



Ruth Martin Sanders

August 6, 1951 - April 28, 2026

Ruth Martin Sanders was born in Edwards, Mississippi, on August 6, 1951, to the union of Wm. Martin and Rutha Bell Tillman Martin. She was the fourth of seven children. Ruth later moved with her family to Jackson, Mississippi, where she spent her childhood on Dansby Street, surrounded by a loving and close-knit extended family. Affectionately called “Baby Ruth” by her father, she was known as the quiet one; however, beneath her gentle spirit was a fierce protector who often stepped in to care for her younger siblings. From an early age, Ruth’s kindness, loyalty, and nurturing nature were evident to all who knew and loved her.

After graduating from Jim Hill High School, Ruth enrolled at Jackson State University, majoring in Elementary Education. During her sophomore year, she met Eddie G. Sanders at a popular student gathering spot known as The Reservoir. In 1973, she graduated as a proud “True Blue Jacksonian,” a distinction she carried with pride throughout her life. Ruth later became a Life Member of the Jackson State University Alumni Association and remained deeply engaged, especially through her work with the Detroit Alumni Chapter, where she held several leadership roles and formed lifelong friendships.

On July 6, 1974, Ruth married Eddie G. Sanders. The couple made their home in Detroit, Michigan, where they built a life grounded in love, faith, and community. Ruth became a devoted member of the Strathmore Church of

Christ and later the Oakland Church of Christ. Even when her health limited her ability to attend in person, her faith remained unwavering, and she continued to worship faithfully online each Sunday.

Ruth and Eddie welcomed their son, Cedric Martin, in 1977, and the following year, their daughter, Shamika Lenise, completed their loving family of four. Ruth was a devoted and attentive mother who never missed a recital, concert, baseball, football, or basketball game. She became a second mother to her children's friends as well. Ruth's house was the unofficial neighborhood gathering place, especially during the summers. She made sure every child who walked through her doors felt welcomed, cared for, and was fed.

Ruth furthered her education by earning a graduate degree in Special Education from Wayne State University. Teaching was her calling, and Special Education was her passion. She poured her heart into her students, treating each student as her own. Her kindness extended far beyond the classroom as she gave Christmas gifts to her students and hosted summer pool parties each year. In 2011, Ruth retired from Detroit Public Schools after 37 remarkable years as an educator.

Ruth was a natural-born athlete who spent many years in adulthood playing volleyball and softball, practicing yoga, and running half marathons. She also loved traveling, especially with her sisters, and cherished her annual visits with her brother Jerome. One of her most treasured memories was her 60th birthday celebration in Myrtle Beach, where more than 50 loved ones gathered to celebrate her.

Ruth also enjoyed playing Bid Whist on Friday nights with her card group and spending time with her book club, The Ladies of TLC. What began as simple gatherings grew into lifelong friendships.

Ruth found her greatest joy in being a grandmother. She was blessed with her first grandson, Anthony Khalid, in 2002, earning the title “Mama Ruth.” Anthony rarely went anywhere without his Mama Ruth. She welcomed her second grandson, Jayden DeSean, in 2003, and in 2014, her youngest grandson, Connor Jackson James, arrived. Though she jokingly exclaimed, “Another boy!”, Connor quickly became her baby. From just four months old, he spent his days with her, receiving the same loving care and attention that defined who she was.

Ruth leaves to cherish her memory her husband of 51 years, Eddie G. Sanders; her son, Cedric Martin Sanders; her daughter, Shamika (Jared) Lenise Womble; and her beloved grandsons, Anthony Khalid Sanders, Jayden DeSean Sanders, and Connor Jackson James Womble. She also leaves her siblings, Galey (Herbert) Terry, Joan Hilton, Wilma (Jesse) McGee, Lois Martin, and Jerome Martin; her brother-in-law, Leonard (Johnella) Sanders; and her sister-in-law, Eva Cook.

Ruth also leaves a very special former student turned son, Anthony Lockett, along with a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and dear friends. She was preceded in death by her mother, father, and sister, Dean.

