



## Mrs. Catherine Ann Ruffin

January 7, 1925 - January 1, 2016

Catherine Ann Ruffin of Chicago, IL and longtime resident of Saginaw, Michigan passed away Friday, January 1, 2016 at St. Joseph Hospital, Chicago, Illinois. She was 90 years old. Chicago was her home for the past three years after a two year stay in Detroit Michigan. She was born January 7, 1925 in Saginaw, Michigan, daughter of the late Edna M. and Norman V.D. Osborne. Catherine married her beloved husband William Charles Ruffin, Sr. (predeceased her August 30, 2008) on December 25, 1943 at Bethel A.M.E. Church. Catherine was a lifetime member of Bethel A.M.E. Church, Saginaw, MI. She and the Osborne family has been consistently honored by Bethel for being among the church's earliest members. Catherine attended Saginaw Public Schools and assisted her husband as Treasurer of the Saginaw High's Reunion Class of 1943. Catherine was employed for 21 years by Saginaw's Board of Education serving as School Secretary for Potter, Edith Baillie, Longfellow, Heavenrich and Saginaw High Schools. Catherine was an active participant and leader in numerous church and community organizations which included Bethel A.M.E., Y.W.C.A, Y.M.C.A, P.T.A and other school groups. A notable accomplishment, Catherine served as President of Saginaw's citywide P.T.A. in 1965-66, a responsibility for 33 schools and 997 members. She was the first African-American to hold that office. Catherine was a broadcaster and scriptwriter of radio commercials for WKNX's Sunday religious programs. Catherine assisted in the compilation of the history of Bethel A.M.E., 1877-1955. She was a member of Bethel's Usher Board and

served as a Sunday School and Vacation Bible School Teacher. Catherine was an avid gardener throughout her life and was a significant contributor to the roof top gardens of her Chicago Lakeshore Drive apartment complex. Her memory will be cherished by her two sons, William C. Jr., (Emmie) Ruffin, Chicago, IL and Ronald R. (Verlie) Ruffin, Franklin, TN; grandchildren, Tulani Ruffin, Dallas, TX and Dr. Omari (Patience) Ruffin, Nashville, TN; great-grand daughter, Zuri Ruffin, Nashville, TN; sisters-in-law, Lucille Osborne, San Diego, CA and Thelma Ruffin, Saginaw, MI; nieces and nephews, Rev. Norman V. (Pamela) Osborne, Donald Osborne, Nancy Osborne, Clarence, Jr. (Gina) Osborne, Gary Osborne, Brian Osborne, Kenny Osborne, Patrice (Christopher) Aggs, Miriam Elaine "Bunny" Saunders, Beverly Pearson, Karyn Ruffin and Alan Ruffin; also a host of other great nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by two sisters, Lavinia Saunders and Helen Armistead; four brothers, Norman D. Osborne, Clarence Osborne, Lawrence Osborne and Richard Osborne.

Family hour will take place at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, January 8, 2016 at Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church, 535 Cathay Street, with funeral service commencing at 11 a.m. Pastor P. David Saunders will be officiate, with interment in Forest Lawn Cemetery. Visitation will be during family hour.

# Cemetery Details

## Forest Lawn Cemetery

3210 S. Washington Avenue  
Saginaw, MI

# Previous Events

## Family Hour

JAN 8. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Bethel A.M.E. Church  
535 Cathay Street  
Saginaw, MI 48601

## Visitation

JAN 8. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Bethel A.M.E. Church  
535 Cathay Street  
Saginaw, MI 48601

## Funeral Service

JAN 8. 11:00 AM (ET)

Bethel A.M.E. Church  
535 Cathay Street  
Saginaw, MI 48601



# Tribute Wall

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“ I've had the pleasure of meeting Mrs. Ruffin while taking care of her husband. She was the most loving and tenderhearted person. We had a special bond the day I made it possible for her and Mr. Ruffin to be together on Christmas day, which happen to be their Anniversary. She said they had never spent a year without being together so I had to make it happen. To the Ruffin family, I pray for your strength during this time. She lived a BEAUTIFUL life and loved her family.

