



Ms. Magnolia E. Bodley

July 7, 1936 - May 12, 2026

***ATTN: FAMILY & FRIENDS: MAGNOLIA'S CELEBRATION OF LIFE WILL BE HELD ON FRIDAY, MAY 29TH AT 2:30 P.M. AT PRETTY LAKE CAMP, 9123 WEST "Q" AVENUE IN MATTAWAN, MICHIGAN, WITH A RECEPTION FOLLOWING AT 3:00 P.M.

OBITUARY

Magnolia E. "Maggie" Bodley passed away on May 12, 2026, in Kalamazoo, Michigan, at 89. Born July 7, 1936, in Tupelo, Mississippi, to her late parents Samuel Ezell and Mable Depriest, she lived a life marked by warmth, generosity, and purpose.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her brother and two of her children, Marques Ezell and Teresa Johnson.

Maggie often said, "I have never met a stranger," and anyone who met her knew it was true. She made people feel seen, through a kind word, a warm embrace, or one of her perfectly timed greeting cards. If something worth celebrating happened in your life, Maggie remembered it. Helping others was second nature to her, and she never needed to be asked twice.

She built a long career as a Quality Control Inspector at The Upjohn Company, but her commitments outside of work reflected her deepest values. In 2012, she was named the State of Michigan Volunteer of the Year, a

recognition that felt fitting to all who knew her. Her volunteer work took many forms over the years, supporting community programs, helping at local events, serving as a Boy Scout leader, and giving her time faithfully as the first volunteer of Lending Hands, as well as volunteering with the Deacon's Conference and assisting with food pantries through the Eastside Neighborhood Association and her church. Her dedication to service and to opening doors for others made it especially meaningful for her to stand among the crowd in 2009 and witness President Barack Obama take the oath of office as the nation's first Black president.

She was a talented quilter and knitter who enjoyed casino trips, puzzles with her son Kevin, and lively board and card games. She occasionally shared memories of growing up in Tupelo, including her connection to Elvis Presley. During the holidays, her home became a Christmas wonderland filled with cookies, traditions, and family, and she especially cherished her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Maggie lived her faith openly as a devoted member of the Church of Christ in Kalamazoo. Over the years she taught Sunday School, ushered, organized potlucks with joyful precision, and sang boldly during worship, never shy, even if she joked that she was no American Idol.

She is survived by her sons, Kevin D. Ezell, Hon. Mayor, Bobby J. Hopewell, and Frank (Toby) S. Hopewell (Vickie); her grandchildren Ray Ezell, Sydney Ezell, Chanell Ezell, Destine Ezell, Teresa Ezell, Micheal Ezell, Kamren Ezell, Della Ezell, Brandi Johnson, Traci Johnson, Christopher Jordan Ezell; her beloved great-grandchildren; and a host of extraordinary nieces, nephews, and cherished bonus family members who loved her dearly.

Maya Angelou once wrote, "To describe my mother would be to write about a hurricane in its perfect power." That was Maggie. And as E. M. Forster said, "If

the mothers of various nations could meet, there would be no more wars.” If more mothers were like Magnolia Bodley, he would have been right.

Her legacy of love, service, and generosity will live on in all who knew her.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests gifts be directed to Pretty Lake Camp or Lending Hands of Michigan in honor of Maggie.

A private family interment will take place at Riverside Cemetery on May 28th.

Cemetery Details

Riverside Cemetery (A Private interment will be held for the family only)

1015 Gull Road
Kalamazoo, MI 49048

Previous Events

A Celebration of Life

MAY **29**. 2:30 PM (ET)

Pretty Lake Camp
9123 West "Q" Avenue
Mattawan, MI 49071

Tribute Wall

DZ

“ Darlene Zackery sent a virtual gift in memory of Ms. Magnolia E. Bodley



Darlene Zackery - May 29 at 04:53 PM

VT

“ vera and glenn thomas. my dear friend i will miss your phone calls.our times together at upjojn and our secret pal group . your positive attitude was an inspiration to so many. and yes maggie i will give my husband a hug for you today.

vera thomas - May 29 at 03:44 PM



“ Southern Magnolia Tree was purchased for the family of Ms. Magnolia E. Bodley.



May 29 at 01:49 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Ms. Magnolia E. Bodley.

May 29 at 01:49 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Ms. Magnolia E. Bodley.

May 29 at 11:08 AM



“ Randy chipman purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Ms. Magnolia E. Bodley.