Ruth was deeply loved by all who knew her. Her gentle spirit, a warm heart, and quiet strength left a lasting impression on everyone she encountered. Her legacy will live on in the countless lives she touched, the love she gave so freely, and the memories that will be cherished forever.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 15. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Kemp Funeral Home & Cremation Services
24585 Evergreen Rd
Southfield, MI 48075
(248) 702-5367
info@kempfh.com
<https://www.kempfuneralhome.com>

Family Hour

MAY 16. 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Oakland Church of Christ
23333 West Ten Mile Road
Southfield, MI 48033

Funeral Service

MAY 16. 11:00 AM (ET)

Oakland Church of Christ
23333 West Ten Mile Road
Southfield, MI 48033

Tribute Wall



“ My aunt Ruth,
Where do i begin with such sweet memories? The day aunt Ruth asked my parents for me to be the flower girl in their wedding, is when she became more than just my aunt..she was a second mother to me. Every weekend my brother and I were with her. She took us for swimming lessons or whatever else we could think of. Even when I was afraid to swim and didn't want to go anymore, she said in the sweetest voice, "Kim, you don't have to." We watched television together and had loads of fun. She taught me how to drive and was an awesome and patient instructor. I watched her drive so much, I started holding the wheel as she did. When my son Trey was born Ruth was there to welcome him with open arms and lots of love. My aunt Ruth and memories will forever remain in my heart.

I Love you auntie ❤️

Sanders Learning - May 15 at 05:39 PM

GH

“ My deepest condolences to the Sanders family



Geri Holliday - May 15 at 02:00 PM



“ *Pink Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Ruth Martin Sanders.*



May 14 at 03:31 PM



“ *Michael & Kimberly Sanders and Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ruth Martin Sanders.*

Michael & Kimberly Sanders and Family - May 14 at 05:45 AM



“ *Michael & Kimberly Sanders and Family purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Ruth Martin Sanders.*



Michael & Kimberly Sanders and Family - May 14 at 05:45 AM



“ *Ray & Lois Munson purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Ruth Martin Sanders.*



Ray & Lois Munson - May 13 at 02:39 PM

CH

“ Corean and Marcus Hervey purchased the Full of Love Bouquet for the family of Ruth Martin Sanders.



Corean and Marcus Hervey - May 13 at 01:04 PM

DW

“ Dria Mitchell and Angie Williamson purchased the Sweet Tranquility Basket for the family of Ruth Martin Sanders.



Dria Mitchell and Angie Williamson - May 12 at 12:39 PM

DW

“ Dria Mitchell and Angie Williamson planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ruth Martin Sanders.

Dria Mitchell and Angie Williamson - May 12 at 12:39 PM

LF

“ Love, Your Baseball Mom Fam purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Ruth Martin Sanders.



Love, Your Baseball Mom Fam - May 12 at 12:06 PM

TJ

“ *The Family of the Late Essie Mae Johnson purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Ruth Martin Sanders.*



The Family of the Late Essie Mae Johnson - May 11 at 05:40 PM

TF

“ *The Martin Family purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Ruth Martin Sanders.*



The Martin Family - May 10 at 08:01 PM

AF

“ *A's family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Ruth Martin Sanders.*



A's family - May 10 at 06:55 PM

AF

“ *A's family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ruth Martin Sanders.*

A's family - May 10 at 06:55 PM

JA

“ John A. purchased the 5.5" EBN Kneeling & Praying Angel for the family of Ruth Martin Sanders.



John A. - May 10 at 01:11 AM

JA

“ John A. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ruth Martin Sanders.

John A. - May 10 at 01:11 AM

DJ

“ *Such a Lady: Ruth Sanders*

Our Ruth was first and foremost a Woman of God! In everything she did, her faith was always at the forefront.



She possessed a quiet, sweet spirit that exuded a heart of gold.

Her love of family is a gift we each should cherish and emulate!

