



## Mrs. Velma Boykin

May 8, 1930 - November 29, 2016

### Her Life Journey

Velma Massenburg Boykin was born on May 8, 1930, in Henderson, North Carolina, to the union of James Early Massenburg and Carrie Foster Massenburg. On Tuesday, November 29, 2016, our Heavenly Father called her to rest. She was the youngest of ten children of whom eight siblings preceded her in death: five sisters including Annie Mae, Ethel, Mabel, Mollie and Nannie; three brothers, Archie, Acie and Percy.

Velma accepted Christ at an early age and joined Dickie's Grove Baptist Church in Henderson, North Carolina. She completed her formal education at Henderson Institute. She went on to attend North Carolina A&T University where she joined Sigma Gamma Rho sorority and earned a Bachelor's degree of Education. On December 24, 1953, she married the love of her life, James Garfield Boykin. Later, while teaching and raising four children, she earned a Master's of Arts degree in education from Wayne State University.

As a military officer's wife, Velma journeyed to many places with her husband and took residency in Georgia, New Jersey, Ansbach, Germany, Westland Michigan, New York, and finally in 1970, Detroit, Michigan as her final destination.

Velma united with Mount Calvary AME in 1972 where she served faithfully for

more than 44 years. She served on the senior Usher Board, Steward Board, as a class leader and in other roles supporting church ministries. When her health failed and prevented her active involvement, she continued to attend service almost to the end of her life. Also, on the arm of her devoted husband, she regularly attended weekly Bible study and Sunday school.

Velma devoted her entire career to educating children, and taught in several school systems including Borden Town New Jersey Board of Education, Romulus and Detroit Boards of Education. Teaching was her passion. She loved instructing and guiding young people. She received several awards during her career, but the most valuable acknowledgment was from former students who would greet her and say, "You were my favorite teacher."

Velma had a known sense of humor and elegant style. She was a very giving person and had a gentle spirit. She had an infectious laugh. If you ever had the opportunity to sit next to her at a family gathering, you would have enjoyed her exceptional wit.

After a long and fulfilled life, her journey ended when God picked one of His roses, Velma, and called her home to rest. She made her transition in her home surrounded by her loving family.

# Cemetery Details

## Grand Lawn Cemetery

23501 Grand River  
Detroit, MI 48219

# Previous Events

## Family Hour

Thursday, Dec. **8**. 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Mt. Calvary A.M.E. Church  
1800 E. 7 Mile Road  
Detroit, MI 48203

## Funeral Service

Thursday, Dec. **8**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Mt. Calvary A.M.E. Church  
1800 E. 7 Mile Road  
Detroit, MI 48203

# Tribute Wall



“ *Mrs. Velma Boykin*

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January 21, 2023 at 09:34 PM



“ *My deepest condolences to this beautiful family. I truly loved Mrs. Boykin and her lovely spirit she carried with her. Evangelist Caron Rice and family*

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**Evangelist Caron** - December 13, 2016 at 12:02 PM



“ *Louise lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Velma Boykin*



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**Louise** - December 11, 2016 at 02:16 PM

LO

“ My Aunt Velma is one of God's chosen flowers that he added to His beautiful bouquet in Heaven on Nov. 29, 2016. Here she joins her sisters and brothers! I know that they are having a great time together now, especially with my Mom, Mollie. Aunt Velma LOVED our family reunions which she started, organized and kept it going for so many years! I just know that she is having a wonderful time "reuniting" with them now! We miss her so, but we also know that she will ALWAYS be with us in our hearts forever. All we have to do is think about her and her lovely smile and it will bring joy and comfort to us! God bless you Aunt Velma. Thank you for encouraging me to do things that I thought I couldn't. I know that you will continue to watch over all of us and guide us in the right direction forever!!  
Your niece, " Lou"

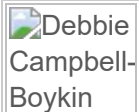
Louise - December 11, 2016 at 02:13 PM



“ Stanley Boykin lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Velma Boykin



Stanley Boykin - December 10, 2016 at 05:15 PM



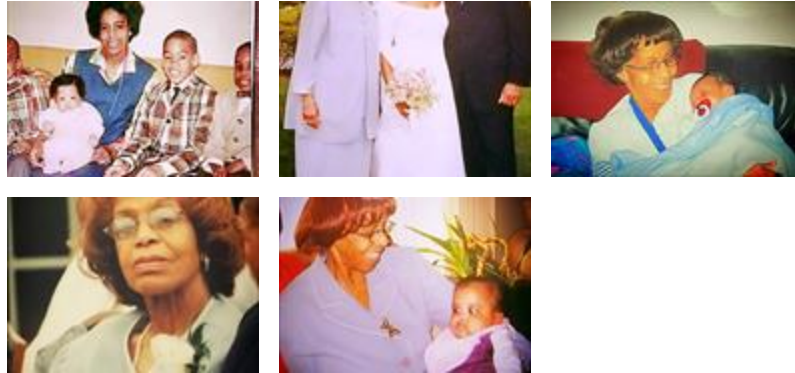
“ Debbie Campbell-Boykin lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Velma Boykin



Debbie Campbell-Boykin - December 10, 2016 at 10:45 AM

Debbie  
Campbell-  
Boykin

“ 6 files added to the album *New Album Name*



**Debbie Campbell-Boykin** - December 10, 2016 at 10:25 AM

MM

“ *Miriam & Lloyd Moore purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Mrs. Velma Boykin.*



**Miriam & Lloyd Moore** - December 05, 2016 at 12:31 PM

MT

“ *My sympathy to the family. Recall pleasant memories you shared with your loved one. May you find comfort in Jesus words, "I am the resurrection and the life."-John 11:25*

**Ms. Tuffy** - December 05, 2016 at 05:41 AM