



Mrs. Gayle Valeria Ford

December 28, 1936 - November 13, 2017

Mrs. Gayle Valeria Ford, age 80, transitioned peacefully Nov. 13, 2017 at The Hume Home in Muskegon Michigan surrounded by her family and friends.

Gayle was born December 28, 1936 in Greenville, Mississippi to Emma Brent Lawrence and J. Wallace. The family migrated to Saginaw, Michigan during the automobile industry boom where Gayle resided through most of her adult life.

She married her middle school sweetheart, Francis (Porky) Ford, at the tender age of 19. Ambitious and driven, she went on to pursue her education at Bay City Junior College while Porky fulfilled his military commitment. She would later go away to school at Adrian College to pursue a degree in elementary education. After obtaining her degree, Gayle returned to her hometown of Saginaw where she taught in the public schools for nearly 30 years. During the summers, she attended Central Michigan University and would achieve a Master's Degree in Education. Many of Gayle's students say that she was stern but an excellent and knowledgeable teacher.

In 2012 Gayle moved into an assisted living facility called The Hume Home in Muskegon to be closer to Dee and Derrick. Gayle was known around the Hume Home for her feistiness and wit. She enjoyed music, church service, watching movies and completing crossword puzzles.

Most important to Gayle was her spiritual walk with her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Gayle often read her bible, had input in church service, sang, and of course played the piano. She would always discuss the importance of a relationship with God to whomever she encountered. It is in her church family where she became a church mother to many but in particular Stephanie Marion, Sandra Reyna and Zenobia Sims.

She was the beloved wife of the late Francis Ford (deceased 1979) and loving mother of Tamara Grooms, Deirdra Smith (Derrick), Kevan Ford (Tasha), Ida Davis (Jonathan), and son-in-law Paul Grooms. A dear MeMe (grandmother) of Tiffany Collins (BJ), Antoine Grooms, Rashad Taylor, Emily Ford, Kevan Ford II, Josephine Davis, and Jonathon Davis Jr. She also had five great-grandchildren (Jayla, Bria, Mia, Ava, Ally). A special aunt to Eric Ford (Canciss) and Tacarra Ford. A godmother to Martha Delaney and the cousin or aunt to the five heartbeats that looked after her (Brenda Walker, Janet Hill, Rayunza Hood, Valerie Miller, and Stanley Brent). Gayle was also a cousin, friend, extended mother, mentor, and teacher to many dear people in her life.

Gayle was preceded in death by her husband, Francis Ford; mother, Emma Brent Lawrence; father, J. Wallace; brother, Oliver Nutt; and sister, Gary Pulliam.

Funeral service will take place at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday November 21, 2017 at the Evans & Browne's Funeral Home, 441 North Jefferson Avenue, Saginaw Michigan 48607. Rev. Jonathan Davis will officiate with interment in Forest Lawn Cemetery, 3210 South Washington Avenue, Saginaw, Michigan 48601. Visitation for family and friends at Evans & Browne's Funeral Home will be from 9:00 a.m. until time of service.

Cemetery Details

Forest Lawn Cemetery

3210 S. Washington Avenue
Saginaw, MI

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 21. 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Evans & Browne's Funeral Home
441 N. Jefferson Avenue
Saginaw, MI 48607
(989) 754-0481
evansbrownes@gmail.com
<https://www.evansbrownesfuneralhome.com>

Funeral Service

NOV 21. 1:00 PM (ET)

Evans & Browne's Funeral Home
441 N. Jefferson Avenue
Saginaw, MI 48607
(989) 754-0481
evansbrownes@gmail.com
<https://www.evansbrownesfuneralhome.com>

Tribute Wall



“ *Evans & Browne's Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Mrs. Gayle Valeria Ford*



Browne's Mortuary - November 30, 2017 at 03:21 PM



“ *Evans & Browne's Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Mrs. Gayle Valeria Ford*



Browne's Mortuary - November 20, 2017 at 01:50 PM

AB

“ *Anthony Boulware lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Gayle Valeria Ford*



Anthony Boulware - December 08, 2017 at 02:03 PM

VN

“ My Prayers are with the family of the Late Mrs. Gayle Valeria Ford. Mrs. Ford was a great teacher at Edith Baillie Elementary School. My memory of Mrs. Ford is that she always wanted to comb my hair in the class room, and didnt understand why because her girls had long pretty hair. She would say my hair was so soft. She was a very nice teacher to me..... I Pray that the Lord Bless All Of Mrs. Ford Family, and Friends with Peace, and their hearts with Comfort. REST PEACEFULLY MRS, GAYLE V. FORD



Valerie Works Noble - November 30, 2017 at 03:36 AM



“ Rest Up Mrs. Ford From One of Your Edith Bailey Headache!!! Had to get out your room but Still Loved Ya. Rest Up Teach. GOD BLESS..

