IN LOVING MEMORY

Tannie SMITH



JULY 14, 1944 - APRIL 01, 2026

Funeral Service - Thursday, April 9, 2026

Visitation 11:00 AM - 12:00 pm
Celebration of life 12:00 PM

Immanuel's Temple Community Church
5400 S Martin Luther King Jr Blvd
Lansing, MI 48911

ORDER OF SERVICE

PRECSSIONAL	AUTUMN T. WEEKLEY
PRAYER	DEACON WILLIE SAMS
OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE	BISHOP AARON I. MILTON *(JESUS OF NAZARETH COGIC)*
NEW TESTAMENT	REV. DR. JEREMIAH WHITTINGTON
MUSICAL SECLECTION	EDDIE ROBINSON *ACCOMPANIST BY SEBASTIAN WOODS*
RESOLUTION	NADINE BROWN-UDDIN
READING OF OBITUARY	AUDREY HOLMES MAYFIELD
POEM	JAZMINE SAFFOLD
REMARKS	FRIENDS & FAMILY *(PLEASE LIMIT REMARKS TO 2 MINUTES)*
EXPRSSIONS OR TRIBUTES	RODNEY SADDLER-WHITTINGTON
SOLOIST	ALANNE WHITT *ACCOMPANIST BY JOSHUAH HICKS*
EULOGY	MINISITER FANNIE SAMS

LUKE 6:38

"GOOD MEASURE, PRESSED DOWN, SHAKEN TOGETHER & RUNNING OVER!"

OBITUARY

WITH A HEART THAT TOUCHED MANY AND A SPIRIT THAT COULD NOT BE DIMMED, OUR BELOVED ONE ENTERED ETERNAL REST. GOD IN HIS INFINITE WISDOM, CALLED ONE OF HIS FAITHFUL SERVANTS HOME ON APRIL 1, 2026.

FANNIE SMITH WAS BORN JULY 14, 1944, IN EAGLE MILLS ARKANSAS TO LOVING PARENTS GEORGE AND LULA WHITTINGTON. SHE WAS THE FIFTH CHILD OF SEVEN.

THE FAMILY MOVED TO MICHIGAN IN 1949 WHERE SHE COMPLETED HER EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND GRADUATED FROM THE RENOWNED SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL. HER LOVE FOR LEARNING DID NOT STOP THERE. SHE CONTINUED TO TAKE ADULT EDUCATION COURSES, BUT SHE WAS MOST PROUD OF ATTENDING KENDALL COLLEGE OF ARTS & DESIGN.

FANNIE WAS A MOTHER OF THREE CHILDREN, RODNEY, MONIQUE AND TINA. SHE PARENTED WITH STRENGTH AND INTENTION, DOING HER BEST TO GUIDE HER CHILDREN AND SHAPE THEM INTO WHO THEY ARE TODAY.

FANNIE MARRIED RICHARD SMITH IN 1975, THE LOVE OF HER LIFE, AND MOVED TO LANSING, MICHIGAN. HERE SHE GAINED A BONUS CHILD WHO SHE ADORED, RACHAEL.

FANNIE WAS EMPLOYED WITH THE LANSING PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM. SHE RETIRED AFTER WORKING OVER TWENTY (20) YEARS AS A LEAD SECRETARY. SHE WAS LOVED BY HER STAFF AND STUDENTS.

WITH HER ARTISTIC BACKGROUND, FANNIE TOOK THE TIME AND ENERGY TO THOUGHTFULLY CREATE UNIQUE BANNERS FOR EVERY OCCASION, *"IF YOU KNOW, YOU KNOW."* FANNIE TRULY HAD A REMARKABLE EYE FOR DETAIL, COORDINATING COLORS, CLOTHING AND ACCESSORIES THAT GAVE A STUNNING AND EXPENSIVE APPEARANCE. NO MATTER WHAT SHE COULD ALWAYS FIND THE PERFECT NECKLACE TO MATCH ANYTHING.