Randy chipman - May 27 at 10:55 AM



“ Gracious Lavender Basket was purchased for the family of Ms. Magnolia E. Bodley.



May 27 at 01:49 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Ms. Magnolia E. Bodley.



May 26 at 03:43 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Ms. Magnolia E. Bodley.

May 26 at 03:43 PM

DH

“ Prayers for the family during this difficult time in your life. Eddie and Helen Driver



Driver Helen - May 26 at 01:59 PM

RW

“ Rj & Anita Wilkerson lit a candle in memory of Magnolia Bodley



Rj & Anita Wilkerson - May 25 at 09:22 AM

KD

“ Kimberly R. Davis lit a candle in memory of Magnolia Bodley



Kimberly R. Davis - May 24 at 11:27 PM

EG

“ Edith Gardner sent a virtual gift in memory of Magnolia Bodley



Edith Gardner - May 24 at 04:29 PM

EG

“ *Edith Gardner lit a candle in memory of Magnolia Bodley*



Edith Gardner - May 24 at 04:28 PM

DF

“ *God Bless the Family*



Daniel Family - May 23 at 03:35 PM

JV

“ *Maggie is one of the most honest, beautiful, courageous, dedicated persons I know. Our paths crossed many times, in many ways through the years. A few of my favorite memories revolve around Lending Hands, campaigning, birthday parties in the park and talking in person and on the phone. Her calls to my mom were always a bright spot in the day. My sincere condolences to Bobby, Kevin and the whole family.*

Julie VanderNoot - May 23 at 01:19 PM

CG

“ *Our condolences to Maggie's family.*

Cordell/Brenda Gardner - May 22 at 09:03 PM

AW

“ *Arnita Williams sent a virtual gift in memory of Ms. Magnolia E. Bodley*



Arnita Williams - May 20 at 02:08 PM

JF

“ *Jeremiah Smith & Smith Family purchased the Lily and Rose Tribute Spray for the family of Ms. Magnolia E. Bodley.*



Jeremiah Smith & Smith Family - May 20 at 03:29 AM

CB

“ *Carrie Baker lit a candle in memory of Ms. Magnolia E. Bodley*



Carrie Baker - May 19 at 01:55 PM

CB

“ *Carrie Baker sent a virtual gift in memory of Ms. Magnolia E. Bodley*



Carrie Baker - May 19 at 01:54 PM

AB

“ To the family: Your dear mother, our beloved and beautiful friend "Miss Maggie" as we lovingly called her, will remain in our hearts until we meet her again in heaven. She holds a special place down deep, and will always be remembered for her "motherly" qualities and love. Her smile and kindness will forever be cherished and kept clearly visible in our memories....no fading as she was too "bright" a light for any of that. Ailene Lind Buchtrup

Ailene Lind Buchtrup - May 19 at 12:50 PM

KA

“ Kathie Ozier and Family



Kathie Ozier & Family in Arkansas - May 19 at 12:20 PM

KA

“ Kathie Ozier & Family In Arkansas lit a candle in memory of Ms. Magnolia E. Bodley



Kathie Ozier & Family in Arkansas - May 19 at 11:07 AM

LR

“ Our family shared so many memories, as youngsters we all at each other’s homes enjoying good times. She touched so many lives and with that her legacy will live on. Kevin, Bobby and Toby so many years have passed and distance has lessened our connection but distance can never remove time shared. Praying that the comforter will give you peace. Love you guys
Lavonda (Ozier) Rimmer and family



Lavonda Rimmer - May 19 at 10:25 AM

DF

“ My sincere condolences to the family praying
🙏 life well lived 🙏❤️



Dallas Boards and family - May 19 at 09:21 AM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of
Ms. Magnolia E. Bodley.



May 19 at 08:29 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Ms. Magnolia E. Bodley.

May 19 at 08:29 AM

PG

“ *Pauline Gardner lit a candle in memory of Ms. Magnolia E. Bodley*



Pauline Gardner - May 18 at 07:32 PM

MR

“ *Sending sincere condolences to the family. My prayers are with you. She will be missed.*



Modean Reeves - May 18 at 03:12 PM

BE

“ *Brenda Evans sent a virtual gift in memory of Ms. Magnolia E. Bodley*



Brenda Evans - May 18 at 02:44 PM

JS

“ *I will never forget our thrift store trips, lunch and dinner outings, and all the delicious pound cake. I miss you already, Miss Maggie. We love you!*

