

*In Loving Memory*



**1 Corinthians 16:14**

Let all that you do be done in love.



**The Homegoing Celebration of**

# **Ruby Louise McGowan**

DECEMBER 15, 1926 -  
MAY 2, 2023

**Memorial Service**

June 18, 2023  
10 AM

Topisaw Missionary Baptist Church  
3172 Reeves Road  
Ruth, Mississippi 39662



# Obituary

Ruby Louise McGowan, affectionately known as “Big Mama”, passed away in Hartford, Connecticut on May 2, 2023, at the age of 96. Ruby was born on December 15, 1926, in Ruth, Mississippi, she was the eldest child of 7 to Smiley J. McGowan Sr. and Vivian Birteal McGowan. During her youth, she enjoyed playing basketball and eating persimmons. She started cooking at the age of 8, standing on a crate to reach the stovetop. She became a great cook, gardener, and caretaker, feeding her younger siblings, and later, many children and grandchildren. She opened her home and her kitchen to anyone who needed it. She had a feisty spirit, enjoyed entertaining, and was always full of laughter and joy.

Ruby was born and raised in Ruth, MS. She attended Topisaw school and church, where she is an honorary member. She devoted her life to Christ early on. Ruby was a trailblazer and relocated to Flint, MI in 1956 to provide a better life for her family. She joined Mt Calvary Missionary Baptist Church of Flint. She worked as a church nurse and usher and later was a dessert girl at Cromer’s Restaurant. Ruby was employed by Citizen's Bank and retired after many years of service in 1975. Her family was her life, legacy, and greatest achievement.

Ruby leaves behind a large and beloved family, including 1 brother: Carl McGowan; her 6 children: Betty Harriel (Thomas) (Atlanta, GA), Mary McGruder-Salter (Elgin, IL), Clinton Davis (Indianapolis, IN), Larry Davis (Harvey, LA), Roy Davis (Grand Prairie, TX), and Euradell Davis (Rocky Hill, CT); 15 grandchildren: Tammy Fuller, Sylvester Fuller, Clayborn Fuller, Carmelia Fuller, Shawonia Thomas, Kelcy McGruder, Mandy Sweeney, Jafari Shumpert, Larry Ingram, Javonka Thorns, Johann Thorns, Jaroy Davis, Erica Eldridge, Brionna Davis-Reyes, and Ashley Davis-Reyes; and many great- and great, great- grandchildren, nieces and nephews, cousins, in-laws, and friends.

She is preceded in death by her parents: Smiley J. McGowan Sr. and Vivian Birteal (Hill) McGowan; 6 siblings: Myrtis Lee Mathis, Maude Hellen Smith, Georgia Lee Fort, Smiley J. McGowan, Jr., and Edward McGowan; 1 grandson: Derrick Fuller; late husbands: Virtes Harriel, JC Davis, and Robert Hatcher; and lifelong friend: Roy Haney Sr.

Special thanks to the medical team at Hartford Hospital (Hartford, CT), who gave her phenomenal care during her final days, and to All State Cremation & Funeral Care (Hartford, CT) and Brookside Crematory (Berlin, CT), who handled her body and ashes with respect and care.

## DEAR MAMA

WE MISS YOU, YOUR CONTAGIOUS SMILE, SOFT LAUGHTER, KIND EYES AND COMFORTING WORDS.

WE KNOW YOU DIDN'T WANT TO LEAVE US, BUT GOD NEEDED YOU TO COME HOME AND WATCH OVER US ALL FROM HEAVEN.

WE KNOW YOU ARE FREE FROM ALL EARTHLY SUFFERING AND DISEASE AND FLYING HIGH IN HEAVEN'S BREEZE.

WE THANK GOD FOR THE TIME HE GAVE YOU TO US ON EARTH, TO LOVE US UNCONDITIONALLY, GUIDE US WITH YOUR WISDOM AND EMBRACE EACH OF US WITH YOUR UNDERSTANDING.

YOU LOVED EACH OF YOUR CHILDREN, GRANDCHILDREN, FAMILY, AND FRIENDS UNCONDITIONALLY. PROVIDING EACH OF US WITH JUST THE RIGHT AMOUNT OF LOVE, SUPPORT AND UNDERSTANDING THAT EACH NEEDED TO PROPERLY NOURISH OUR SPIRITS AND SOULS.

SO NOW WE SAY TO YOU, THANK YOU FOR BEING THE BEST MOTHER, GRANDMOTHER, DAUGHTER, SISTER, AUNT AND FRIEND THAT WE COULD HAVE EVER HOPED YOU TO BE.

WE LOVE YOU THEN, NOW, FOREVER AND THROUGHOUT ETERNITY.

EURADELL

## Order of Service

### OPENING PRAYER

Officiant Pastor Benjamin Francois  
Mitchell Jackson  
Frazier Mathis

### OBITUARY READING

Mary McGruder-Salter  
Javonka Thorns

### MUSICAL SELECTION

Tasha Jenkins

### EXPRESSIONS OF LOVE

Family and Friends

### CLOSING PRAYER

Officiant Pastor Benjamin Francois

### INTERMENT

Topisaw Cemetery

### FAMILY CEREMONY & REPASS

All Family and Friends Welcome