WHILE SHE LOVED FASHION AND DESIGN, HER GREATEST IDENTITY WAS ROOTED IN HER FAITH. FANNIE LED MANY TO JESUS WITH HER ABILITY TO QUOTE SCRIPTURES WHILE SINGING AND DANCING. FANNIE WAS RAISED AT FAITH TEMPLE C.O.G.I.C, BUT WAS ONE OF THE ORIGINAL MEMBERS OF IMMANUEL'S TEMPLE COMMUNITY CHURCH, OF LANSING, MI. SHE LOVED HER CHURCH WHERE SHE WORSHIPPED AND GAVE SERVANTRY TO GOD'S PEOPLE.

FANNIE TOOK THE PHRASE "CLEANLINESS IS NEXT TO GODLINESS "LITERALLY AS SHE WAS SUCH A METICULOUS HOUSEKEEPER THAT WHEN HER CHILDREN'S FRIENDS CAME TO VISIT, THEY OFTEN THOUGHT THEY COULD EAT OFF THE FLOOR; MAKE NO MISTAKE ABOUT IT, IF YOU WERE VISITING FANNIE'S HOME, SHE WAS NOT ASHAMED TO GIVE YOU A BROOM OR DISH RAG SO YOU COULD HELP HER CLEAN TOO.

FANNIE WAS PRECEDED IN DEATH BY HER LOVING HUSBAND, RICHARD E. SMITH, HER BELOVED DAUGHTER MONIQUE J. SAFFOLD AND HER GRANDSON, SEAN PEAY. HER PARENTS, GEORGE & LULA WHITTINGTON AND HER SISTER SHIRLEY MARSHALL. MENTIONABLE FRIENDS IN HEAVEN, VIRGINIA HUNT, AND VERNA ROGERS.

SHE LEAVES TO CHERISH HER MEMORY, HER LOVING AND DEVOTED CHILDREN, RODNEY SADDLER, CRYSTAL (JEREMIAH) T. HARDLEY, AND RACHELL (MICHAEL THOMPSON) SMITH. SHE ALSO LEAVES BEHIND HER CHERISHED GRANDCHILDREN, RODNEY SADDLER. JAZMINE SAFFOLD, JALEN SADDLER, JORDAN SAFFOLD, WALTER GRIFFITH JR., WYNTER GRIFFITH, AND AUTUMN WEEKLEY.

SHE WAS ALSO BLESSED WITH A BEAUTIFUL LEGACY OF GREAT-GRANDCHILDREN, COREY PRITCHETT, CORRYN (ZY ZY), PRITCHETT, NOVA (GIG RENEE) SADDLER, AND DAKOTA SADDLER WHO BROUGHT HER IMMENSE JOY AND PRIDE.

FANNIE IS SURVIVED BY HER BELOVED SIBLINGS, BARBARA HICKS, MARY DEAN GRADY, IVORY HIBBITTS, REV. DR. JEREMIAH (KAYE) WHITTINGTON, AND ETHEL (DAYMON) TURNER. MENTIONALBLE FRIENDS, JANETTE MUSE, RUBY HICKS, RAINEY HALL, AND THE SEWINGS FAMILY, AS WELL AS A HOST OF NIECES, NEPHEWS, EXTENDED FAMILY AND CLOSE LOVED ONES WHO WILL CONTINUE TO HONOR HER LEGACY.

FANNIE'S LIFE REFLECTED LOVE, FAITH, STYLE AND STRENGTH. SHE WILL BE DEEPLY MISSED, YET HER MEMORY WILL LIVE ON IN ALL WHO KNEW AND LOVED HER.
































Retail Therapy
was her joy

A True Shopping Queen



FANNIE HAD A LOVE FOR SHOPPING THAT WAS TRULY UNMATCHED. ANYTIME SHE MENTIONED SHE WAS "GOING SOMEWHERE," WE ALREADY KNEW, THE STORE WAS HER DESTINATION.

SHE HAD A KEEN EYE FOR A GREAT DEAL, A NATURAL SENSE OF STYLE, AND FOUND TRUE JOY IN DISCOVERING THE PERFECT PIECE. WHETHER SHE WAS SHOPPING FOR HERSELF, HER FAMILY, OR SIMPLY BECAUSE IT MADE HER HAPPY. SHOPPING WASN'T JUST SOMETHING SHE DID....
IT WAS A PART OF WHO SHE WAS.