Jessica Skinner - May 18 at 02:11 PM

LP

“ Lorene Phillips lit a candle in memory of Ms. Magnolia E. Bodley



Lorene Phillips - May 18 at 10:48 AM

CB

“ Claudia Barbee sent a virtual gift in memory of Ms. Magnolia E. Bodley



Claudia Barbee - May 18 at 10:40 AM

YR

“ Yvonne Heltzel Reese sent a virtual gift in memory of Ms. Magnolia E. Bodley



Yvonne Heltzel Reese - May 18 at 10:38 AM

CB

“ Carrol T Blair lit a candle in memory of Ms. Magnolia E. Bodley



Carrol T Blair - May 18 at 07:28 AM

RF

“ Royetta Fry-Walker sent a virtual gift in memory of Ms. Magnolia E. Bodley



Royetta Fry-Walker - May 17 at 10:06 AM

AS

“ Alma Snell lit a candle in memory of Ms. Magnolia E. Bodley



Alma Snell - May 17 at 02:02 AM

SH

“ Stanley Hall lit a candle in memory of Ms. Magnolia E. Bodley



Stanley Hall - May 16 at 10:10 PM

PH

“ Bobby I recall your mother attending campfire events at PLVC back in our staff days. She was so warm and enthusiastic about the activity. “Camp Mom” energy was ever present. She was so proud of you and she is still is.

Prayers to you and the family,

Peter & Susan Hedemark

Peter Hedemark - May 16 at 05:18 PM

PT

“ Heart felt sympathy for Maggie's family. Me and my siblings grew up with her oldest three children, Marques, Teresa, and Kevin and went to school together. Maggie was such a nice, caring and soft spoken person. My prayers are with you. Patricia-Buchanan-Thomas and family.



Patricia Thomas - May 16 at 02:59 PM

JP

“ Juanita Page lit a candle in memory of Ms. Magnolia E. Bodley



Juanita Page - May 16 at 02:05 PM

JP

“ *Juanita Page lit a candle in memory of Ms. Magnolia E. Bodley*



Juanita Page - May 16 at 02:01 PM

FF

“ *Francies Frazier lit a candle in memory of Magnolia Bodley*



Francies Frazier - May 16 at 10:54 AM

ML

“ *Malinda Ligon-Whitley lit a candle in memory of Magnolia Bodley*



Malinda Ligon-Whitley - May 16 at 09:34 AM

DB

“ *Donald & Ruby Barbee lit a candle in memory of Magnolia Bodley*



Donald & Ruby Barbee - May 16 at 09:34 AM

ZJ

“ Bobby, I am so sorry. I have wonderful memories of your Mom from many years ago when we set together and watched our sons play little league. She would joke about the fact that we each had rather wide "behinds" from setting so many hours on the bleachers. She was a lovely woman, and I know she is at peace.

She was very proud of you. Know you are in my thoughts and prayers. Much love, zadie jackson

zadie jackson - May 16 at 07:12 AM

ML

“ Mary Ligon-Goens lit a candle in memory of Magnolia Bodley



Mary Ligon-Goens - May 16 at 12:48 AM

TW

“ Tammie Winfield lit a candle in memory of Magnolia Bodley



Tammie Winfield - May 15 at 10:46 PM



“ Thank you Miss Maggie for making me feel like a part of your family from the day I met you.
I will miss your calls to check on me, because that's what you did always made sure everyone else was okay.
I am lucky to still have dish cloths that you crocheted, that work better than anything you can buy in a store.
There are a lot of reasons you will be missed.
I love you more.

Rest easy until we meet again ❤️

Cindy Powell - May 15 at 08:18 PM

LS

“ Sincere Condolences!

Lionell Ford Sr. - May 15 at 07:10 PM

DB

“ Daphne B. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ms. Magnolia E. Bodley.

Daphne B. - May 15 at 06:31 PM

MI

“ My deepest sympathy to Maggie's family. She was one of the kindest, thoughtful and giving people I have ever meet. Love to her family. She will always be in my heart.
Marsha Irelan

Marsha Irelan - May 15 at 06:31 PM

GT

“ *Gale and Angela Tabron lit a candle in memory of Magnolia Bodley*



Gale and Angela Tabron - May 15 at 05:54 PM

TJ

“ *Bobby, my condolences to you and your family. I met your mother once or twice, she was a true joy. You will go on to continue her legacy as you are. Much love my friend. My prayers are with you.*



Tiffany Washington Jackson - May 15 at 05:51 PM

CM

“ *CMVincent lit a candle in memory of Magnolia Bodley*



CMVincent - May 15 at 05:04 PM

KB

“ *Kwameh & Gianna Barnett lit a candle in memory of Magnolia Bodley*



Kwameh & Gianna Barnett - May 15 at 05:03 PM

MI

“ We sure had fun at the K College Football Games , she was a special person!

