a beautiful woman.

Stacy Storteboom - November 30, 2015 at 11:56 AM



“ *Mrs. Laura Mae Matthews*

October 23, 2023 at 06:06 AM



“ *Mrs. Laura Mae Matthews*

October 06, 2023 at 10:42 AM

JF

“ *Jan Fay lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Laura Mae Matthews*



Jan Fay - November 30, 2015 at 08:18 PM

VB

“ *Vicky Burns lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Laura Mae Matthews*



vicky burns - November 30, 2015 at 03:18 PM

LW

“ Sending my condolences to the Matthews family. Love you all, Lannie Williams



Lannie Williams - November 30, 2015 at 01:38 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mrs. Laura Mae Matthews.



November 30, 2015 at 08:25 AM

MM

“ Marcellus C. Miller lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Laura Mae Matthews



Marcellus C. Miller - November 30, 2015 at 07:28 AM

JW

“ To the Matthews family ,May God keep you in your time of sorrow, Thinking of you. Jeanetta Walker Hamilton, Douglasville GA

Jeanetta Walker~Hamilton - November 30, 2015 at 04:14 AM

JW

“ Jeanetta Walker~Hamilton lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Laura Mae Matthews



Jeanetta Walker~Hamilton - November 30, 2015 at 04:08 AM

TF

“ The Neuhouser Family lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Laura Mae Matthews



The Neuhouser Family - November 29, 2015 at 07:59 PM

SP

“ Sophia Perez lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Laura Mae Matthews



sophia perez - November 29, 2015 at 12:57 PM

ME

“ Sorry to hear about your loss. She lived a good life and lived it well and happy family by her side. I remember you when I marsha mcshan my sister ophelia lived on harrison street. Went to school together. Your mom will be missed. My partner willie mayberry sends prayers . Marsha emory.



marsha mcshan emory - November 29, 2015 at 12:16 PM

BA

“ *Belinda Brandon Anglen lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Laura Mae Matthews*



Belinda Brandon Anglen - November 28, 2015 at 10:41 PM

"N

“ *Thinking about my Mom, I will cherish her memory forever!*



"Nelsro" - November 28, 2015 at 10:39 PM

SP

“ *To my family my deepest condolences go to my aunts and uncle not only did we the grands,great grands,and great great grands lose our grandmother but you lost your mother Dea is our foundation and may her loving heart live on through us her seeds that grew and are still growing Dea you will be missed greatly by "Soph" & "The Crew" R.I.H. DEA, GREAT DEA I LOVE YOU AND ALREADY MISS YOU*

sophia perez - November 28, 2015 at 09:31 PM

SP

“ *Sophia Perez lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Laura Mae Matthews*



sophia perez - November 28, 2015 at 09:22 PM

SM

“ to my family my heart goes to you in this time of sorry. love you all very much.wishing i could have came.

sandra macon - November 28, 2015 at 07:11 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Mrs. Laura Mae Matthews.



November 28, 2015 at 06:18 PM

AB

“ Arlene Buchanan sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Laura Mae Matthews



Arlene Buchanan - November 28, 2015 at 03:43 PM

CW

“ To the Matthews Family I'm sorry for your loss of your beloved mother and grandmother. She was a beautiful person inside and out, she was a gental soul. I pray for strength and peace for the family. Love you guys very much, Crystal Woodson-Reid.

Crystal Woodson - November 28, 2015 at 02:28 PM



“ *Barbara Hemphill lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Laura Mae Matthews*



Barbara Hemphill - November 28, 2015 at 12:03 PM



“ *Candace lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Laura Mae Matthews*



candace - November 28, 2015 at 11:54 AM



“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



candace - November 28, 2015 at 11:51 AM



“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



candace - November 28, 2015 at 11:51 AM

CA

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



candace - November 28, 2015 at 11:48 AM



“ Heavenly Heights Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mrs. Laura Mae Matthews.



November 28, 2015 at 11:47 AM

CA

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



candace - November 28, 2015 at 11:13 AM

AS

“ Alma Snell lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Laura Mae Matthews



Alma Snell - November 28, 2015 at 10:01 AM

CA

“ To the Matthew family I offer heartfelt sympathy for your lost. but it isn't your loss alone. "Ma Dea" was loved by almost everyone she came in contact with. She was a kind, caring and giving person. I will miss her deeply. No matter what was going on with her she was more concerned with, what was going on with you. Your mother was major part of my life and every one of us who grew up in the neighborhood. I am grateful for all the time we spent together. We all loved her dearly!!

