



## Mrs. Valentina Fry

February 14, 1956 - March 17, 2019

\*\*\*NOTE: VISITATION & FUNERAL SERVICE LOCATION LISTED BELOW\*\*\*

Unmistakable beauty and dynamic personality came together on a cold winter day in February 1956. It was on this day, Valentine's Day, when God saw fit to introduce Valentina Fry to a warm and loving family. Valentina was born to Parents Roy and Queen Fry. The day she was born, she shared headlines in the Kalamazoo Gazette with news about former President Dwight Eisenhower, the expansion of Social Security, NASA's establishment, the Federal Aid Highway Act of 1956, the Great Hall of Fame baseball player Willie Mays, and the Howdy Doody Show.

Growing up, Valentina was affectionately known as "Tina", "Val", or "Tina Wieners", the name her big sister gave her. Throughout her childhood, Tina's personality grew in sync with her love for life. Many would say that she has always been frank, and that she embodied the phrase "what you see is what you get." Tina owned anything she did and spoke her mind with confidence and ease. Always a "Daddy's Girl", in her father's sight, she could do nothing wrong.

Tina loved to play softball and often travelled the country to play and watch softball tournaments. She played the positions of outfielder and short-stop. Tina was a champion both on the field, and in life. She also enjoyed spending time with her grandchildren and playing Bingo.

Tina's love for children guided her toward a career in teaching. She began a teaching career with Kalamazoo Country Head Start. She poured all that she had into the children she taught and provided them with a loving yet disciplined space to learn and grow. She was truly passionate about helping children realize their potential. After 30 years of service, Tina retired in December 2012.

Tina was strong in her faith, her suffering, and her love for others. She showed her family how to endure through the best and worst moments in life. Tina would often say "it is what

it is, and God is in control.” Tina received the Holy Spirit under the leadership of the late Superintendent Lavern Smith of St. James COGIC in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Tina was preceded in death by her parents; her grandson Daniel Reynolds Jr., and three brothers: Allen Hollin, Donald Fry and William Hollin.

She is survived by her children, Daniel Reynolds (Atleaner) and Jonathan Gates (Cinnamon); special daughters Vernella Hanson and Charlese Robinson; her eight grandchildren: Harold Simpson III, Danielle Reynolds, Amiere Reynolds, Dezmond Reynolds, Kayden Gates, Serenity Cleveland, Dere’ona Young, and Derek Young Jr.; siblings: Arthur (Margaret) Fry, Dianne (Arthur) Anderson, Carol (Mayweather) Smith, Johnnie (Marie) Hollin, Royetta Walker, Barry (Janet) Fry, and Carol Fry; sister-in-law Lorraine Hollin; sisters-in-law Elanor Walker and Santos Cockrell; three aunts Faye Fry, Jean Jones, and Lisa Jones; special cousin Gaither Wimbley-Cross; very special people: Patricia Parker, Jean Trotman, Hannah Nichols, Rhonda Little, Katherine Haley, Wendy Fields, Claudia Smith, Theresa Hubbard, and Robin McCants; as well as a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends. We would like to extend a special thanks to Daniel Reynolds, Carol Fry, Joyce Fry, Barbara Moore, Daryl Ollie, and John Gamble for excellent caregiving.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAR **24.** 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Harper Funeral Home - Chapel  
521 Douglas Avenue  
Kalamazoo, MI

## A Service in Loving Memory

MAR **24.** 4:00 PM (ET)

Harper Funeral Home - Chapel  
521 Douglas Avenue  
Kalamazoo, MI

# Tribute Wall



“ Harper Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Mrs. Valentina Fry



Harper Funeral Home - March 22, 2019 at 10:21 PM



“ Mrs. Valentina Fry

October 23, 2023 at 06:06 AM



“ Mrs. Valentina Fry

October 06, 2023 at 10:42 AM



“ Royetta,

*Thoughts and Prayers to you and your entire family.*

*Sheila Cruz Woodson*



Sheila Cruz-Woodson - July 12, 2019 at 10:36 PM



“ I am so deeply sorry to hear of your loss. Tina was such an incredible person to be around. I enjoyed every moment I was able to share with her. She was one of my favorite Head Start employees and one of my favorite retirees from Kalamazoo County. I will miss her. I hope her spirit and spunk lives on in her children and grandchildren.

Jean Michaud - July 03, 2019 at 08:19 AM

JM

“ *Jean Michaud lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Valentina Fry*



**Jean Michaud** - July 03, 2019 at 08:17 AM

VB

“ *Vicky Burns lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Valentina Fry*



**vicky burns** - March 28, 2019 at 06:03 PM

BB

“ *Birletta Bean-Hardeman lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Valentina Fry*



**Birletta Bean-Hardeman** - March 27, 2019 at 06:02 PM

ES

“ *Ethel (Jones) Smith lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Valentina Fry*



**Ethel (Jones) Smith** - March 26, 2019 at 08:35 AM

YH

“ *Yvonne Heltzel lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Valentina Fry*



**Yvonne Heltzel** - March 25, 2019 at 12:06 PM

JW

“ JoEvelyn Williams lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Valentina Fry



JoEvelyn Williams - March 25, 2019 at 12:05 PM

WF

“ Walker Family lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Valentina Fry



Walker Family - March 25, 2019 at 10:33 AM

KD

“ Kevin Dunigan sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Valentina Fry



Kevin Dunigan - March 24, 2019 at 10:27 PM

CF

“ CHARLESTON FAMILY lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Valentina Fry



CHARLESTON FAMILY - March 24, 2019 at 05:49 PM

KM

“ Kim M. Marshall lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Valentina Fry



Kim M. Marshall - March 24, 2019 at 01:52 PM

PF

“ Paul Freeman lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Valentina Fry



Paul Freeman - March 24, 2019 at 01:35 PM

PF

“ Paul Freeman lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Valentina Fry



Paul Freeman - March 24, 2019 at 01:26 PM

VR

“ Vanessa Rancifer lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Valentina Fry



Vanessal Rancifer - March 24, 2019 at 12:03 PM

TH

“ God gave us you and now we are giving you to Him to rest safe in His arms.....VAL I love and miss you.KISS Gram, BIG William and Punkin....RIH



Tanya Hollin - March 24, 2019 at 09:10 AM

EL

“ Tina you will be missed by all. I will always remember you only because you will tell it like you see it. Sending my Condolences to the Fry Family. Always keep your head up and stay strong for Tina is loved thru you all.

