



## Mattie Erwin

March 17, 1926 - April 8, 2012

Family hour will take place at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 14, 2012 at Bethel A.M.E. Church, 535 Cathay Street with the funeral service commencing at 11:00 a.m. Pastor P. David Saunders will officiate with interment in Forest Lawn Cemetery. Friends may call at the Evans & Browne's Funeral Home on Friday from 2:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. After a number of health problems, Mattie Sue Erwin (Mommy) peacefully left this earth on Sunday, April 8, 2012 (Easter). Mommy was born on March 17, 1926 (St. Patrick's Day) from the holy union of Jeff Atwater and Leora May Atwater in Jackson Tennessee. Both parents preceded her in death. Mattie was a long time devoted member of Bethel A.M.E. Church and a member of the Busy Bee and the Retiree Clubs. Mattie came to Saginaw as a young adult. She met and married James Erwin in the 1940's. This holy union produced six children, the first being born in 1947. All her children survive her. They are L. Fallasha Erwin, Detroit, MI, Beatrice King (Stanley S. Roberts), Clarkston, MI, Yvonne (Randall) Flowers, Bridgeport, MI, James Erwin, Jr., Brenda and Belinda Erwin and an adoptive daughter, Judy Barton, all of Saginaw, MI. One of the special qualities that made Mommy unique was she became the surrogate mother to many, including the children of her late sister, Mary Beemon Doster and the siblings of her children, Timothy Grays, Jacqueline (Darren) Nash, Billy James Erwin, and Stacy (Michael) Erwin Oakes. Together with her children, Mattie is also survived by a loving brother Joe (Cora) Atwater, her dedicated and faithful brother, Charles Atwater, and her only surviving sister,

Doris (John) Hinton. She leaves 13 grandchildren; Sharawin Erwin, Chandra Morgan, Kielen King, Schlar Erwin, Michael Horton, Quayshun King, Jennifer Copeland, Ashley Erwin, Jalen Flowers, Kiera Erwin, Kylie Erwin, James and Semaj Erwin; four great-grandchildren along with countless nieces and nephews. In addition, Mattie had a large cadre of special friends and assistants including, Ann Madison, Angie Dugan, Carolyn Clayton, Brenda Palmer, Kevin Jordon and John Clark (Old Folks). A "Special Thanks" to the Fresenius Medical Care, Dialysis Center in Saginaw, MI and the Lahser Hills Nursing Center in Southfield, MI. She leaves a dear longtime friend, Josephine Brown; her best friend and long time companion, Edward Akins preceded her in 2003. Mommy is also preceded by one brother, Willie B. Hutch, and one sister, Mary Beemon Doster. Mommy in her early Saginaw life worked as a cook at Porter's Restaurant and the Ramada Inn. She developed a reputation as a cook without equal with her legendary barbeque sauce, blackberry and peach cobblers and butter rolls. Mommy cooked for the NBA Washington Wizards and many other hungry individuals who were fortunate enough to grace her presence and enjoy her culinary art. After 28 years of devoted service, Mommy retired from GM's Malleable Iron Plant as an inspector operator in the Finishing Department. Few may remember that Mattie was an outstanding softball player. She hit with power and played a wicked first base. She loved baseball and basketball, especially the Detroit Pistons; she was passionate about fishing. When she got a fish on the line, you better watch out. Many have asked why people called Mattie, "Mommy." Her children called her Mommy because of her motherly love. Initially, others laughed at adult kids calling their mother Mommy. But after experiencing the sweet and wonderful woman who loved all God's children, they too began calling her Mommy. In Saginaw and every other place that she may have traveled. Mommy means LOVE!

# Tribute Wall

JR

“ I will always be proud to say I knew "Mommy" and had the honor of being in her presence. Many days I observed the way she prepared meals for her family with passion and I reciprocated it. I watched the way she unconditionally loved not only her family but everyone who came in contact with her and I copied the fullness of her heart. Mommy knew the Lord and smiled when she talked about how much she prayed to God to see her through the difficult times. Because I was given the gift of being exposed to her beautiful spirit I have experienced greatness. "Mommy" earned her wings long ago, and a few days ago she received her crown. I will always cherish every moment I spent with her.  
God Bless the Erwin Family.

