



Mrs. Thelma Lee Rayford

May 1, 1921 - December 27, 2013

Born May 1, 1921, in Hattiesburg, Mississippi Thelma Lee was the only beloved child of George and Nancy Jackson, who preceded her in death.

The Jackson family worshipped together for many years at Friendship Baptist Church under Pastor Rev. E. Jones. Because of her love for music she played the piano for the Sunday School Department. Thelma accepted Jesus Christ as a child and stood firmly through the years until the God of her Salvation called her home on December 27, 2013.

Thelma was educated in the Hattiesburg Public Schools. In 1940, Thelma married the love of her life, Hansel Charles Rayford and was happily married for 43 years until his death in 1983.

Thelma, along with other family members, migrated to Detroit in 1945 while Hansel was in the United States Army serving in World War II. After serving in the Army, Hansel joined Thelma in Detroit, where they raised their seven children Charles, Joanne, Sharon, Nancy, Hansel Dwayne, Frankie, and Stanford. Thelma devoted her life to her husband and her children.

In 1951 Thelma joined New Light Baptist Church under the pastorate of Rev. Anderson Martin, and remained faithful under Rev. Cornell E. Talley, Rev. Stanley Baker, and Rev. Frederick Brown. She served faithfully on the Usher

Board Number One until her health failed.

Often she would say, "I wished I had a sister or a brother." So being an only child she was very close to her cousins whom she grew-up with. Thelma enjoyed many family gatherings, celebrations, holidays, and many trips with her children. The Rayford children are so grateful to God for allowing them to have their dearly beloved mother for many years. Glory to God in the Highest!

Cemetery Details

Grand Lawn Cemetery

23501 Grand River
Detroit, MI 48219

Previous Events

Visitation

Friday, Jan. 3. 3:00 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

Saturday, Jan. 4. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

New Light Baptist Church
5240 W. Chicago
Detroit, MI 48204

Funeral Service

Saturday, Jan. 4. 11:00 AM (ET)

New Light Baptist Church
5240 W. Chicago
Detroit, MI 48204

Tribute Wall



“ *Mrs. Thelma Lee Rayford*

January 21, 2023 at 09:34 PM



“ *Cousin Thelma was a beautiful, kind-hearted person. she was a sweet gentle soul and she loved to laugh. She was our mother's first cousin and our mother adored her.*

We always looked forward to her visits when she came to Grand Rapids. We loved her dearly and she will be greatly missed. Love Always, Zelda, Barbara, Tony, Bill and the children.

Zelda Staten - January 11, 2014 at 05:21 PM



“ *Greetings Sharon and family from your cousins in California. We were all so very sorry to hear the news of Aunt Thelma's passing. So very sorry, but I beleive God picks the best, for His personal garden. Oh what a time those Rayford women are having. Well, God's best to you Sharon ans family, you're in my heart and my prayers.*

K Baldwin - January 08, 2014 at 01:23 AM



“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Ebony Wheat - January 05, 2014 at 10:12 AM

FW

“ On behalf of Bishop and Mrs Wright and the entire Greater Miller Memorial COGIC Family, we pray for Evangelist Sharon Cole and her brothers, sisters, and relatives during this trying time. We "take you to the King" who is able to help you through this time of trials. We love love you and pray your strength in the days ahead.



First Lady Robin Wright - January 04, 2014 at 05:39 AM

SC

“ 4 files added to the album New Album Name



Sharon Cole - January 04, 2014 at 05:09 AM