Tanya Amos-Barney - November 28, 2017 at 04:24 PM

RU

“ Rubye purchased the Angel of Remembrance for the family of Mrs. Gayle Valeria Ford.



Rubye - November 23, 2017 at 03:15 PM

TS

“ *The Smiths purchased the My Soul Lives On Blanket for the family of Mrs. Gayle Valeria Ford.*



The Smiths - November 23, 2017 at 03:15 PM

LO

“ *Lisa Owens lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Gayle Valeria Ford*



Lisa Owens - November 23, 2017 at 06:41 AM

OJ

“ *Orlando Jones lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Gayle Valeria Ford*



Orlando Jones - November 22, 2017 at 07:15 PM

JG

“ Mrs Ford was my elementary school teacher, if she caught you eating candy in class she would take it from you and eat it right in front of you that day in class. When I became and adult I ran in to her at the Mall, I said to her Mrs Ford do you remember me and she did . I told how hurt I was when she ate my candy, and at that time they sold candy in bends at JC Penny’s. Mrs Ford brought me a pound of candy that day what a lady we hugged and had a good laugh, that made my day!



JoEllen Gaddis-McElhany - November 21, 2017 at 06:44 PM

TC

“ Theresa Cooper lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Gayle Valeria Ford



Theresa Cooper - November 21, 2017 at 03:23 PM

DC

“ David A And Rebecca D Carter lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Gayle Valeria Ford



David A and Rebecca D Carter - November 21, 2017 at 09:42 AM

ST

“ Mrs. Ford was one of my favorite teacher. She was tough but fair, she only wanted the best for her students. Several years ago she saw my sister and brother in law out at the store and asked about me. He always teases me because she also said I was a bad little thing back in the day. Mrs. Ford will be missed. I am so sorry for the families loss.

Sheila Tyson - November 20, 2017 at 11:11 PM



“ DeeDee, Tammy and Family:

*I extend my sincere condolences to you all.
May Father Yah sustain you and provide
comfort during your moments of grief. I will keep you in my prayers.*

~ JaJa

Joselyn Jordan - November 20, 2017 at 10:15 PM



SD

“ Stacy Duran-Shells lit a candle in memory of
Mrs. Gayle Valeria Ford



Stacy Duran-Shells - November 20, 2017 at 10:00 PM

DR

“ *D. Lashell Rainey lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Gayle Valeria Ford*



D. Lashell Rainey - November 20, 2017 at 07:42 PM

AR

“ *Alice Rainey-Wilson sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Gayle Valeria Ford*



Alice Rainey-Wilson - November 20, 2017 at 07:37 PM



“ *Thoughts and Prayers go out to the Ford family from the George and Pulliam family.*

Our families were joined in the marriage of my uncle John H. Pulliam, Jr. and Aunt Gary. You all have been family to me every since. I will be keeping you in my thoughts and prayers and know that God makes no mistakes.

May God give you all strength to endure the days ahead. Carry the fond memories of Aunt Gayle in your hearts and know that she is with you always.

*Humbly Submitted,
Sylvia George
Daughter to Olivia George &
Niece to John H. Pulliam*



Sylvia George - November 20, 2017 at 04:13 PM

CM

“ *Carla Mason lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Gayle Valeria Ford*



Carla Mason - November 20, 2017 at 01:26 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mrs. Gayle Valeria Ford.*



November 20, 2017 at 11:55 AM



“ *Danita Hollowell lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Gayle Valeria Ford*



Danita Hollowell - November 20, 2017 at 07:15 AM

DH

“ *Danita Hollowell lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Gayle Valeria Ford*



Danita Hollowell - November 19, 2017 at 08:44 PM

MS

“ *Marcel H. Cormier, Sr. lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Gayle Valeria Ford*



Marcel H. Cormier, Sr. - November 19, 2017 at 08:32 PM

CT

“ *Christopher Powe and Family - Katy, Texas purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Mrs. Gayle Valeria Ford.*



Christopher Powe and Family - Katy, Texas - November 19, 2017 at 07:50 PM



“ *Patricia Hill lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Gayle Valeria Ford*



