



## Velma Bell

September 23, 1928 - September 20, 2010

Funeral service will take place at 11:00 a.m. Saturday, September 25, 2010 at Shiloh Baptist Church, 295 Grant Street. Pastor Delwin Tatum will officiate with interment in Eastlawn Memorial Gardens. Friends may call at the Browne's Mortuary, 441 North Jefferson Avenue, on Friday from 2:00 until 8:00 p.m. The family will be present from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. for a family hour. Ms. Velma Smith Bell, age 81, transitioned on Monday, September 20, 2010 in her home. She was born to the union of the late Johnnie T. and Beatrice (Tingle) Smith in Kemper County, MS on September 23, 1928. She was a member of Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church and had served faithfully in the Mission Ministry, Sunday School as Superintendent and the Jail Ministry. She attended Jackson State University (MS) and Michigan State University in East Lansing, MI, earning BA and MA degrees. Her motto was "Education is our freedom and freedom should be everybody's business." She taught in the Saginaw and Buena Vista School Districts, serving a faithful 37 years before retiring. Velma was a Charter Member of Gamma Psi Sigma Chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc., Saginaw. Velma leaves to cherish her memory, a son, Clois Darryhl (Kristina) Bell; grandchildren, Clois Anthony "Tony", A'Keshia, Sharice, Donovan, Olivia and Alondra Bell, Cleopatra, Cody and Kyle Kleppert; great-grandchildren, Tray'Vion, Tay'Vien, Satchell, Heaven and Clois Anthony Bell, Sha'Niya Browning and Samuel Richardson, Jr.; godchild, Arik Smith; 2 brothers, Rev. Henry Clay (Dr. Jean O.) Smith, Saginaw, and Clois (Idella) Smith, Toledo, OH; 2 sisters, Thelma

Nichols, Saginaw, and Leodia Powell, Kennesaw, GA; former spouse, Lovely Strong and special sister-in-law, Ruth McDowell. She is also survived by many nieces, nephews, other relatives, friends and her church family. She was preceded in death by her parents, former spouse, Calvin Bell; sisters, Hazel Woodhouse and Viola; and brothers, Johnie D., Johnnie Albert and Raymond.

# Tribute Wall

SG

“ *To the Family of Mrs. Velma Bell:*

*I am a former Houghton School Student of Mrs. Bell and I am so sorry to hear of her transition. She was my 3rd grade teacher and I loved her so much. I would see her in the grocery stores or at church activities which I made it a point of letting her know that her student remembered her and she always remembered me. I thank God for teachers like her, there are not many teachers today of her quality and care for students. To the family - you have my sympathy and my prayers. May you find strength in the memories that you share of her. I know that I will. May God bless and keep each of you.*

*Humbly Submitted,  
Ms. Sylvia L. George  
Former Houghton School Student*

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**Sylvia L. George** - September 20, 2010 at 12:00 AM

JP

“ *I just wanted to send my condolences to Sharice and the Bell Family. It is sad to hear about about the passing of Mrs. Bell's she was a very kind and quiet woman.*

*I pray for the strength of the family, I know that this is a difficult time for you all but rest assured that the Lord will see you through.*

*God bless you.*

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**Janelle Payton** - September 20, 2010 at 12:00 AM

LC

“ Every now and then, I would see Mrs. Bell and it would remind me of the good times I had as A student at Paul L. Koeltzow Elementary School. She cared about her students and taught us about life as well as education. I still remember the delicious Pound Cake she gave us as a treat.

*May fond memories of Mrs. Bell be a comfort to her friends and family in their time of need.*

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**Lawanda Culberson-Myles** - September 20, 2010 at 12:00 AM

CB

“ thank you all so much for thinking of my mother. My life will never be the same, i miss her so much. The hurt is so strong, but I know she wants me to be strong. God bless all of you. Thank-you Clois and family.

