



## Mrs. Lena D. Mills

February 6, 1939 - February 3, 2019

### Her Story:

Lena Mae Damron Mills was born in Selmer, Tennessee to the parents of Andrew and Katharine Damron. She accepted Christ at an early age. After her move to Detroit, she chose Fellowship Chapel Church (charter member) as her church and contributed much of her attention to the church through auxiliaries, contributions, and participation.

Lena attended McNairy County Public Schools from kindergarten through high school. After finishing high school at age 16 (honors) she attended Tennessee State University and was a majorette in the band with her friend Anna Hall who later became her sister in law (Walter Hall).

Eventually, the local school system, which was segregated, began to collapse under its own weight and local children were integrated leaving the black teachers without jobs. Teachers had to find jobs on their own and Lena moved to Chicago where she found employment in the Chicago Public Schools. After a few years Lena relocated to Detroit Michigan and attended Eastern Michigan University and completed a Masters Degree in Counseling. She began her teaching career at Southeastern High School, becoming one of the few African American Business teachers in the system, and later moved to Central High School. She retired as a counselor from McMichael Middle School.

Lena found her true love in Detroit and in 1973 she and Thomas Mills Jr. were married by Rev. James E Wadsworth pastor of Fellowship Chapel Church. In the 90's Lena was owner and CEO of two group homes and ran a day program for mentally ill patients, where she had 15 patients attending daily. The clients were picked up from their group homes, taken to the center for training, and returned later that day. When the state stopped funding the program, she had another idea to tutor students and adults, which she did. Lena retired from the Detroit Public Schools in 1996 to devote full time to the tutoring program which she continued until her death. In her honor, Gold Key Tutoring program will continue, along with computer training for seniors. Lena was also very active in children's church where she was a co-teacher with Ellen Holmes, Acquanetta Foster, and Cynthia Warner.

# Cemetery Details

## Roseland Park Cemetery

29001 Woodward Ave.  
Berkley, MI 48072

# Previous Events

## Visitation

Tuesday, Feb. **12**. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

O. H. Pye, III Funeral Home  
17600 Plymouth Road  
Detroit, MI 48227  
(313) 838-9770  
info@pyefuneralhome.com

## Family Hour

Wednesday, Feb. **13**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Fellowship Chapel  
7707 West Outer Drive  
Detroit, MI 48235

## Funeral Service

Wednesday, Feb. **13**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Fellowship Chapel  
7707 West Outer Drive  
Detroit, MI 48235



# Tribute Wall



“ *Mrs. Lena D. Mills*

January 21, 2023 at 09:34 PM



“ *I am sorry to hear of the passing of Mrs. Mills. Tom and I worked together at Central High and I took pictures of Lena and him at the Retired Business Educators Luncheon for the past few years. I want you to know that the Mills Family are in my thoughts and prayers.*

*Phillip Williams*

**Phillip Williams** - February 16, 2019 at 09:12 AM



“ *Claud Della Surratt Stackens lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Lena D. Mills*



**Claud Della Surratt Stackens** - February 09, 2019 at 03:52 AM



*Thank you, Claud Della!*

**Willinda Ringer** - February 11, 2019 at 07:36 AM



*Thinking of you all!!*

**Claud Della Surratt Stackens** - February 16, 2019 at 12:44 AM



“ *A New Sunrise Spray was purchased for the family of Mrs. Lena D. Mills.*



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February 08, 2019 at 08:48 PM



“ *Tom, Stephen and family*

*Out heartfelt sympathy on the loss of Lena. She was a beautiful, caring person, that will forever be remembered. We pray for God's blessings of strength at this difficult time. Ben & Deborah Hodge*



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**Ben Hodge III** - February 07, 2019 at 01:20 AM