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TO MY MOM

TO THE BEAUTIFUL WOMAN WHO SHOWED LOVE AND RAISED ME TO BE THE WOMAN I AM TODAY. HER LOVE BROUGHT ME A FAMILY. I WILL ALWAYS BE GRATEFUL TO GOD FOR BRINGING HER INTO MY LIFE. I KNOW THAT HER MEMORY WILL LIVE ON FOREVER IN MY HEART!

LOVE, YOUR FAVORITE RACHEL

DEAREST SISTER

THANK YOU FOR BEING MY BESTFRIEND, MY PROTECTOR, AND THE BEST SHOPPING BUDDY A GIRL COULD EVER HAVE. YOU WERE TRULY CLOSEST TO MY HEART. YOU KNOW FOR A FACT IM YOUR FAVORITE SISTER. AND IM FINALLY READY TO SHARE THAT WITH THE WORLD.

LOVE ALWAYS,
ETHEL

DEAREST ANUT FANNIE

YOU WERE PURE SUNSHINE, MOST OF MY GREATEST CHILDHOOD MEMORIES INCLUDE YOU. SO MUCH TIME WAS SPENT WITH YOU AND I AM SO THANKFUL FOR THAT. YOU ARE MY FAVOIRTE AUNTIE AND IM NOT ASHMED TO SAY THAT. AND YOU KNOW IM YOUR FAVORITE NIECE.

LOVE FOREVER,
ALANNE

TINA: "**HELLO BEAUTIFUL**, HOW ARE YOU TODAY?"

FANNIE: "FINE, AND GETTING FINNER!"

FORVEVER LOVED.

YOUR BELOVED DAUGHTER,
CRYSTAL

TO MY MOM

THE GREATEST LOVE OF ALL.

YOUR SON,
RODNEY
"FOR WHOM SHE IS WELL PLEASED."

TO MY GRANDMA FANNIE

THANK YOU GRANDMA FANNIE FOR MAKING ME FEEL LIKE I WAS THE MOST HANDSOME AND PERFECT PERSON ON EARTH WHENEVER WE SPOKE. THROUGH OUT MY WHOLE LIFE I'VE ALWAYS HAD A SENSE OF PEACE WHENEVER GOING THROUGH ANYTHING BECAUSE I KNEW I HAD MY GRANDMA PRAYING OVER ME.

LOVE YOU ALWAYS,
RODNEY

TO MY GRANDMA

I THANK THE LORD FOR THE LIFE OF YOU,S FANNIE MAE. MY BIGGEST CHEERLEADER. NOBODY ON THIS PLANET PRAYED FOR ME LIKE YOU. YOU ALWAYS MADE ME FEEL LIKE I WAS THE GREATEST PERSON ON THIS PLANET, IT'S LIKE YOU KNEW THE MISSION I HAD TO COMPLETE BEFORE I DID. I LOVE YOU IN A PLACE WHERE THERE IS NO SPACE OR TIME. MY SWEET GIRLLLI

LOVE,
JALEN

PALLBEARERS

RODNEY SADDLER
JALEN SADDLER
JORDAN SAFFOLD
WALTER GRIFFITH JR.
CORY PRITCHETT JR.
RODNEY WHITTINGTON-SADDLER

HONORARY PALLBEARERS

DR. JEREMIAH WHITTINGTON
ERIC BROWN
JOSHUA HICKS JR
CRYSTAL T. HARDLEY
RAYMOND BROWN
JOSHUA HICKS SR.
TYLER WHITT
BRUCE HICKS

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

THE FAMILY OF FANNIE SMITH WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS THEIR SINCERE APPRECIATION FOR THE LOVE, PRAYERS, THOUGHTFUL WORDS, AND ACTS OF SUPPORT SHOWN DURING THIS DIFFICULT TIME. YOUR SUPPORT HAS BEEN A SOURCE OF COMFORT AND STRENGTH, AND EACH GESTURE, WHETHER SPOKEN, WRITTEN, OR FELT, WILL ALWAYS BE REMEMBERED. MAY GOD BLESS EACH OF YOU.

FINAL RESTING PLACE

FRIDAY, APRIL 10, 2026
11:00 AM GRAVESIDE SERVICE

GARFIELD PARK CEMETERY
2222 KALAMAZOO AVE SE
GRAND RAPIDS, MI 49507

SERVICES ENTRUSTED TO
AND PROGRAMS DESIGNED BY

Toombs by Crystal Funeral Services