



## Mrs. Leona May Sykes

January 19, 1927 - July 11, 2016

Our precious Leona M. Sykes departed her earthly home peacefully to her heavenly home on July 11, 2016 at Bronson Methodist Hospital, surrounded by family. Leona was born to Howard and Rosa ("Rosie") Haines on January 19, 1927 and moved to Kalamazoo, MI in 1947.

Leona, a woman full of spirit and joy for life, enjoyed her family, traveling and gardening in her yard. She was employed at Fabri-Kal Corporation in 1969 until her retirement after 20 years of service.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Howard and Rosa Haines; brothers, Howard Jr. (and his wife, Mildred) and Virgil (and his wife Dorothy) Haines; and "Dad" Clarence ("Shorty") Griffin.

Leona leaves to cherish her memory, her loving husband of 54 years, Maurice Sykes; her children, Sandra Williams, Jada (James) Smith, Tanya Williams and Mauricesa Sykes; 1 aunt, Lorna Mourning; two chosen sisters, Lena Davis and Gussie Plair; grandchildren, Kevin Williams, Melvin Smith, Damion (Loretta) Sykes, Miyoshi (Mimi) Smith; Markeshia Williams ad Charron Campbell; great grandchildren, DeMarcus and Bartisha Williams; Melvin Jr. and Marcus Smith; Savanna Randol; Asia Smith; Diamond, Destinee and Damyon Sykes; Marcel and Niyah Smith; and a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.



# Cemetery Details

## Mt. Ever-Rest Cemetery

3941 S. Westnedge Avenue  
Kalamazoo, MI

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUL 18. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Harper Funeral Home - Chapel  
521 Douglas Avenue  
Kalamazoo, MI

## A Service in Loving Memory

JUL 19. 12:00 PM (ET)

Harper Funeral Home - Chapel  
521 Douglas Avenue  
Kalamazoo, MI

# Tribute Wall



“ Harper Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Mrs. Leona May Sykes



Harper Funeral Home - July 17, 2016 at 08:32 PM



“ Mrs. Leona May Sykes

October 23, 2023 at 06:06 AM



“ Mrs. Leona May Sykes

October 06, 2023 at 10:42 AM



“ I love you ❤️ so much



destinee aka des ?? - January 18, 2020 at 10:28 PM



“ *Maria Varnesdeel lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Leona May Sykes*



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**Maria Varnesdeel** - August 15, 2016 at 09:10 PM



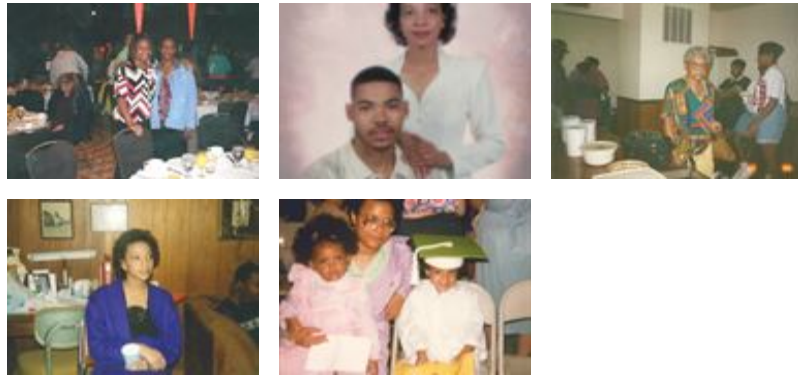
*I will always love you.*

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**Maria Varnesdeel** - August 15, 2016 at 09:13 PM



“ *39 files added to the album Life Tributes*



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**Harper Funeral Home** - August 15, 2016 at 08:03 PM

JS

“ Today I realize that my mother has been with my LORD for 25 days I know she is in a better place but she was a good mother to me. Mother's do the best they can and sacrifice much for their children and I know mine did for me. Leona May Sykes was a very loving person to family and friends, could be funny, had a temper when she felt she needed to, could give you a look that meant she meant business. Mama was my confident, my heart, and sometimes a friend to go somewhere with.,she will always be a reminder of having patience , putting my trust in myself and GOD. Love you Mama your daughter Jada.



