



## Ms. Nellie Mae Sawyer

March 3, 1929 - November 16, 2018

Our beloved mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, great-great-grand mother, sister, aunt, cousin and mostly a “Woman of Virtue” quietly closed the book and went home to our Heavenly Father on Friday November 16, 2018 at the age of 89 years. Nellie was born March 3, 1929 in Montgomery, Alabama, daughter of the Late Charlie and Mariah Thomas.

Nellie married Eddie Sawyer in 1946 he preceded her in death 1985. Together they shared over 39 years of happiness and were blessed with nine children. The family moved to Saginaw, MI in 1970.

Nellie accepted Jesus Christ as her Lord and Saviors at a very young age and kept the faith until her death. She was a member of the Saginaw, MI founding company of the Seventh-day Adventist faith for over 48 years. The founding company is now called the Saginaw- Ephesus Seventh Day Adventist Church. Nellie was a devoted member on the Usher/Deaconess Board and she was referred to as “Light”. She also was a member of New Morning Star Baptist Church where she served 23years as President on the Senior Usher Board. Her favorite song was “Get right church and let’s go home”. She was a woman of integrity, courage, strength, compassion, wisdom and loyalty, though there are not enough words to describe her character. Out of all roles she played for her family, she was god sent for many others as a loving and caring friend, even for some a role model. Nellie tried to help everyone and opened her

home to all, no one left with an empty stomach.

As we turn the pages on Nellie's book, it would tell of our successes and disappointments we faced, our joyous times and sad times we shared. Page after page would read about how she served and loved her master! She was ever ready and willing to, give her time and talents to those in need. She was always about the "Business" and spoke what was on her mind good and bad!!!! Nellie led a life so noble, kind and true. She had her favorite saying "a heap sees, but a few knows "that's when you better check yourself. Taking care of family was her greatest joy and she will be sadly missed. We celebrate her freedom from this mortal prison, no more pain, no more confusion, no more loneliness. She is free to go and spread her wings. The deeds left behind will live on each day.

She leaves to cherish her memory one brother, John (Gloria) Thomas of Newport News, Virginia; two loving daughters, Delores Gayles and Billie Joyce Stribling; two devoted sons, Ronald and Derrick Sawyer Sr., all of Saginaw MI; 10 grandchildren, Pamela Sawyer, Archia (Otis) Jackson Jr., Michelle (Douglas) Coleman Sr, Shadanna Jackson, Ervin and Derrick Sawyer Jr, all of Saginaw, MI, Shilena Henderson of Atlanta, GA; Johnny Gayles Jr of Ann Arbor, MI; Tito McKinney of Sherman Oaks, CA; Germaine Helton of Atlanta GA; 10 great- grandchildren, LaTia Jackson of Detroit, MI; Otis Jackson III of Ypsilanti, MI; Chaerra Layton, Christian and Douglas Coleman Jr, Kemontay Smith, Arreanna, Raven, Rayvon and Trayvon Sawyer all of Saginaw, MI; a host of many other great and great great grandchildren, nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends. A special friend and long time neighbor Julia Harris-Humphrey of Saginaw MI.

Mrs. Sawyer was preceded in death by her husband, Eddie Sawyer, father, Charlie Thomas; mother, Mariah Thomas; five children, Eddie Mae, Charles, Bennie, Ernest and Michael Sawyer; sister, Jessie Foster; grandparents; and

special friend, Helen Lane.

Funeral service will take place at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, November 24, 2018 at Ephesus Seventh Day Adventist Church, 2115 Wadsworth, Saginaw, MI 48601. Pastor Steven Bramwell will officiate with interment at Forest Lawn Cemetery, 3210 South Washington Avenue, Saginaw, MI 48601. Friends may call at the Evans & Browne's Funeral Home, 441 North Jefferson Avenue, 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

NOV **23**. 2:00 PM - 8:00 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 **24**. 2:00 PM (ET)

Ephesus Seventh Day Adventist Church  
2115 Wadsworth Street  
Saginaw, MI 48601

# Tribute Wall



“ *Evans & Browne's Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Ms. Nellie Mae Sawyer*



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**Browne's Mortuary** - November 29, 2018 at 07:16 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Ms. Nellie Mae Sawyer.*



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November 24, 2018 at 11:04 AM



“ *I just heard of your passing and my heart is heavy . The last time I was home I stopped by to see you and you were not there , I figured when I came home Christmas I will see you then. Now your gone and I don't what to but I will miss u dearly and love always grandma*

*Love, Shileena Henderson*

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**Shileena Henderson** - November 23, 2018 at 09:27 PM

DC

“ *Derinda Culberson lit a candle in memory of Ms. Nellie Mae Sawyer*



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**Derinda culberson** - November 23, 2018 at 07:51 PM

CJ

“ *Carrie Jackson-Zackrie lit a candle in memory of Ms. Nellie Mae Sawyer*



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**Carrie Jackson-Zackrie** - November 23, 2018 at 12:04 PM

