



## Idella "Madea" Gray

August 27, 1918 - November 28, 2019

Our beloved Idella "Madea" Gray peacefully passed away at home on Thursday, November 28, 2019. She was born on August 27, 1918 in Greenville, Mississippi to Curtis and Ozella Johnson.

Living to the age of 101 years, she will be counted among those who have the distinguished title of Centenarian, a person who lived to be at least 100 years of age. Madea was the last of four siblings.

Idella attended Vicksburg Public Schools in Vicksburg, Mississippi. She met and married Rubin (Big Apple) Gray in 1945. They moved to Saginaw, Michigan in 1951. She was a homemaker and enjoyed cooking, cleaning and doing word search puzzles. She loved to watch soap operas and wrestling. She was a longtime member of New Mt. Calvary Missionary Baptist Church where she organized The Pastor's Aide Committee and spear headed many Pastor's Anniversaries, she took pride in serving her pastor.

"Madea" leaves to cherish many memories, two daughters, Mary Stokes, Saginaw, MI and Idella Thomas, Fort Wayne, IN; one son, Donnell Thomas, Fort Wayne, IN; seven grandchildren, Shirley Smith, Saginaw, MI, Tonnie Triplet, Indianapolis, IN, Curtis Wilson, Indianapolis, IN, Constance (Ricky) Webb, Dallas, TX, Cass (Sandy) Wilson, and Chana (Don) Evans both of Saginaw, MI and Anthony Phillips, Mansfield, OH; eighteen great-grandchildren, including a special great-granddaughter, LeTeia Smith; twenty-nine great-great-grandchildren; many nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives and friends including special niece, Betty Packard.

Idella was preceded in death by her husband, Rubin (Big Apple) Gray; parents, Curtis and Ozella Johnson; grandparents, Arnold and Mattie Sparks; brothers, Curtis and David Johnson; sisters Ruth Ferguson and Ozella Higgins; stepdaughter, Katie Stone and a special niece, Janie Gray.

The family wishes to express thanks and appreciation to loved ones, friends, and well-

wishers for the many expressions of love and support during this time of bereavement. Special thanks to her caregiver, granddaughter, Shirley Smith, Primary Home Care and Covenant Hospice Nurses.

Funeral service will take place at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, December 7, 2019 at New Mt. Calvary Missionary Baptist Church, 3610 Russell St., Saginaw, MI 48601, Pastor Alfred Harris, Jr., host pastor. Pastor R.E. Donald will officiate with interment in Forest Lawn Cemetery, 3210 S. Washington Ave, Saginaw, MI 48601. Friends may call at the Evans & Browne's Funeral Home, 441 N. Jefferson Ave., Saginaw, MI 48607 on Friday, from 2:00 until 8:00 p.m.

# Cemetery Details

## Forest Lawn Cemetery

3210 S. Washington Avenue  
Saginaw, MI

# Previous Events

## Visitation

DEC 6. 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Evans & Browne's Funeral Home  
441 North Jefferson Avenue  
Saginaw, MI 48607

## Funeral Service

DEC 7. 11:00 AM (ET)

New Mt. Calvary Baptist Church  
3610 Russell Street  
Saginaw, MI 48601

# Tribute Wall



“ *Evans & Browne's Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Idella "Madea" Gray*



**Browne's Mortuary** - December 11, 2019 at 04:45 PM

DM

“ *Doloris Mixon lit a candle in memory of Idella "Madea" Gray*



**Doloris Mixon** - May 07, 2020 at 02:01 AM

CS

“ *Colleen SMITH lit a candle in memory of Idella "Madea" Gray*



**Colleen SMITH** - December 07, 2019 at 10:42 PM

ES

*My deepest condolences and prayers for all of you*

**Evangelist Brenda Simpson** - December 08, 2019 at 05:54 PM

RA

“ *My condolences to the family of Idella Madea Gray. Longevity and wisdom. You will be missed by many.*



**Rosie Anderson** - December 07, 2019 at 12:22 AM

SB

“ Shyvonda Bird lit a candle in memory of Idella "Madea" Gray



Shyvonda Bird - December 06, 2019 at 01:57 PM

AF

“ Athen Flournoy lit a candle in memory of Idella "Madea" Gray



Athen Flournoy - December 06, 2019 at 09:06 AM

SF

“ Praying for our family. Your surely go be missed.