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**Jada Smith** - August 06, 2016 at 01:42 AM

TA

*Good job, Jada. I totally agree. She was special.*

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**Tanya** - May 18, 2019 at 03:42 PM

TA

*A rare jewel. Fashion diva who could dress to the tee. I know God spared my and baby daughter life on 3-6-2020 recent apartment fire. I know it was God and my mother's spirit. She was a praying mother. God was not ready for us and he was using us to tell our testimony that he brought us out alright and to run this race to see his face by his grace & mercy...also praise him...having a personal relationship with him..reading and studying the word. She loved music especially gospel and those in the hymnal. She like to dance and gave advise to those who came across her path.*

*Giving us patience to endure any crisis....save the lost and things she taught or said to us girls to past down to our children...and their children's.*

*Being able to love one another and treat others the way we wanted to be treated. Having respect for elders.*

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**Tanya** - March 22, 2020 at 01:42 PM

TA

*I will always love you. We had a special bond..I was your miracle baby and you remain in my heart ❤️and thru the Holy Spirit...I know we were kept for a purpose and plan to finish an assignment...to be closer to family and/or closer to God...to get things right before time winds down to get to see you again/God, those who pass on before you and get future generations ready time is drawing near and those on our hearts including family members and friends, relatives and our pastor/church family.*

Tanya - March 22, 2020 at 02:00 PM

TA

*I know you are with us all in spirit along with our guardian angel(s)...A never goes by when I think of you or something you said. Miss you, RIP. Gone but not forgotten. Thank you for being a dear loving mama who raised me right, I which taught me to raised my children right with Christian values, they will one day do the same or God will put children/ godchilren, or some type of children in the path to inspire and teach them the same. The prayers you prayed, the dreams/ visions you spoke of...and memories you shared...your legacy lives on.*

Tanya - March 22, 2020 at 02:15 PM

TW

Yes, she was.

Tamys Williams - March 27, 2020 at 03:20 PM

AO

“ *When I saw the obituary of Leona, I thought, I know her, I know her face. I worked at Fabri-Kal in the late 70's. I remember Leona very well. That's my mother's name too. She was a bright light, with a generous personality, a kind soul, who was a great worker and friend. This picture defines her well..that sweet smile says it all. I want to send you all, my condolences. I know she'll be greatly missed..but she will never be forgotten. May she rest in peace to watch over you all....*

Ann O'Polka - July 24, 2016 at 07:25 PM



“ *Karest Willis-Brown lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Leona May Sykes*



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**Karest Willis-Brown** - July 23, 2016 at 10:48 PM

OT

“ *Ora Taylor-smith lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Leona May Sykes*



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**Ora taylor-smith** - July 21, 2016 at 09:00 PM

OT

“ *Ora Taylor-smith lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Leona May Sykes*



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**Ora taylor-smith** - July 21, 2016 at 08:48 PM

LF

“ *She was an amazing woman. Stronger than any woman I know. We shared many mornings drinking coffee and talking about life. She had a baby shower for me for my second son and the first time she babysat for me, she put the disposable diaper on backwards. Brought many smiles to both of us. Her grandson Damian was my oldest son's best friend when they were very young. She will always have a special place in my heart. Love to her husband, daughters, and grandkids. I wish you peace of mind and warm memories.*  
*Always, Loraine Fahling*

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**Loraine Fahling** - July 19, 2016 at 10:59 AM

TA

*I speak for myself and for the family.. Thanks Lorraine Fahling for those comforting words and fondly loving memories.*  
*Tanya, Markeisha and Cherron.*

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**Tanya** - May 18, 2019 at 03:51 PM

TT

“ *Tamela Toliver lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Leona May Sykes*



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**Tamela Toliver** - July 19, 2016 at 09:57 AM

DN

“ *Dan & Kate (Harley) Nichols lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Leona May Sykes*



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**Dan & Kate (Harley) Nichols** - July 19, 2016 at 07:33 AM



“ 2 files added to the album Life Tributes



Harper Funeral Home - July 18, 2016 at 08:22 PM



“ On behalf of the George Haines Family of Cassopolis Michigan we extend our condolences to the family. I had the pleasure of speaking with Ms. Sykes at our last Family Reunion. She had a wonderful spirit. She will be missed.



Tony Molsby, stepson of George Haines

Tony Molsby - July 18, 2016 at 08:44 AM



“ I had the pleasure of working with and learning many life lessons from this lovely lady. My heart felt prayers go out to the family during your time of grief.



Linda Weber - July 18, 2016 at 07:51 AM

LF

“ *Lipsey Family lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Leona May Sykes*



Lipsey family - July 17, 2016 at 11:36 PM

LF

“ *Lipsey Family lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Leona May Sykes*



Lipsey family - July 17, 2016 at 11:30 PM

LF

“ *Lipsey Family lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Leona May Sykes*



Lipsey family - July 17, 2016 at 11:28 PM

  
Gwendolyn  
Ickes  
Wheeler

“ *We are sorry for your loss.  
Susan Fulbright (old neighbor)  
Gwendolyn Tull (family friends)*



Gwendolyn Ickes Wheeler - July 17, 2016 at 06:03 PM

SF

“ Our deepest sympathies to the family. Leona was my neighbor for a number of years and a family friend.

