

## Mr. John A. Ellis Jr.

September 21, 1935 - April 24, 2020

Mr. John Arthur Ellis, Jr. (Sonny), was called home to be with The Lord on April 24, 2020 at the age of 84. John was born to John Sr. and Velia Ellis on Sept 21, 1935 in Hughes AK.

Mr. Ellis accepted Christ at an early age. In 2002 he became a member of Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church and served as an usher and a member of the male chorus. Mr. Ellis was a member of Major Moton Lodge #1 of The International Free and Accepted Modern Mason Inc, in order of the Eastern Star (IFAMM) from 1995-2012.

Mr. Ellis worked two jobs most of his life. While working for Saginaw Steering Gear, Mr. Ellis was one of the key principles for the first working power steering patent. After 37 years of service, Mr. Ellis retired from Saginaw Steering Gear. He went on to work for and retire from both Bushey Automotive and Stone Trucking Company as a commercial truck driver. Mr. Ellis fulfilled many of his life dreams; including being an pilot of both single and double engine propeller planes in the 1970's; and while his hobbies included working on cars and his tool collection, Mr. Ellis was a master mechanic, which led him to not only being a race car driver, but also being selected for various pit crews in the race car industry during the 1950's. He also managed his son John III in the 1970's local Saginaw band called Monkey and the Funk Bunch; where they once the opening act for James Brown. Additionally, during the

1960's, Mr. Ellis' was a Golden Gloves Champion.

Mr. Ellis was a wonderful father, a great provider and had a wry sense of humor. He leaves three children to cherish his memory, John Ellis, III, Linda Ellis-White (Troy), Rynette Ellis Slaughter (Foster) and 10 grandchildren, Juan, Arthur, Hazel, Rachel, Jacqueline, Jamar, Jasmine, Kameasha, Foster Jr. Naquesha and 8 great grandchildren all of California.

He also leaves to cherish his memory his sister Lilly Pearl Brown, mother-in-law Evelyn Murphy, niece Diane (Fred) Welch, special nephews Robert Marshall and Dan Childs all of MI and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and dear friends.

John was preceded in death by his wife Verna Ellis, his parents John Sr. and Velia Ellis, sons Lamar Ellis and Mark Dean Ellis, his first wife Jonnie Mae Wright-Ellis, sisters Odessa Marshall and Mary Myles, brothers in law Thomas Marshall and Houston Myles and special niece Delores Davis.

Visitation will be from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. Monday, May 11, 2020 at the Evans & Browne's Funeral Home, 441 N. Jefferson Ave., Saginaw, MI 48607. A private funeral service be held.

# Cemetery Details

## Oakwood Memorial Mausoleum

5950 Gratiot Road  
Saginaw, MI 48638

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAY 11. 9:00 AM - 12:00 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 Webcast in memory of Mr. John A. Ellis Jr.*



**Browne's Mortuary** - May 11, 2020 at 09:16 AM

GT

*Watching the services and getting so Emotional family thinking of John Ellis is what I called him knowing what his children are feeling the lost of a parent is HARD*

**GWEN Tolliver-Chambers** - May 11, 2020 at 12:46 PM

TM

*Very moving service. I'm so glad my cousin Leonard (John) was able to be there with Linda and Troy. My prayers are with all of you. Stay strong and keep the faith.*

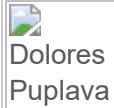
**Tracy Moton** - May 11, 2020 at 01:05 PM

  
Dolores  
Puplava

“ *Key words that Minister delivered in his sermon, "John Ellis Jr. held on until his daughter, Linda and son-in Law, Troy arrived from California".*  
*PRESCIOUS MEMORIES.*



**Dolores Puplava** - May 11, 2020 at 09:02 PM

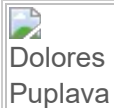


“ *My heart is overflowing with sadness while watching this service. So sorry that we cannot be there in body for our family, but we are there indeed in spirit. We truly love you and we will always be there for you. Stay strong, keep the faith and love flowing. FAMILY FOREVER.*

*Auntie Dee and Uncle Ron  
Belvidere, Illinois*

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**Dolores Puplava** - May 11, 2020 at 03:32 PM

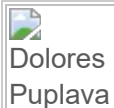


“ *I never will forget when we lived in Carrollton, Michigan a small community next to Zilwaukee, John Ellis used to race cars on the race track . He was trhe only person of color. He knew a lot about cars and trucks. John taught my brother John Wright Jr how to drive Semi Trucks. My parents were very proud of him. He will definitely be remembered. God Speed. RIP*



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**Dolores Puplava** - May 11, 2020 at 03:16 PM




“ *3 files added to the album Memories Album*



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**Dolores Puplava** - May 11, 2020 at 03:08 PM

  
Dolores  
Puplava

“ *Dolores Puplava lit a candle in memory of Mr. John A. Ellis Jr.*



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**Dolores Puplava** - May 11, 2020 at 02:56 PM

NS

“ *I love u grandpa.*



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**Naquesha Slaughter** - May 11, 2020 at 02:35 PM

JC

“ *Joseph Comer sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. John A. Ellis Jr.*



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**Joseph Comer** - May 11, 2020 at 12:33 PM

JC

“ *Joseph Comer lit a candle in memory of Mr. John A. Ellis Jr.*



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**Joseph Comer** - May 11, 2020 at 12:30 PM

JC

*Hey Grandad, Today you are home safe and are fully healed. I understand you got called home but I miss you here at this home we called earth. Im going to miss you forever Love you always!!*