Michael Irelan - May 15 at 04:40 PM

PF

“ Patrese Griffin, Ed Genesis and family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Ms. Magnolia E. Bodley.



Patrese Griffin, Ed Genesis and family - May 15 at 04:40 PM

KM

“ Ms. Maggie - I feel so blessed to have met you, received your hugs, been warmed and inspired by your joyful spirit and loved through your wonderful cooking - a decade later and I still vividly recall your aMAzing fried fish! No surprise it's a secret recipe, but I had to ask! You are a treasure - so loved by everyone whose life you've touched - and you will always be remembered with smiles and stories of the many ways you nurtured all of us. Rest in heaven - you are truly a Queen.

KMc - May 15 at 04:02 PM

LS

“ Lucinda M. Stinson lit a candle in memory of Magnolia Bodley



Lucinda M. Stinson - May 15 at 03:29 PM

ZW

“ Zack W. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ms. Magnolia E. Bodley.

Zack W. - May 15 at 03:16 PM

AF

“ Angela Ford lit a candle in memory of Magnolia Bodley



Angela Ford - May 15 at 02:22 PM

LG

“ Larry Gray and Karen Gray sent a virtual gift in memory of Magnolia Bodley



Larry Gray and Karen Gray - May 15 at 01:56 PM

HF

“ Magnolia was a very friendly person. My deepest condolences to her family. God is your strength and comforter.



Helen Mills Brooks and Barbee Family - May 15 at 01:31 PM

AB

“ *Arlene Buchanan sent a virtual gift in memory of Magnolia Bodley*



Arlene Buchanan - May 15 at 12:36 PM

CL

“ *Miss Maggie was one of the people you meet in life, who makes an everlasting impression on you. She was amazing and I am so lucky to have known her. Rest well Miss Maggie. Peace in the memories to your family*



candace E list - May 15 at 11:34 AM

AD

“ *Ann Dunigan lit a candle in memory of Magnolia Bodley*



Ann Dunigan - May 15 at 11:30 AM

JD

“ *Joann Dixon lit a candle in memory of Magnolia Bodley*



Joann Dixon - May 15 at 11:23 AM

AO

“ From Thrift Store shopping to handing out Fresh Food Boxes at the East Side Neighborhood Association especially during the Covid Shutdown, you were an amazing Lady as well as a Teacher. Miss Maggie you will be dearly missed. Heaven has gained a new Angel. Love you more,
April Ouweleen

April Ouweleen - May 15 at 09:49 AM

RB

That is one of the most beautiful obituaries I have ever read, and it truly summed up her life. We met Miss Maggie when I worked with her at simple treasures, we formed an instant bond that has lasted through the years. Anyone who knew her was a very blessed person, and my husband and I are among those. She will be greatly missed here on earth, but I cannot wait to spend eternity with her.♥♥♥

Renee Brown - May 15 at 05:30 PM

DA

“ Doris Abbott lit a candle in memory of Ms. Magnolia E. Bodley



Doris Abbott - May 15 at 08:07 AM

RO

“ Rickie Ozier lit a candle in memory of Ms. Magnolia E. Bodley



Rickie ozier - May 15 at 05:04 AM

SE

“ *Sherry Coffey Ezell lit a candle in memory of Ms. Magnolia E. Bodley*



Sherry Coffey Ezell - May 14 at 11:08 PM

SE

“ *Always and forever in my heart, from the very first day we met, I was treated like a biological niece although I had married your nephew. I'm so glad we talked weeks before you feel ill , you always pulled through, this time you took your rest, I'll always love you Aunt Mag* ❤️❤️❤️❤️

Sherry Coffey Ezell - May 14 at 11:07 PM

DW

Love when we had game day enjoy learning playing games never heard of you was the best until we meet again my friend Mrs. Woods that's what she always call me

Doris woods - May 15 at 02:16 PM

DH

“ *Condolences to the Hopewell family. We love and will deeply miss our Kalamazoo mom. Some of our favorite memories were sharing Christmas cookies, playing games, and spending precious time together. I will miss our phone calls as well. May she rest in peace and forever remain in our hearts.*



Denise Hairston - May 14 at 09:28 PM