*Susan Fulbright  
Gwendolyn Tulk*

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**SuSan Fulbright** - July 17, 2016 at 05:51 PM

KT

“ Kevin Taylor lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Leona May Sykes



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**Kevin Taylor** - July 17, 2016 at 01:20 PM

AS

“ Alma Snell lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Leona May Sykes



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**Alma Snell** - July 17, 2016 at 11:45 AM

DS

“ DaNikka Snell lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Leona May Sykes



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**DaNikka Snell** - July 17, 2016 at 11:44 AM

CN

“ *Candy J Nichols-love lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Leona May Sykes*



candy j nichols-love - July 17, 2016 at 03:59 AM

DS

“ *1 file added to the album New Album Name*



Damion Sykes - July 16, 2016 at 11:17 PM

AS

“ *Alma M. Snell lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Leona May Sykes*



Alma M. Snell - July 16, 2016 at 11:13 PM

AS

“ *Alma M. Snell lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Leona May Sykes*



Alma M. Snell - July 16, 2016 at 11:03 PM

KT

“ *Sorry for the loss of your loved one she was a very very sweet lady.*

**Kevin Taylor** - July 16, 2016 at 05:31 PM

SB

“ *My condolences. Know that my prayers are with you.*

*Sandra Baker*



**Sandra Baker** - July 16, 2016 at 04:38 PM

HW

“ *Helen Word lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Leona May Sykes*



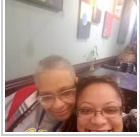
**Helen Word** - July 16, 2016 at 10:04 AM

RW

“ *RJ & Anita Wilkerson lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Leona May Sykes*



**RJ & Anita Wilkerson** - July 16, 2016 at 06:44 AM



“ *Sending love to you my dear Grandma for all the life knowledge and love you have given me I miss and love you so much*



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**Tanya Williams** - July 15, 2016 at 07:23 PM



“ *Sweet cousin Leona! It was always a pleasure to see her! Man could she pinch some cheeks! She was a spirited woman with a full heart! She is sorely missed, but I know that she is rejoicing in heaven! What a legacy she leaves behind! Hold on tight to each other and remember the good times and honor her life by keeping the love alive!*

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**Ursula Chapman** - July 15, 2016 at 05:58 PM



“ *Dallas & Patricia Blocker lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Leona May Sykes*



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**Dallas & Patricia Blocker** - July 15, 2016 at 04:09 PM

Ursula  
Chapman

“ Well as long as I can remember my sweet cousin Leona was a fierce spirited little woman ! She didn't take no mess! She leaves behind a legacy of children , grandchildren , great grandchildren , and many cousins . I always loved to see her and kiss her cheek! She used to pinch mine when I was little , rest in power sweet cousin!



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**Ursula Chapman** - July 15, 2016 at 12:10 PM

ST

“ Sheena Taborn lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Leona May Sykes



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**Sheena Taborn** - July 15, 2016 at 10:16 AM

ST

“ So happy we had some good time together on July 2, 2016 my Aunt was a spirited and loving women of God. She always greeted me with "You had better get over here to see me before I break your plate" you see she was a phenomenal cook but the reference to the plate was about love and not food. That day I greeted her with "you know I had to get over here before you broke my plate" she replied "I put it in a safe place Baby" while patting her heart ❤️ At the same time. She had memory loss over these last couple of years but this day she remember me by name and how I was related to her with little reminding ~ I am so blessed to have this women in my life ~ thank you for sharing her with me. My Daddy's and Uncle Virgil's baby sister and last living sibling, now they are fusing in heaven together overwhelmed with joy to be together again ~ 🙏🙏🙏🙏🙏🙏🙏🙏 I can see her now in heaven squeezing her nephew Craig aka "Duke" as she loved him dearly. love your Neice Sheena



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**Sheena Taborn** - July 15, 2016 at 10:14 AM

SW

“ Sonia Wilkerson lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Leona May Sykes



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**Sonia Wilkerson** - July 15, 2016 at 09:56 AM

JE

“ *Jo Ann Embrey lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Leona May Sykes*



Jo Ann Embrey - July 15, 2016 at 06:59 AM



“ *Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Mrs. Leona May Sykes.*

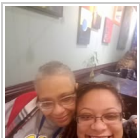


July 14, 2016 at 10:24 PM



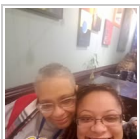
“ *Tanya S. Williams, Daughter*

Tanya Williams - July 14, 2016 at 05:27 PM



“ *Tanya S. Williams, Daughter*

Tanya Williams - July 14, 2016 at 05:19 PM



“ *Tanya S. Williams, Daughter*



Tanya Williams - July 14, 2016 at 04:38 PM

FB

“ *Frank And Helen Brooks & Barbee's lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Leona May Sykes*



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**frank and Helen Brooks & Barbee's** - July 14, 2016 at 04:29 PM

PG

“ *Pauline Gardner lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Leona May Sykes*



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**Pauline Gardner** - July 14, 2016 at 03:57 PM