Craig Allridge & family

Craig Allridge - November 28, 2015 at 09:06 AM

MO

“ Mona lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Laura Mae Matthews



Mona - November 27, 2015 at 06:52 PM



“ 15 files added to the album Life Tributes



Harper Funeral Home - November 27, 2015 at 06:34 PM

LM

“ Loren Darryl Matthews lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Laura Mae Matthews



Loren Darryl Matthews - November 27, 2015 at 10:09 AM

BP

“ To the Matthews Family

Condolences to you all.
R.I.H (Chief)
Please read Philipians 4:13

Brian O. Phillips & Family



Brian Phillips - November 26, 2015 at 10:33 AM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mrs. Laura Mae Matthews.



November 26, 2015 at 10:32 AM



“ Harold Swift lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Laura Mae Matthews



Harold Swift - November 26, 2015 at 09:05 AM

LM

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



L. Darryl Matthews - November 26, 2015 at 08:32 AM

MW

“ Minister Flora Walker lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Laura Mae Matthews



Minister Flora Walker - November 25, 2015 at 02:07 PM

CO

“ Cori lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Laura Mae Matthews



Cori - November 25, 2015 at 09:49 AM

PF

“ PATTERSON FAMILY lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Laura Mae Matthews



PATTERSON FAMILY - November 25, 2015 at 07:16 AM

AR

“ *Annette Reynolds sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Laura Mae Matthews*



Annette Reynolds - November 24, 2015 at 11:12 PM

AR

“ *Mrs. Matthews (Dea) was such a really kind warm spirit who was so loved by her family and others. I would like to send the family my deepest sympathy and prayers. I know your comfort comes from knowing she is in the arms the Lord.*



Annette Reynolds

Annette Reynolds - November 24, 2015 at 11:08 PM

VA

“ *Velma Abernathy lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Laura Mae Matthews*



velma abernathy - November 24, 2015 at 09:19 PM



“ 48 files added to the album Life Tributes



Harper Funeral Home - November 24, 2015 at 07:05 PM



“ Ms. Tanya Hollin And Family sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Laura Mae Matthews



Ms. Tanya Hollin and Family - November 24, 2015 at 06:54 PM



“ J.L. & Terry Buchanan lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Laura Mae Matthews



J.L. & Terry Buchanan - November 24, 2015 at 04:27 PM

JW

“ I would like to give my condolences to my family. I enjoyed my time with her ate great food. Played card games of 444. Thank you for everything R.I.H Chief . Jay

Jay Wilkerson - November 24, 2015 at 09:11 AM

AB

“ Annette Buchanan lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Laura Mae Matthews



Annette Buchanan - November 23, 2015 at 10:01 PM

LP

“ LaKeysha Pratt lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Laura Mae Matthews



LaKeysha Pratt - November 23, 2015 at 02:13 PM

MG

“ Michael Gant lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Laura Mae Matthews



Michael gant - November 23, 2015 at 01:07 PM

MG

May God keep the Matthews family in his loving arms and may miss Matthews rest in peace

Michael gant - November 23, 2015 at 01:10 PM

LF

“ *Laura Fowler lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Laura Mae Matthews*



Laura Fowler - November 23, 2015 at 11:26 AM

LF

I am so sad and selfishly upset BUT I am happy my Dear Grandmother suffers no more and is truly at peace!

Laura Fowler - November 23, 2015 at 11:28 AM

RW

“ *Darryl and Family, as you and our son Jay grew up together you were like brothers, and like another son to us. Jay also looked to your mother (De'a) Laura, as his second mother. We are in prayer for you all, for comfort and peace. May God be with you and give you strength at this time of transition. Psalm 147:3 He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.*

RJ and Anita Wilkerson - November 23, 2015 at 10:39 AM

AS

“ *Alma Snell lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Laura Mae Matthews*



Alma Snell - November 22, 2015 at 10:04 PM

CE

“ *Celia lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Laura Mae Matthews*



Celia - November 21, 2015 at 10:35 AM

CO

“ *Connie lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Laura Mae Matthews*



Connie - November 21, 2015 at 10:25 AM

RW

“ To Darryl and Family, as you and our son Jay grew up together you were like brothers, and like another son to us. Jay also looked to your mother (De'a) Laura, as his second mother. We are in prayer for you all, for comfort and peace. May God be with you, and give you strength at this time of transition.

Psalm 147:3 He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.

RJ and Anita Wilkerson - November 21, 2015 at 09:07 AM