Patricia Hill - November 19, 2017 at 01:20 PM

JS

“ *My condolences to the Ford family so sorry about your loss*



Jamie Sanders-Hicks - November 19, 2017 at 05:33 AM

DH

“ *Danita Hollowell lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Gayle Valeria Ford*



Danita Hollowell - November 19, 2017 at 01:36 AM

TJ

“ *Mrs Ford was my 4th grade teacher at Edith Baillie Elementary School. She always told me that I was a young lady. Even though I was a tomboy at heart I tried to uphold her standards of me. She created an enrichment club so we could have after school activities. We did census counting in the projects and enjoyed roller skating on the weekends. Rest in Heaven Mrs Ford. A great teacher and mentor will be missed. Praying for the family. Toni Johnson and family.*

Toni Johnson - November 18, 2017 at 02:25 PM

SD

“ *Prayer to the Ford and extended family ❤️🙏❤️🙏 Thank you Ms. Does for being the best teacher my brother and I ever had. She stayed on her "two munchkins"! My brother and I was so tiny among the other children in her reading class but she told us that the mind is big and there is much room to learn what u want. She paddled me when I was wrong and hugged me when I was right. Need more teacher like her and she never gave up on anyone! Fly high Ms. Ford! ❤️🙏*

Sandra and Michael Dillard - November 18, 2017 at 12:44 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Mrs. Gayle Valeria Ford.*



November 18, 2017 at 03:56 AM



“ *Delores Jackson Foster lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Gayle Valeria Ford*



Delores Jackson Foster - November 17, 2017 at 03:51 PM



“ *Johnnie Gerald lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Gayle Valeria Ford*



Johnnie Gerald - November 17, 2017 at 01:07 PM



Soror Deirdra Smith, our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

Johnnie Gerald - November 17, 2017 at 01:11 PM



*Lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Gayle Ford
Janice Davis Ruffin
Brenda Davis Shirley
Diane Davis Evan 🌸*

Janice Ruffin - November 20, 2017 at 03:16 PM

TC

“ *Tracy L. Cormier lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Gayle Valeria Ford*



Tracy L. Cormier - November 17, 2017 at 09:55 AM

GE

“ *My heart and prayers goes out to the Ford family. Your mother had some awesome years teaching in the Saginaw Area and a lot of fun times too. Know her wisdom lives in her students (Me and the Jamerson family) Continue to carry on that legacy of love. May the grace of God give you comfort, strength and perfect peace.*
Germeny Thomas and Jamerson Family

Germeny - November 17, 2017 at 09:19 AM

GE

“ *Germeny lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Gayle Valeria Ford*



Germeny - November 17, 2017 at 09:18 AM

GE

“ *My heart and prayers goes out to the Ford family. Your mother had some awesome years teaching in the Saginaw Area and a lot of fun times too. Know her wisdom lives in her students (Me and the Jamerson family) Continue to carry on that legacy of love. May the grace of God give you comfort, strength and perfect peace.*
Germeny Thomas and Jamerson Family

Germeny - November 17, 2017 at 09:14 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mrs. Gayle Valeria Ford.*



November 16, 2017 at 08:10 PM



“ *Patricia Frierson lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Gayle Valeria Ford*



Patricia Frierson - November 16, 2017 at 07:10 PM



“ *Carla Houston-Irmen lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Gayle Valeria Ford*



Carla Houston-Irmen - November 16, 2017 at 04:55 PM



“ *Cheryl Annette Pickett lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Gayle Valeria Ford*



cheryl annette pickett - November 16, 2017 at 01:34 PM

SF

“ So sorry to hear that Gayle has made her transition. She was a mentor, friend, my first employer (she allowed me to baby sit her children), neighbor and land lady. My, my, so many precious memories. Will not be in town on Tuesday, but I will be touch. Dee Dee and Derrick hope to see you at the next WU conference. .