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**To wanna Ereyimwen (Coleman)** - January 09, 2016 at 07:35 AM

BS

“ Bunny, Nancy, Clarence Jr. (Gina) and all the Osborne family, you have my Deepest Sympathy on the loss of your Mother, Aunt and Friend. May her wonderful sweet spirit and memory be kept deep in your heart cherish, never to forget.  
Love Aunt Betty



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**Betty J Stevenson** - January 08, 2016 at 12:20 PM

DS

“ William and Ronald, I'll always remember your mom as one of the 'village 'moms of Bethel. What a classy lady. Love to all the family.

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**Diana R. Simpson** - January 08, 2016 at 10:40 AM

TS

“ *The StoneSteppers.... purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Mrs. Catherine Ann Ruffin.*



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**The StoneSteppers....** - January 07, 2016 at 09:00 AM

SM

“ *Shender Brown McKinney lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Catherine Ann Ruffin*



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**Shender Brown McKinney** - January 06, 2016 at 04:47 PM

BM

“ *Brownie Mason lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Catherine Ann Ruffin*



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**Brownie Mason** - January 06, 2016 at 03:50 PM

KR

“ *1 file added to the album Photos & Videos*



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**Karyn Ruffin** - January 06, 2016 at 12:19 PM

KR

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



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**Karyn Ruffin** - January 06, 2016 at 12:17 PM

RS

*To the family of Catherine Ann Ruffin. My prayers and thoughts are with you during these times. Cousin Catherine will be surely be missed. Yet, her memories will be lasting. God Bless.*  
*Reverend Edward Sarden*

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**Reverend Edward Sarden** - January 07, 2016 at 01:54 PM

JT

“ *John And Lillian Thomas lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Catherine Ann Ruffin*



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**John and Lillian Thomas** - January 06, 2016 at 11:45 AM

MT

“ *Mr. John And Dr. Lillian Thomas lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Catherine Ann Ruffin*



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**Mr. John and Dr. Lillian Thomas** - January 06, 2016 at 11:44 AM

VH

“ I remember on our way home from school my brother and I would stop by Cousin Catherine's and she would give us milk and cookies. And when she didn't have them she would ask us about our day in school. She encouraged us to pay attention to our teachers. When we move away I missed those visits.

VernaJane Harrison - January 06, 2016 at 11:38 AM

MF

“ Michelle Blair And Family lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Catherine Ann Ruffin



Michelle Blair and Family - January 06, 2016 at 09:56 AM

SC

“ Deepest sympathy to the extended Osborne/Ruffin Family.

*I can hear her voice as I grew up in Bethel.*

*Shari Haithco Clarke  
Myrtle Beach, SC*

Shari Haithco Clarke - January 05, 2016 at 08:57 PM

WB

“ WALSEZETTA BENNETT sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Catherine Ann Ruffin



WALSEZETTA BENNETT - January 05, 2016 at 05:12 PM

RV

“ *Robert And Linda Veasley lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Catherine Ann Ruffin*



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**Robert and Linda Veasley** - January 05, 2016 at 03:17 PM

LW

“ *Lillian Lockhart-Walls lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Catherine Ann Ruffin*



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**Lillian Walls** - January 05, 2016 at 02:56 PM

MF

“ *Ms. Brenda Bryant-Reynolds & Family lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Catherine Ann Ruffin*



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**Ms. Brenda Bryant-Reynolds & Family** - January 05, 2016 at 04:01 AM

RF

“ *Beautiful women*

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**Rose Ferrell** - January 04, 2016 at 10:10 PM

JG

“ *Jocelyn Gordon lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Catherine Ann Ruffin*



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**Jocelyn Gordon** - January 04, 2016 at 10:09 PM

PS

“ *Patricia Sampson lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Catherine Ann Ruffin*



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**Patricia Sampson** - January 04, 2016 at 07:31 PM

DG

“ *Deborah Goines-Miller lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Catherine Ann Ruffin*



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**Deborah Goines-Miller** - January 04, 2016 at 12:43 PM

HJ

“ *Houston And Elaine Jackson, Jr. sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Catherine Ann Ruffin*



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**Houston and Elaine Jackson, Jr.** - January 04, 2016 at 08:53 AM

SW

“ *SANDRA WILLIAMS lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Catherine Ann Ruffin*



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**SANDRA WILLIAMS** - January 04, 2016 at 08:50 AM