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**Jeri Rockett** - April 08, 2012 at 12:00 AM

ML

“ My condolences to the family and may God bless and comfort you as we mourn the loss of a phenomenal woman. Her spirit is in all of you! Live as she wanted you to live! God BLESS!

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**Michael Welch Lawrence** - April 08, 2012 at 12:00 AM

LO

“ To Mommy's Family,

*I met Ms. Erwin many many years ago when I was selling Bay-Bay a house.*

*From the moment that I met her I knew that she was special and as I got to know her I could tell that she was the boss and I even listened to what she had to say. Ms. Erwin was a sweetheart and she will be missed.*

*I will not be able to be with you as you celebrate her homegoing but please know that you are in my thoughts and prayers.*

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**Leah Conway O'Daniels** - April 08, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JO

“ To the Erwin, Oaks, Hinton and all others I express my deepest sympathy to the entire family. I know how this feels because I have been in you all shoes seemly a million years. If you need me you know how to reach me day or night just a phone call away. Again I am very very sorry for your lost. Love Deany

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**Joyce O'Daniels** - April 08, 2012 at 12:00 AM

FB

“ Chandra, Sharawn, Stacy, and family,

*My condolences and prayers are extended to your family during this most difficult time. May our Father, the ultimate healer of broken hearts, comfort and uplift you all now and in the days ahead. I'm praying for you. Love you, Felice*

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**Felice (Howard) Bond** - April 08, 2012 at 12:00 AM

AW

“ Bay-Bay this is your partner Andrew from Central Foundry expressing my deepest sympathy for you and your family hold your head up and thankm God for the time you had wth Mommy. She touched alot of lives including mine. It has been along time since you and I spoke, but Maurice told me of your loss. Give me a call when youget a chance 616-608-6433, I'm still in Grand Rapids.

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**Andrew Williams** - April 08, 2012 at 12:00 AM

MW

“ TO THE FAMILY OF MS. MATTIE SO SORRY TO HEAR OF YOUR LOSS MY CONDOLENCE GOES OUT TO THE FAMILY .SHE WILL TRULY BE MISSED. GOD LOVES YOU. KEEP YOUR HEADS UP GOD WILL SEE YOU THOROUGH.

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**MAURICE WASHINGTON** - April 08, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ TO THE FAMILY OF MATTIE SUE ERWIN

*WHEN I MUST LEAVE YOU*

*When I must leave you for a little while, please do not grieve and shed wild tears and hug your sorrow to you through the years. But start out bravely with a gallant smile, and for my sake and for my name live on and do all things the same. Feed not your loneliness on empty days, but fill each walking hour in useful ways. Reach out your hand in comfort and in cheer and I in turn will comfort you and hold you near. Never, never be afraid to die for I am waiting for you in the Sky.*

*PLEASE VIEW THE LINK BELOW FOR MORE ENCOURAGING WORDS, PRAYERS, SONGS/VIDEOS AND MORE.  
URNALONE.COM*

*URNALONE.COM WOULD LIKE TO DEDICATE THIS SONG TO THE FAMILY.  
COPY THE LINK BELOW AND PASTE INTO YOUR WEB BROWSER OR JUST GO TO YOUTUBE. COM*

*<http://youtu.be/3MceyLe3Z0U>*

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April 08, 2012 at 12:00 AM

MR

“ Dear Vonnie and siblings:

*The death of your mother on Easter Sunday was definitely a shock to me. I shared a lot of personal time with your mother during her stay at Providence Hospital and Lahser Hill Rehab in Southfield MI. During my visits with her, we talked about everything. Your mother had a beautiful spirit. Although our time together was short, I will always cherish those moments. I will never forget her wonderful smile. God loves you all and so do I.*

*Loved your friend forever,*

*Marcia Rankins-Porter*

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**Marcia Rankins-Porter** - April 08, 2012 at 12:00 AM