WT

“ *Willie M. Tatum lit a candle in memory of Ms. Nellie Mae Sawyer*



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**Willie M. Tatum** - November 23, 2018 at 11:05 AM

JH

“ *Family,*

*You are all in my thoughts and prayers.*

*Love Always!*



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**Janice Hulett-Wicker** - November 21, 2018 at 08:01 PM

NG

“ *NINA GARDNER lit a candle in memory of Ms. Nellie Mae Sawyer*



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**NINA GARDNER** - November 21, 2018 at 10:10 AM

NG

*Billy, Delores, and family you are in my thoughts and prayers*

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**NINA GARDNER** - November 21, 2018 at 10:11 AM

MG

“ *Marilyn Goodman lit a candle in memory of Ms. Nellie Mae Sawyer*



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**Marilyn Goodman** - November 20, 2018 at 06:32 PM

CW

“ *Clareeta White lit a candle in memory of Ms. Nellie Mae Sawyer*



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**Clareeta White** - November 20, 2018 at 11:51 AM

LR

“ *Lois Robinson lit a candle in memory of Ms. Nellie Mae Sawyer*



Lois Robinson - November 20, 2018 at 09:48 AM



“ *My prayers go out to the Sawyer family Loretta*



Da Don - November 20, 2018 at 08:20 AM

RA

“ *Condolences to the family of Mrs. Nellie Sawyer. You are in my prayer. There is no pain Jesus cannot feel and no hurt He cannot heal. The Lord is your strength.*



Rosie Anderson - November 20, 2018 at 12:04 AM

RT

“ *Rosalind Tillman lit a candle in memory of Ms. Nellie Mae Sawyer*



Rosalind Tillman - November 19, 2018 at 08:34 PM

RT

*Praying for the Sawyer family at this time that GOD will comfort your hearts and give you peace. Lewis and Tillman families,*

**Rosalind Tillman** - November 19, 2018 at 07:38 PM

RZ

“ *Rebecca Zimmerman lit a candle in memory of Ms. Nellie Mae Sawyer*



**Rebecca Zimmerman** - November 19, 2018 at 08:46 AM

KS

“ *Kathy Shaw lit a candle in memory of Ms. Nellie Mae Sawyer*



**Kathy Shaw** - November 18, 2018 at 06:14 PM

KM

“ *Kenneth Morris lit a candle in memory of Ms. Nellie Mae Sawyer*



**Kenneth Morris** - November 18, 2018 at 03:47 PM

KS

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



**katrina shivers** - November 17, 2018 at 08:46 AM

MD

“ R.i.p Ms.Sawyer



**Mary Guyton Darby** - November 17, 2018 at 08:24 AM

CW

“ Cathy WildoW sent a virtual gift in memory of Ms. Nellie Mae Sawyer



**Cathy WildoW** - November 17, 2018 at 08:12 AM

KS

“ Katrina Shivers lit a candle in memory of Ms. Nellie Mae Sawyer



**katrina shivers** - November 17, 2018 at 07:46 AM

Yvette  
Oliver  
Morris

“ Yvette Oliver Morris lit a candle in memory of  
Ms. Nellie Mae Sawyer



Yvette Oliver Morris - November 16, 2018 at 10:54 PM

HB

“ Harriet Brittain lit a candle in memory of Ms.  
Nellie Mae Sawyer



Harriet Brittain - November 16, 2018 at 09:53 PM

DC

“ Love you Granny your grandson!!!



Douglas Coleman - November 16, 2018 at 07:31 PM

BS

“ Billie Stribling lit a candle in memory of Ms.  
Nellie Mae Sawyer



billie stribling - November 16, 2018 at 07:26 PM

BS

*Rih mom love u will miss u*

**billie sribling** - November 16, 2018 at 07:27 PM

AJ

“ *Archia Jackson lit a candle in memory of Ms. Nellie Mae Sawyer*



**Archia Jackson** - November 16, 2018 at 07:25 PM

AJ

*RIH my granny! Love you*

**Archia Jackson** - November 16, 2018 at 06:33 PM

DG

“ *Delores Gayles lit a candle in memory of Ms. Nellie Mae Sawyer*



**Delores Gayles** - November 16, 2018 at 06:29 PM

DG

*We love you mom, dee and family*

**Delores Gayles** - November 16, 2018 at 07:29 PM

MI

“ *RIH granny love you*



Michelle - November 16, 2018 at 06:27 PM

RB

“ *Robert Shellie Bell lit a candle in memory of Ms. Nellie Mae Sawyer*



Robert Shellie Bell - November 16, 2018 at 04:24 PM

RB

*Sister Sawyer was a member of our church. She had the prettiest smile. She would tilt her head and grin from ear to ear with those high cheek bones. So cute.*

Robert Shellie Bell - November 16, 2018 at 05:26 PM



*Lit a candle in memory of Ms. Sawyer*

Da Don - November 18, 2018 at 04:43 PM



*My prayers are with the Sawyer famil,Loretta*

Da Don - November 18, 2018 at 05:45 PM