



## Ruth Nowell Shuford

August 3, 1922 - July 16, 2021

### The Obituary

Ruth Nowell Shuford

August 3, 1922 ~ July 16, 2021

Ruth Nowell Shuford was the second eldest child born to Percy A. and Claudene Hillman Nowell on August 3, 1922, in Monroe, GA. Percy and Claudene left Georgia in 1923 for Michigan with their infant daughter Ruth. Percy and Claudene were always active in their church, and they made certain that Ruth and her siblings were always there in church with them serving the Lord. Ruth was Baptized at an early age and became a vital part of First Community Baptist Church located in NE Detroit. After settling in Northeast Detroit, Ruth attended Detroit Public Schools for her general education, she also attended Wayne State University. While Mrs. Shuford was in St. Louis, she received her associates and later she enrolled at Washington University where she earned her degree in Civil Service and Public Policy.

Ruth married William Shuford Sr. on February 14, 1941, and with this union they were blessed with three children: Beverly Ruth Sullivan, William Jahad (Mickey) Sankofa Jr, and Lenore Iverson.

In 1954, Ruth became a vital part of the United States' Army Tank Automotive and Armaments Civilian Command. Ruth received the "Downtowner's Woman

of the Week". She was a public servant working for the Department of the Army. Her assignments were at ALMSA (Automated Logistics Management Systems Agency) as a Systems Analyst. She was also the president of the ALMSA Management Club, and the 1st vice president of the National Federation of Federal Employees, Local 1763. Prior to the time, she was nominated by ALMSA for the Greater Metropolitan St. Louis and the National Federal Employee of the year awards. Mrs. Shuford was promoted to the Department of EEOO and served as an Equal Opportunity Officer and Equal Opportunity Counselor. At that time, she became an indispensable part of the EEOO and eventually, retired from the St. Louis, MO office and came back to Michigan in 1984. After her retirement she moved back to Detroit and later she had a home built in Peoria, AZ and lived there for a while.

Mrs. Shuford was an active member of the Metropolitan United Methodist Church in Detroit. She later became a member where her son-in-law served as Senior Pastor at Historical First Baptist Church in Windsor, Ontario Canada. She was then appointed to the position of Church Mother at New Living Truth Ministries in Center Line, Michigan. She enjoyed working with the Women's Ministry, the annual Church Picnic Committee, and the Pastor's Aid Board. Ruth was also an avid lover of sports!

Ruth's health began to fail in 2001 while living in Arizona. This is when decisions were made for her to return to Detroit to be with family. Ruth's youngest daughter Lenore made the commitment to care for our mother for over 20 years. Lenore's dedication was to care for her mother until God said, "It's time to rest my child".

Mrs. Shuford gained her wings on early Friday morning July 16, 2021. Ruth's life was certainly a true and living legacy for her family. Ruth was the last child in her family being pre-deceased by her brother Percy A. Nowell, Jr., Bernice Nowell, and Vivian V. Jones and Charles Hillman Nowell, a cousin who was

raised with Ruth as a sibling.

She leaves to cherish her memory two daughter's: Beverly Ruth (Rev. Michael) Sullivan, (William Jahad Sankofa Jr. (Mickey), D-2014), and Lenore Iverson. Seven Grandchildren: Krystal L. (Bill) Banfield, Fred L. (Erica) Prime, III, Willie J. Iverson, Jr. (Ike), Leslie Ruth Prime, Marcus L. (Kirsten) Iverson, Monique Stephen, William Shuford III, seven greatgrandchildren, and three great-Great grandchildren.

#### Pallbearers

Fred L. Prime III

Willie J. Iverson, Jr.

Marcus L. Iverson

William Shuford III

William Banfield

#### Honorary Pallbearers

Christiano Badon

Fred L. Prime IV

Dylan Prime

Martin Finley III

#### Flower Bearers

Krystal L. Banfield

Leslie R. Prime

Monique Stephen

Erica Prime

Kirsten Iverson

Honorary Flower Bearers

Domonique Stephen

Madison Iverson

Maci Iverson

# Previous Events

## Family/Friends Time

JUL **26**. 2:30 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

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

## Funeral Service

JUL **26**. 3:00 PM (ET)

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

# Tribute Wall



“ *Kemp Funeral Home & Cremation Services created a Tribute Video in memory of Ruth Nowell Shuford*



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**Kemp Funeral Home & Cremation Services** - July 26, 2021 at 02:54 PM



“ *Ruth Nowell Shuford*

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September 27, 2022 at 08:40 PM



“ *Ruth Nowell Shuford*

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September 27, 2022 at 06:52 PM



“ *Thank you for being a good neighbor and friend to all of the children in our neighborhood (Mitchell Street). Sometimes your Son I gave you a hard time. You made living on the Mitchell a very enjoyable time.*

*Will see you in Heaven.*

*Richard (Ricky) Reed Senior.*

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**Richard (Ricky) Reed Sr** - July 26, 2021 at 12:39 PM

BS

Awww... 😊 Beautiful Ricky! Thornell was there. Thanks for the beautiful memory!  
Love you old friend,  
Beverly

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**Beverly R Sullivan** - July 27, 2021 at 09:33 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Ruth Nowell Shuford.