Sudder & family - December 06, 2019 at 08:17 AM

YV

“ YvonneSanders sent a virtual gift in memory of Idella "Madea" Gray



YvonneSanders - December 05, 2019 at 09:06 PM

SB

“ Shadana Johnson Black sent a virtual gift in memory of Idella "Madea" Gray



Shadana Johnson Black - December 05, 2019 at 08:31 PM

LB

“ To the Gray family, my prayer 's are with you all . Linda Buckley Bolton



---

**Linda Bolton** - December 05, 2019 at 06:34 PM

TP

“ Our condolences to your entire family, Auther & Toni Pringle



---

**Toni Pringle** - December 05, 2019 at 08:11 AM

SC

“ Shirley Cork lit a candle in memory of Idella "Madea" Gray



---

**Shirley Cork** - December 04, 2019 at 09:10 AM

BW

“ Bridget West sent a virtual gift in memory of Idella "Madea" Gray



---

**Bridget West** - December 04, 2019 at 09:02 AM

KD

“ Kristen Duran lit a candle in memory of Idella "Madea" Gray



---

**Kristen Duran** - December 04, 2019 at 08:21 AM

TF

“ The Trice family send our deepest sympathy and condolences to the family of Idella Madea Gray you all are in our prayers.....



Trice Family - December 03, 2019 at 11:22 PM

BK

“ Barbara Kemp-Lauria sent a virtual gift in memory of Idella "Madea" Gray



Barbara Kemp-Lauria - December 03, 2019 at 08:35 PM

PE

“ Pamela Evans-McCall lit a candle in memory of Idella "Madea" Gray



Pamela Evans-McCall - December 03, 2019 at 03:18 PM

CO

“ Prayers for Our family, Auntie u will be missed no more pain RIH beautiful fly high u definitely earned your wings along with your Sister that was 105 🎈🌹❤️🙏



Crystal O'Bryan - December 03, 2019 at 02:25 PM

CO

“ Crystal O'Bryan sent a virtual gift in memory of Idella "Madea" Gray



Crystal O'Bryan - December 03, 2019 at 02:19 PM

MF

“ *Mr Winston Walker And Family lit a candle in memory of Idella "Madea" Gray*



Mr Winston Walker and family - December 02, 2019 at 12:55 PM

GS

“ *Rest peacefully Aunt Madea... You will truly be missed*



Gequita Shivers - December 02, 2019 at 05:11 AM



“ *R.I.H.P., Mother Gray. My heartfelt condolences to the family.*



Joselyn Jordan - December 01, 2019 at 07:52 PM



“ *Praying for my family during this difficult time.*



Silvia Stanford - December 01, 2019 at 03:08 PM

SC

“ *OUR HEARTFELT THOUGHTS ARE WITH THE FAMILY AT THIS TIME... THE CLARKS AND CARRUTH FAMILY*



sona Carruth - December 01, 2019 at 02:48 PM

CW

“ Carol Jackson & Nikki Mitchell Welch lit a candle in memory of Idella "Madea" Gray



Carol Jackson & Nikki Mitchell Welch - November 30, 2019 at 01:40 PM

LR

“ Lorraine Bond Riley lit a candle in memory of Idella "Madea" Gray



Lorraine Bond Riley - November 30, 2019 at 12:02 AM

RC

“ Ralph & Shirley Culpepper sent a virtual gift in memory of Idella "Madea" Gray



Ralph & Shirley Culpepper - November 29, 2019 at 05:37 PM

KW

“ Tee, Shirley, Donell, our prayers go to you and your family...Idella was an amazing woman, we all loved her so much. The boys always talk about her babysitting them and all they learned from her. God now has a wonderful angel...Love you all. Dale, Kay, Jeremy, Joshua Whitney

Kay whitney - November 29, 2019 at 11:24 AM

MD

“ Mr&Mrs William Doxie lit a candle in memory of Idella "Madea" Gray



Mr&Mrs William Doxie - November 29, 2019 at 09:20 AM