**Joseph Comer** - May 11, 2020 at 12:32 PM



“ *Kameasha Slaughter lit a candle in memory of Mr. John A. Ellis Jr.*



**Kameasha Slaughter** - May 11, 2020 at 09:11 AM

BT

“ *I will always remember this mild manor and kind Hearted Man. He was a Great Uncle always with Good Advise and respect for others... Test on Uncle Sonny, God loves you and I do too. To the Family you have my Prayers....*



**Barbara Tolliver** - May 08, 2020 at 02:47 PM

JF

“ *June E. White & Family lit a candle in memory of Mr. John A. Ellis Jr.*



**June E. White & Family** - May 08, 2020 at 12:05 PM

DW

“ *Darlene & Norman White lit a candle in memory of Mr. John A. Ellis Jr.*



Darlene & Norman White - May 08, 2020 at 12:03 PM

 Dolores Puplava

“ *Dolores Puplava lit a candle in memory of Mr. John A. Ellis Jr.*



Dolores Puplava - May 08, 2020 at 10:27 AM

 Dolores Puplava

“ *Our sincere condolences goes out to the Wright-Ellis family, in the loss of a great Husband, Father and Friend, John Ellis Jr. I will always remember John as a hard working, kind and sincere person. My parents, John and Hazel Wright were always very proud of John and welcomed him as a member of our family. In spirit, John will always be with us. Yes, John you have received your wings and gone on to the promised land. Now you are being welcomed in HEAVEN by all the people you loved here on earth. When we join you in HEAVEN , we will REJOICE and sing once again with the ANGELS. RIP*



Dolores Puplava - May 07, 2020 at 03:47 PM

TM

“ Tracy Moton sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. John A. Ellis Jr.



Tracy Moton - May 07, 2020 at 02:36 PM

TM

Please stay strong family. I love you all

Tracy Moton - May 07, 2020 at 02:38 PM

 Dolores Puplava

John, Linda and Rynette, your dad loved you and he will continue to look over you. He was a good father and Brother-in-law. Continue to keep the Lord in your lives. John was a true Christian. STAY BLESSED...

Dolores Puplava - May 07, 2020 at 04:04 PM

T(

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Tracy Moton (Jones) - May 07, 2020 at 02:35 PM

TM

Rest in peace uncle John ❤️

Tracy Moton - May 07, 2020 at 02:41 PM

MT

Rest in Peace Uncle John. We love you. Mose and Lori Tolliver

Mose Tolliver - May 08, 2020 at 07:36 AM



“ *Rosanna Knowles purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Mr. John A. Ellis Jr.*



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**Rosanna Knowles** - May 06, 2020 at 05:56 PM

SD

“ *Stacy Duran ,Shawn Duran sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. John A. Ellis Jr.*



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**Stacy Duran ,Shawn Duran** - May 03, 2020 at 02:00 PM

JC

“ *Judge Terry L. Clark lit a candle in memory of Mr. John A. Ellis Jr.*



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**Judge Terry L. Clark** - May 01, 2020 at 11:20 AM

DG

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with the Ellis Wright Family. Love you guys.  
Sheila, Mesha, Boo and Taya*

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**DEMETRIA PORTER GRAHAM** - May 01, 2020 at 07:34 AM

JF

“ *James and Macy Fort*



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**james fort** - April 29, 2020 at 08:08 AM

JF

*My deepest sympathy*

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**james fort** - April 29, 2020 at 08:11 AM

TW

“ *Tomekia And Patsy An Alex Willis lit a candle  
in memory of Mr. John A. Ellis Jr.*



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**Tomekia and Patsy an Alex Willis** - April 28, 2020 at 07:58 PM

SD

“ *Stacy Duran sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr.  
John A. Ellis Jr.*



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**Stacy Duran** - April 28, 2020 at 11:43 AM

SC

“ Sam Culberson sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. John A. Ellis Jr.



Sam Culberson - April 27, 2020 at 12:45 PM

MB

“ MICHAEL AND LOIS BALLS lit a candle in memory of Mr. John A. Ellis Jr.



MICHAEL AND LOIS BALLS - April 27, 2020 at 01:01 AM

MB

TO ELLIS AND COLLINS FAMILY, WE ARE SO SORRY FOR YOUR LOSS. WE LOVE YOU ALL. PRAYING FOR YOUR ENTIRE FAMILY



MICHAEL AND LOIS BALLS - April 27, 2020 at 01:04 AM

RW

“ Leonard Condolences



Rodney Walker - April 26, 2020 at 10:38 PM

JW

“ We are so grateful for the times great times we got to enjoy with uncle sunny and aunt Verna. That was a blessing and now that that are home together we will see you again. We love you all our hearts.

*James and Michelle Wilson*

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**James and Michelle Wilson** - April 26, 2020 at 06:23 PM

TC

“ Uncle Sonny you will be missed.



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**Tonya Collins** - April 26, 2020 at 05:01 PM

VM

“ Valerie &Eric Marshall lit a candle in memory of Mr. John A. Ellis Jr.



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**Valerie &Eric marshall** - April 26, 2020 at 08:41 AM

VE

“ Uncle Sunny you will be greatly missed.



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**Veronica** - April 25, 2020 at 04:28 PM

JO

“ *JoEllen lit a candle in memory of Mr. John A. Ellis Jr.*



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**JoEllen** - April 25, 2020 at 03:15 PM

DF

“ *My dear Brother Ellis you are truly going to be missed at Mt Zion MBChurch love to see that smile and that cool walk down the church aisle. Choirs missing you and we gonna miss those rides to Flint. We know you made it home and got you crown and wings and you are with family and love ones .See you on the other side until we meet again .*



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**Donna hampton & Family** - April 25, 2020 at 02:40 PM