Elizabeth Lewis - March 24, 2019 at 09:10 AM

YH

“ Yvonne Heltzel lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Valentina Fry



Yvonne Heltzel - March 23, 2019 at 11:14 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mrs. Valentina Fry.



March 23, 2019 at 10:17 AM

PG

“ Pauline Gardner lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Valentina Fry



Pauline Gardner - March 23, 2019 at 09:30 AM

AS

“ Alma Snell lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Valentina Fry



Alma Snell - March 23, 2019 at 09:12 AM

JD

“ Jack Dunigan lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Valentina Fry



Jack Dunigan - March 23, 2019 at 08:54 AM

EW

“ *Edna White(jean) lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Valentina Fry*



Edna White(jean) - March 22, 2019 at 11:46 PM

AF

“ *Avery Family sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Valentina Fry*



Avery Family - March 22, 2019 at 10:45 PM

GB

“ *My deepest condolences to the family I remember Tina well and often talked to her when I'd see her at the sunnyside church . She would always tell me I look just like my sister Deneen lol R.I.H Tina God has told his angel to come home .*

Gina Johnson Branion - March 22, 2019 at 08:03 PM

CA

“ *Charles & Lorraine Abbott sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Valentina Fry*



Charles & Lorraine Abbott - March 22, 2019 at 07:47 PM

EH

“ *Elmira Hughes lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Valentina Fry*



Elmira Hughes - March 22, 2019 at 04:56 PM

BB

“ *Bari Brown lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Valentina Fry*



**Bari Brown** - March 22, 2019 at 02:14 PM

CG

“ *Cordell Brenda Gardner lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Valentina Fry*



**Cordell Brenda Gardner** - March 22, 2019 at 02:08 PM

JE

“ *Jacqueline Ezell lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Valentina Fry*



**Jacqueline Ezell** - March 22, 2019 at 01:40 PM

RU

“ *Rubynell sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Valentina Fry*



**Rubynell** - March 22, 2019 at 12:04 PM

BJ

“ *Bari Brown Jr lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Valentina Fry*



**Bari Brown Jr** - March 22, 2019 at 10:48 AM

DF

“ Dallas Boards And Family lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Valentina Fry



Dallas Boards and family - March 22, 2019 at 10:45 AM

WF

“ Tina would often say "it is what it is, and God's in control ". She believed that would express her love and faith in the Lord. Even as her health declined, she praised the Lord continuously. Tina my friend you are going to be missed. But I'm so happy to know you are with our Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior! My heartfelt condolences to Daniel, Jonathan and her entire family . May God's peace and comfort abide with each of you 🙏

Wendy Fields - March 22, 2019 at 09:55 AM

BJ

“ Bari Brown Jr lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Valentina Fry



Bari Brown Jr - March 22, 2019 at 09:44 AM

HB

“ Hal & Janet Buchanan lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Valentina Fry



Hal & Janet Buchanan - March 22, 2019 at 08:57 AM

TF

“ The Daniel Family lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Valentina Fry



The Daniel Family - March 22, 2019 at 08:56 AM

CS

“ *Cindy Phillips Smith lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Valentina Fry*



cindy phillips smith - March 22, 2019 at 08:51 AM

CS

“ *Cindy Phillips Smith lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Valentina Fry*



cindy phillips smith - March 22, 2019 at 08:46 AM

PF

“ *PATTERSON FAMILY lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Valentina Fry*



PATTERSON FAMILY - March 22, 2019 at 07:48 AM

PF

“ *PATTERSON FAMILY sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Valentina Fry*



PATTERSON FAMILY - March 22, 2019 at 07:48 AM

MW

“ *Minister Flora Walker sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Valentina Fry*



Minister Flora Walker - March 22, 2019 at 06:26 AM

BJ

“ *Bari Brown Jr lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Valentina Fry*



**Bari Brown Jr** - March 21, 2019 at 07:55 PM

HB

“ *Helen (Mills) Brooks lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Valentina Fry*



**Helen (Mills) Brooks** - March 21, 2019 at 07:11 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mrs. Valentina Fry.*



March 21, 2019 at 06:26 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mrs. Valentina Fry.*



March 21, 2019 at 05:04 PM

EF

“ *Earline Fields sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Valentina Fry*



**Earline Fields** - March 21, 2019 at 04:47 PM

MV

“ *Mignon Vincent lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Valentina Fry*



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**Mignon Vincent** - March 21, 2019 at 04:37 PM

RF

“ *My dearest big sister, you will forever be in my heart. Please hug Momma, Daddy, William, and Punkin for me and while you're at it take a big one for yourself. I love you and will miss you for ever.*

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**Royetta Fry-Walker** - March 21, 2019 at 03:59 PM

RF

“ *Royetta Fry-Walker lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Valentina Fry*



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**Royetta Fry-Walker** - March 21, 2019 at 03:54 PM