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**Clios Bell** - September 20, 2010 at 12:00 AM

TW

“ MAY GOD GIVE YOU STRENGTH DURING THIS TIME, I HAVE BEEN IN THAT PLACE MY BROTHER, HE WILL SEE YOU THROUGH - SINCERE CONDOLENCES - TRACY WOODS

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**TRACY WOODS** - September 20, 2010 at 12:00 AM

AJ

“ To Soror Powell, the Bell and Smith Families, Please accept my deepest and sincerest sympathy as you mourn the loss of your loved one. Velma was a very special person. She was very kind, soft spoken, and willing to help whenever and wherever the need arose. She will be missed by all who knew her. May God Bless and keep you as you remember Velma and all that she was to your family.

Sincerely,  
Sue McDole

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**Anthony/Taryn Jones** - September 20, 2010 at 12:00 AM

LM

“ A very special lady will be missed from this neighborhood. To the family I pray God will comfort you all as you go through this time of grief.

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**L. C. & Katherine Moore** - September 20, 2010 at 12:00 AM

DF

“ May the peace which comes from the memories of love shared, comfort you now and in the days ahead

*Please know that we are all praying for you! Know that God loves you and that He never gives us more than we can bare.*

Love,

*Deborah Alloway and family*

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**Deborah Alloway and family** - September 20, 2010 at 12:00 AM

TB

“*Kristina and the Bell family, I am so sorry for your loss. Although I never met Ms. Bell, Kristina often spoke about her. I just saw Kristina about a week ago at the store and she said she was taking care of Ms. Bell during her illness, I could tell Kristina took great pride in helping with her care. Knowing Kristina she made sure everything was done properly she is a very caring caregiver so be rest assured she was in good hands.*

*My prayers are with you during this difficult time. Just know she truly is in a better place.*

*God Bless you.*

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**Tammy Baldwin** - September 20, 2010 at 12:00 AM

CH

“*I was so blessed to have the opportunity to have a woman like Ms. Bell as a part of my life. She was like another grandmother to me. Her granddaughter, Sharice, and I are best friends and met when we were still attending Holy Cross. I remember the summer days when I would go visit Ms. Bell and Sharice, and how every Sunday if we were at Ms. Bell's we had to go to church and wear a skirt! Ms. Bell made me feel welcome in her home and part of her family. She made me appreciate my own grandparents more because of the relationship that I witnessed that Sharice and her had. She was such a loving and giving woman and no one will replace her in our hearts. I hate that I can't be there for Sharice and the Bell family, but I am with you all in spirit and my love goes out to you. My prayers are with you.*

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**Celestely Howard** - September 20, 2010 at 12:00 AM

BN

“ Mrs Bell, was one of my favorite elementary teachers that I ever had the pleasure of knowing. I was a teachers pet to her and loved her dearly she left a hand print on my heart and would like everyone to know that it sadden me to hear of her death and over the course of my adult years I had hoped to run into her shopping or somewhere to just say hello and tell her how special she was to me as a student in her class. I seen her only once and was happy to see her and never got the chance to see her again but she spoke of her son and how he liked to play basketball. I thought she was so proud of her son and was close to him just by the way she spoke of him so often. Im sure she will be missed cuz she was definetly a beautiful person. God rest her lovely soul as she enters into eternal peace. I am sorry for your loss but it is heavens gain. Sincerly Belinda C Neitzelt.

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**Belinda Neitzelt** - September 20, 2010 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ Ms.Bell, I will truly miss your winning smile and our short talks on 27th.st. God bless you.

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**James and Brenda Harris** - September 20, 2010 at 12:00 AM

SP

“ Our deepest sympathy to the Bell family at this time of sorrow! Aunt Velma is in God's care now and what better care could we ever ask for her? Now we pray for your comfort in the days ahead. God bless you and keep you in His tender care and love for all eternity. We will miss Aunt Velma's smile and her kindness that she shared with all of her family members, church family members, sorority members, friends, former students, and well wishers. We love you Aunt Velma and you will be truly missed.

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**Stefan D. Powell** - September 20, 2010 at 12:00 AM