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July 26, 2021 at 11:04 AM

KB

“ I am one of seven grandchildren. We/I always had the best of times. In every step, she was there for us through personal challenges and triumphs. Such a tremendous blessing to have her with us intimately in each of our lives and for so much of our adult lives. She was our rock, our matriarch, and our foundation. Some fond memories:

- At age 8, writing her a monthly letter and a paragraph on an African American who made a monumental contribution to humanity.
- Spending summers with her and all of the grandkids (or solo) -- eating, laughing, dancing, and loving chocolate, enjoying politics and the latest trends, high fashion
- Passions about music -- listening to records, attending concerts -- symphony and soul music-- but mostly jazz artists such as Wes Montgomery, Quincy Jones, Alexander Zonjic, Gerri Allen, and social protest musicians Gil Scott Heron and others.
- Encouraging each of us in our life pursuits and transitions -- careers, families, living, longevity

Thank you, Nano! I miss you terribly--your warm embrace. You did it all and instilled everything and more in us to carry it forward. We celebrate you -- I love you!! Your Eldest Granddaughter, Krystal



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Krystal Prime Banfield - July 24, 2021 at 07:00 PM

BS

“ I always knew this time would come...and no matter how many times you try to say "She'll be here forever," then that day comes. How do you say goodbye to the Woman who carried you, kissed your forehead when you were sick, took you to kindergarten and held you because you were afraid to stay without her? The beautiful lady that would get stares from folks riding the Streetcars tracks up & down Woodward Avenue when we went shopping in downtown Detroit? The Lady you wanted to emulate because she was so Amazing? A loving Mother who wanted only the best for her children... How do you say goodbye?

I WON'T! We will see you Ma in the "Sweet by-and-by! We shall meet on that beautiful shore..." THANK YOU Mom for all of the beautiful dresses, coats & outfits you made for me. Thanks for taking your three children to the dentist at early ages... Thanks for showing me what a Proverbs 31, woman was all about! Thanks for all of the memories Ma. As hard as this is, I have a peace that passes all understanding. The life you led is MY legacy! Having you Worship with us in Canada and Michigan was an comforting new chapter in both our lives.

No more pain, no more confusion or sleepless nights... Your beautiful spirit is with Jesus now... and with us here in SC, and with your entire family around the globe. Paradise must be amazing! I know it is with you there...



Beverly R. Sullivan - July 22, 2021 at 03:20 PM

KB

Beautiful!! Missing her embrace!

Krystal Prime Banfield - July 24, 2021 at 09:30 AM

BS

*You're absolutely right... 😊*

**Beverly R Sullivan** - July 24, 2021 at 06:28 PM

LP

“ *There are so many wonderful memories to share. One of my favorites however, is the year I was in the sixth grade. My grandmother picked me up from school nearly every single day! Throughout the spring until schools out, we would go to Baskin Robbins – 31 Flavors 9 Mile Rd., Oak Park. Looking forward to sharing more. I love you so much Nano. I miss you, love always your lollipop,  
Leslie 💕💕💕*



**Leslie Prime** - July 22, 2021 at 10:25 AM

BS

*I remember the Baskin & Robbins 31 Flavors...So much fun! Mom really enjoyed spending time & having fun with her grandchildren!*

**Beverly Sullivan** - July 22, 2021 at 03:53 PM

KB

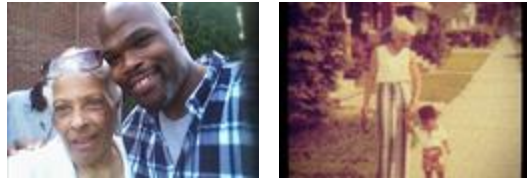
*Lollipop - I can hear her endearing voice now - missing her!*

**Krystal Prime Banfield** - July 24, 2021 at 09:29 AM



“ Nano I miss you and ❤️ you soooo much. I cherish every moment hanging out with you from our road trip from Detroit to Arizona , our road trips to St. Louis., to just me and you singing Prince's Paisley Park on our way to Windsor, Canada. And many more memories with you that will stay with me forever.

Thank you Nano for being a fun loving grandmother to me. I feel really blessed to have had a grandmother like you. ❤️❤️❤️



Ike Iverson - July 21, 2021 at 12:50 AM



*This is Beautiful!*

Monique Darcea Stephen - July 21, 2021 at 10:50 AM



*So loving!!*

Krystal Prime Banfield - July 24, 2021 at 09:31 AM



“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



Monique Darcea Stephen - July 20, 2021 at 09:48 AM

MS

*Missing these two special people. I am so glad to have them watching over me. May God bless all my family.  
Love Monique*

**Monique Darcea Stephen** - July 20, 2021 at 09:49 AM

II

*I miss them too.*

**Ike Iverson** - July 21, 2021 at 09:14 PM

KB

*Amen. Missing them - beautiful*

**Krystal Prime Banfield** - July 24, 2021 at 09:33 AM