Much love, Sharon M. Floyd, WU, CLASS OF1970, neighbor and friend

sharon floyd - November 16, 2017 at 01:05 PM

FJ

“ Felicia Jones lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Gayle Valeria Ford



Felicia Jones - November 16, 2017 at 11:17 AM

LF

“ Lisa F lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Gayle Valeria Ford



Lisa F - November 16, 2017 at 09:54 AM

LP

“ *The Lola and Norris Powe Family would like to send condolences to The Family of Gayle Ford. What a Good Friend and Beautiful Spirit! She will be missed! We will hold on to the many , many memories!*



Lola, Norris, and Angela Powe - November 16, 2017 at 09:23 AM

CP

“ *Christopher Powe lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Gayle Valeria Ford*



Christopher Powe - November 16, 2017 at 09:16 AM

DC

“ *Deborah And Mary Frances Champion lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Gayle Valeria Ford*



Deborah and Mary Frances Champion - November 16, 2017 at 07:57 AM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Mrs. Gayle Valeria Ford.*



November 16, 2017 at 06:41 AM

JN

“ *My co-worker, friend and neighbor. She will be deeply missed. My prayers go out to the family and pray you continue to be strong. God bless.*

Ms June Newton

June Newton - November 16, 2017 at 04:20 AM

PC

“ *One of my greatest memory where Mrs. Ford taught me how to make a pecan pie! It was on then! I love pecan pie ever since. And I dated her Tamara Rochelle Ford :)*

Peter Cooper - November 16, 2017 at 12:08 AM

PC

“ *Peter Cooper lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Gayle Valeria Ford*



Peter Cooper - November 15, 2017 at 11:58 PM

PC

WOW! I was surprised to hear of this Tami, Dee Dee, Kevin please know that my heart is with you all in this time of loss. Know I understand what it feels like losing a dear mother and only time will give you all the healing for that void space she once filled. I wish I could be there with you all. But I sending my prayers & love from Nashville, TN. Peter Cooper

Peter Cooper - November 16, 2017 at 12:03 AM

MH

“ *My Dear Gayle may you Rest In Peace. You will forever be a beautiful blessing to me.
Love you,
Goddaughter Martha*



Martha Hudson - November 15, 2017 at 11:13 PM

WR

“ *Mrs. Gayle V, Ford and the Ford Family, she use to be my 3, 4, 5, grade teacher in elementary school, she is the most kind and sweet lovable person you always be around , I love her dearly , I gonna to miss her very much I know she with god. From her student Wanda Faye Reynolds*



Wanda Reynolds - November 15, 2017 at 09:47 PM



“ *Velissa Batts lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Gayle Valeria Ford*



Velissa Batts - November 15, 2017 at 07:25 PM

VT

“ *Victoria Guster-Hines, Spring Texas purchased the Dearest One Casket Insert for the family of Mrs. Gayle Valeria Ford.*



Victoria Guster-Hines, Spring Texas - November 15, 2017 at 06:04 PM

VG

“ Tammy, Deirdra, and Kevan;

God blessed you with outstanding parents. The Guster family loved the Ford family deeply and unconditionally. I often think about the days when we were young and our families spent most of our weekends and holidays together. Our mothers loved each other as best friends, and because of their love, they were able to bring our families together as one when we were children.



Losing your mother or father is like losing your security or losing a part of you. Stay close to God through our Lord and Savior Jesus and keep Mrs. Ford in your hearts. There will be days when you will hear her speaking softly to you while continuing to give you guidance. Know that you will see, hear, and touch her again. Take it from an expert; I hear my brother, mom, and dad's voice in my head almost everyday and looking forward to our reunion. I pray for peace and comfort for all three of you as well as your families.
God Bless You,
Victoria Guster-Hines
Spring, Texas

victoria guster-hines - November 15, 2017 at 05:56 PM

DC

“ Deborah Champion And Mary Frances
Champi lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Gayle
Valeria Ford



Deborah Champion and Mary Frances Champi - November 15, 2017 at 05:54 PM

SD

“ *Sandra Dillard sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Gayle Valeria Ford*



Sandra Dillard - November 15, 2017 at 03:01 PM

GC

“ *Gloria Cormier lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Gayle Valeria Ford*



Gloria Cormier - November 15, 2017 at 11:34 AM

DC

“ *Deborah Champion lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Gayle Valeria Ford*



Deborah Champion - November 15, 2017 at 05:58 AM

VC

“ *Valerie Champion lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Gayle Valeria Ford*



Valerie Champion - November 15, 2017 at 01:38 AM

JG

“ *Jocelyn M Gordon lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Gayle Valeria Ford*



Jocelyn M Gordon - November 14, 2017 at 10:07 PM

GC

“ *Gloria Cormier lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Gayle Valeria Ford*



Gloria Cormier - November 14, 2017 at 02:11 PM

GP

“ *Geraldine Parris lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Gayle Valeria Ford*



geraldine parris - November 14, 2017 at 10:22 AM

TG

“ *The Guster's lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Gayle Valeria Ford*



The Guster's - November 14, 2017 at 07:38 AM