

I have fought the good fight. I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness,
Which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—
and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

II Timothy 4:7,8

Acknowledgements and Appreciation

We are most grateful for friends and family who have prayed with and for us, the calls, visits and any acts of kindness shown to our family. May God continue to bless each of you. We would especially like to thank Ivan E. Phillips and the staff of Paradise Funeral Chapel, The Covenant ER Staff, The McGlothlin Family, Sherry Pought, Debra Dawkins and family. Joanne Farrington and Family, Doris Wafer and Family and Michael Chester.

Interment

Thursday, September 4, 2025 – 10:00 a.m.

Forest Lawn Cemetery

3210 South Washington Avenue
Saginaw, Michigan 48601



Paradise Funeral Chapel

3100 South Washington Avenue
Saginaw, Michigan 48601
Phone (989) 754-4826 / Fax (989) 754-3740
pfc@saginaw@paradisefuneralchapel.com
Sharise Steele-Phillips, Manager
Ivan E. Phillips, President & Owner



In Loving Memory of

Mrs. Hazel Irwin

Sunrise: March 25, 1948 - Sunset: August 22, 2025

Memorial Visitation
2:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Wednesday, September 3, 2025

Paradise Funeral Chapel
3100 South Washington Avenue
Saginaw, Michigan 486011

Mama

Her heartbeat was my very first sound,
Her kiss my first affection, her loving arms bought security,
Her instruction, clear directions
I owe the person I've become to her unselfish love
There's comfort knowing she's not gone
She lives with God above



Reflections on the Life of Hazel Jene Jackson Irvin

Faithful, resilient, stern, yet loving, matter-of-fact, generous, and hilarious are only a few of the characteristics that describe the woman known to most as 'Punkin,' others as Hazel Jene or Hazel, but to us, she was just momma. While she was not born in the best of circumstances, I like to believe that momma will be remembered as someone who came to appreciate life and tried to live it to its fullest. She learned to enjoy the small things in life. She loved the Lord and she leaned on Him for direction in her life. She was often more honest than she needed to be, but she had a heart of gold. Her love language was the gift of giving. She wasn't always able to give from her wallet, so if you needed something and she could give it to you, she had a word for you before she wrote that check, because 'along with my money comes my mouth.' If you couldn't stand it, then don't ask for it. It was all done in love. She also loved to cook and feed people. She made some serious Cornbread Dressing (not stuffing) and a mean German Chocolate Cake, among other things. Holidays and special occasions will never be the same in this family. Not only will her meals be missed, but most definitely her PRESENCE.

Hazel was born on March 25, 1948, in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, to Hayward Bell and Willie Ruth Jackson. She was raised by the late Isaac Riley, to age 12, when she moved from Pine Bluff to Saginaw, Michigan, to be reunited with her mother and sisters, Bettie Ruth and Janice. Hazel continued and completed her general education in the Saginaw Public School System. While living in Saginaw, momma held membership with Clearstone Baptist Church, in Carrollton, MI, under the leadership of Rev. Willie Casey, and later with First Assembly of God in Saginaw, under the leadership of Pastors Fred and Jetta Smolchuck. However, she was a child of God for a lot longer. She married Larry D. Irvin, Sr., on July 10, 1990.

Momma had a few occupations throughout her life; all fell under the umbrella of 'Caregiver.' In 2012, she decided to retire from Covenant Visiting Nurses Association to dedicate her time 100% to taking care of her husband, Larry, until he went to be with the Lord in 2013. Momma spent her final years doing whatever needed to be done for herself and her children, unapologetically. She enjoyed preparing delicious meals, baking delectable desserts, and enjoying the company of her friends and neighbors. She enjoyed attending the Saginaw Fairground Neighborhood Association Watch meetings with Doris and Mike. She absolutely enjoyed a good Bingo game, at home, church, or with the Eagles, VFW, American Legion, Knights of Columbus, wherever they were playing, she was ready with her bingo chips and her Bingo buddy, Joanne. She loved shopping at the home décor and craft stores with Debra and her Roadie, Sherry (Poon). I never worried about her when she went out. She was in good hands with them. She's in good hands now too...God has her.

We all loved her. But God loved her best. He knew that she was tired. Her work here on earth, in the physical realm was done. We would now have to rely on her spiritual presence to keep us going. She leaves to cherish her precious memories her children, Reginald (Lydia) Riley, Bridget (Sam Fields, Jr.) Hinds and Monique Jackson; her bonus children, Larry (Charthy) Irvin, Alicia Irvin, Anise (Andrew) Ankrah, Shontell Bates, and Marcus Bates; her granddaughter, Briana Burrell; bonus grandchildren, Kennadi Ankrah, Donnelle and Charecca Irvin, Marlin J, Taquisha, Fred, Are, Ailyse, Mar'Terris, and Angel; a brother, Bruno Bell, Pine Bluff, Arkansas; aunts, Tommascan Comer and Earnestine Hunt; and uncle, Maurice Bell, all of Chicago, Illinois; two sisters-in-law, Frances Irvin and Loistine Irvin, Saginaw, MI; nephews, Derrick (Ericka) Early, Lansing, MI; Tredis O'Daniels, Saginaw, MI; Kentrell O'daniels, Ypsilanti, MI; David Bell, Dallas, TX.; Jamal Bell, Chicago, IL; Frederick (Yolanda) Irvin, Willie (Jaqueline) Irvin Jr., Ruben (Doris) Irvin, all of Saginaw, MI; Marlin Templeton, Flint, MI, Derrick (Jacqueline) Barnes, Flint, MI, Michael Barnes, Federal Way, WA; nieces, Angelique Bell, Chicago, IL; Charmaine Bell, Dallas, TX; Wenona (Jerome) Vaughn of Woodbridge, VA, Michelle Little and Debra Webb of Saginaw, MI; special cousins, Sherry Pought and Deborah (Al) Gibson Johnson; several great-nieces and nephews and cousins; special friends that she adored, Linnie M. Dent, Debra Dawkins, Joanne Farrington, and Bernice McGlothlin.

Momma was preceded in death by her husband, Larry; parents, Hayward and Willie Ruth and Isaac Riley; her sisters, Betty Ruth Ganter and Janice O'Daniels; a granddaughter, Samara J. Burrell; aunts, Romella J. Scruggs-Nelson, Lillie Lewis, Beatrice Williams, Carrie Williams, Lorine Koger, Reola Johnson and Maeola Adams; brothers-in-law, Glennie Irvin, Eddie Irvin, Willie Irvin, Sr., Ruben Irvin, Sr., and Clarence Irvin; sisters-in-law, Cornelous Irvin, Velma Templeton and Doris Jean Webb; nieces, Shadanna Bettis, Adrienne Barnes, Lucille Webb and Tonia Irvin Moxley; a nephew, James Ganter; many other relatives and friends, including her childhood best friend, Ellena Gaskew, and most recently, Janie Johnson-Wilson of Shreveport, LA.