We shared times together when I lived in Chicago and more frequently in Ann Arbor and Southfield when she and Eddie and I visited each other.

Ruth and our Auntie Anita were both instrumental in aiding my vegetarian and vegan journeys, on and off over these years.

Only months apart, I the older, we chose teaching as our profession. She received her training at Jackson State and I at Chicago State.

There were many conversations, over the years, where we shared and compared academic and life experiences.

I remember when we once talked for over 2-hours about life, love, experiences and dreams. We laughed at the length of our conversation but swore several topics would never be shared. I still honor that pact!

My heart goes out to Eddie, Shamika/Anthony, Cedric, the grands, her siblings, cousins, aunts/uncles and all who love her.

Rest in peace, love and power my dear cousin, D9 sister of the heart and my chosen friend!

*I love you and will miss you terribly.
Sisterly love, Debi~*

(C. Deborah (Sanders) Johnson-Daniel, Ph.D.)

Dr. C. Deborah (Sanders) Johnson-Daniel - May 07 at 05:32 AM

SB

“ *Sis Sanders will be missed, as she sat right behind me in service, we would chat after service. She was the sweetest sister to have. I send prayers to brother Ed and may the Comforter fill your soul with peace that she is resting from all her works, a true woman of God. See you later my dear sister in Christ, love you! Sister Sherry Bolden*

Sherry Lynne Bolden - May 03 at 03:58 PM

JD

“ *JSU National Alumni Association Detroit planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ruth Martin Sanders.*

JSU National Alumni Association Detroit - May 02 at 03:29 PM

JD

“ *JSU National Alumni Association Detroit purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Ruth Martin Sanders.*



JSU National Alumni Association Detroit - May 02 at 03:29 PM

PS

“ Sis

I will continue to keep you and your family in my daily THOUGHTS and PRAYERS! I am asking GOD to grant comfort, peace and strength in the days ahead. Love you and GOD BLESS!💙🙏💙

Priscilla Sharp - May 01 at 01:47 AM

LW

“ *Lynn White purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Ruth Martin Sanders.*



Lynn White - April 30 at 10:26 PM

PR

“Eddie, Cedric, Shamika, Anthony, Jayden, Connor and all members of the Sanders and Martin families are in my prayers. I am Ruth's first cousin. We grew up together. Lived down the street from each other. Went to school together and remained close our entire lives.

My cousin, Ruth, was a very loving and kind person. She loved her family and poured all she had into her children and grands. She epitomized the virtuous woman described in Proverbs 31.

Last year when my husband got his wings, Ruth and Eddie called to express their condolences and provide words of comfort. Now as all of us who knew and loved Ruth prepare to adjust to a new normal in a world without her effervescent presence; we take comfort in knowing to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord. So until we meet again on the other side I say "See you later cuz." You will forever be in my heart.

Pat Fortner Redmond



Patricia Redmond - April 30 at 09:55 PM

SE

Shamika, I am so sorry to hear about your mother's passing. When I met your mother she had a lovely spirit and I know when she departed this world it was with that same lovely spirit. Sis, you know I love you more than words can say. As the tail from our line, you held it down! Now go forth and hold your family down as well! I love you so much Shamika.

Shayla Edwards - May 03 at 10:34 PM

RS

“ *Rev. & Mrs. Tony Smith purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Ruth Martin Sanders.*



Rev. & Mrs. Tony Smith - April 30 at 03:18 PM

KF

“ *Shamika
I've always admired the close bond you shared with your mom. I hope you continue to hold those precious memories close to your heart. She had a beautiful spirit and always made us feel so welcome in your home. Her spirit will forever shine bright through you! Please know you have my deepest condolences, and I'm keeping you and your family in my thoughts and prayers*

*Love,
Kelly*

Kelly Fields - April 30 at 11:01 AM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Ruth Martin Sanders.*

April 29 at 02:11 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Ruth Martin Sanders.*



April 29 at 02:11 PM