



## Mrs. Emma Fenceroy

November 5, 1942 - January 1, 2020

Emma Jean came into this world, the fifth child of Martin Ruby Colbert and Ruthie Mae Colbert, on Thursday, November 5, 1942, in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Emma was baptized at an early age at Rose Hill Baptist Church, where she was active in Sunday School, church services and events. After a few years, the family moved to Holsey Chapel CME Church. The Colbert family remain active members. Along with faith and church, education was also important to Martin and Ruthie. They, themselves, had very little formal education. However, they insisted that all of their children finish high school, and enroll in some type of post-secondary education. Emma Jean successfully completed Dunbar Elementary School, Carver Junior High, and received her diploma from Booker T. Washington High School, May of 1960 (now known as Booker T. Washington International Baccalaureate High School).

In September of 1960, Emma eagerly entered Langston University in Langston, Oklahoma. During her four years at Langston, she remained on the Dean's list and Honor Roll. Emma also became a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, INC., a service organization. She was also accepted into Phi

Delta Kappa, an educational organization. In 1964, she graduated from Langston University, earning a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Education. Upon graduating, she was seeking a teaching position, and reached out to her sorors, who told her about opportunities in Milwaukee.

She moved into the Mary Church Terrell boarding house, located at 9th and Chambers, and began her long teaching and guidance career with Milwaukee Public Schools, which lasted 35 years, until her retirement in June of 1999. In 1974, Emma also earned a Master's Degree in Educational Psychology from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

In Milwaukee, she met and married, Melvin O. Fenceroy, on August 11, 1965. God blessed them with one daughter, Felicia (Fee), and one son, Michael (Mike). Emma's commitment to, and love for, her family was beyond measure. As Mike and Fee have shared, "She took care of things. She did so much for us all. We give her all credit for the way she raised us, and the type of role model she was." Let's be clear, she was a strong, stern Mama, who had a belt that she carried in

the car, as they were growing up, just for Mike. They say she softened up, just in time for the grandkids, and great grandchildren, who became the heart and light of her life. Her grandchildren reflect, "Anytime you wanted something and she knew of it-you may not have gotten it at that moment-but she got it for you."

In 1995, Emma became a member of Christian Faith Fellowship Church, where she served, and strongly guided, the youth ministry's Education Scholarship Committee. Those she served with recall: "She was always willing to use her knowledge, insight and wisdom to help the youth advance spiritually, personally, and academically. " Emma Jean Fenceroy welcomed 2020, and on that same day, took her final earthly breath.

She has become one of a long line of ancestors, watching over those whom she so deeply loves.

Emma is preceded in death by her grandparents; Laura Breedlove Colbert and James Alexander Colbert; her parents Martin Ruby Colbert and Ruthie Mae Greene Colbert; Sisters, Deloris Colbert, Hazel Wallace Colbert, Jewellene Colbert Mayes, and Shirley Colbert; Brother, Sylvester James Colbert.

Celebrating her life, mourning her transition, and moving forward without her physical presence are her husband, Melvin Fenceroy (Milwaukee, WI). Her children: Felicia Fenceroy Robinson (Milwaukee, WI) and Michael Fenceroy (Weston, FL). Grandchildren: Dairon, Tyehimba, Jasmine, Jabari, Bryanna, and Ciara. Great Grandchildren: Adriana, Kyleigh, Ava, Princeton, and Parker. In addition, her sisters, Gladys Chatman (Tulsa, OK) and Lorene Brown (Tulsa, OK). Sister-in-laws: Willa Colbert (Tulsa, OK) and Debra Fenceroy (Milwaukee, WI). Brother-in-laws and Sister-in-laws: Dean & Brenda Loche (Bastrop, LA), Rodney & Brenda Fenceroy (Collinston, LA), and Gregory & Edna Faye Fenceroy (Fargo, ND). One Aunt-in-law, Bessie Brown (Milwaukee, WI). A special son, Antonio Robinson (Milwaukee, WI). God daughter, Willette Sims (Milwaukee, WI). Many nieces and nephews (including great & great-great, also), cousins, special friends, and friends.

# Cemetery

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## Southern WI Veterans Cemetery

21731 Spring St.

Union Grove, WI,

# Events

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**JAN** **Visitation** 10:00AM - 11:00AM

**9**

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Christian Faith Fellowship

8605 W.Good Hope Rd., Milwaukee, WI, US

**JAN** **Service** 11:00AM

**9**

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Christian Faith Fellowship

8605 W.Good Hope Rd., Milwaukee, WI, US

# Comments

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“ Beautiful and wise and loving, Mrs. Emma Fenceroy! I just learned of your passing to your next journey in our Savior's loving arms, surrounded by your loved ones. I met you during your first year of teaching at Washington High School in Milwaukee. You were Miss Colbert then and I had the privilege of having you as my teacher for a number of subjects. You met and married Mr. Fenceroy and the joy in your life lit up the room wherever you were. You blessed me and all your students for the next 3 years I was there. You were always caring, educating us and wise beyond your years. We had the honor of meeting you again when my son went to Vincent High School and you were the guidance counselor. I will miss you and will always fondly and gratefully remember how gracious you were to me and all who had the honor of crossing your path. My prayers and thoughts go out to your family.

**Linda Heinicke** - August 18, 2020 at 11:31 PM



“ Thank you for the kind words

**Felicia Robinson** - September 12, 2020 at 11:51 AM

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“ Sweet, Mrs. Fenceroy. I adopted her as my school mom as her son Mike and I were born the same day and year. Mrs. Fenceroy played a MAJOR role in me graduating from Vincent High School a semester early. She was available for me to talk to during a lot of tough times in my life. She convinced me not to drop out of high school. She was the reason I pursued a masters degree to become a guidance counselor (like her).

She told me to straighten up and "fly right" on many days. I talked to her a few days after her retirement party in 1999. "You just missed my retirement party. If you would've could earlier, I would've invited you", she said. I wouldn't have missed it except for being dead.

Mrs. Fenceroy, you were a jewel to Milwaukee Public Schools, especially to us students at Harold Vincent High School in Granville. We will miss you. I will miss. I hope to see you on the other side, in eternity.

To Mr. Fencroey, Mike, and Felicia: thank you for sharing her with her other kids at work.

Love,  
DeShon S, FaNaka  
(Formerly Robert DeShon Jackson, Vincent High School, c/o 1992)  
Past 2nd Vice President, Harold Vincent High School Alumni Association

**DeShon FaNaka** - June 03, 2020 at 08:53 PM



“ Thank you for the kind words...She loved her students

**Felicia Robinson** - September 12, 2020 at 11:55 AM



“ I'm missing you soo soo much mom..Today is a bad day.. I just want to talk to you and hear your voice..  
Your daughter  
Felicia

**Felicia Robinson** - April 05, 2020 at 11:40 AM



“ I just heard of the passing of Emma....so sorry to hear of this...I worked with Emma at Vincent HS for many years...both day school and night school....she was a great person, always with a smile and with nice words....all my sympathy to her family.

**Jeff Hughes** - January 09, 2020 at 09:05 PM



“ Mrs. Fenceroy , What a beautiful soul

She was like a second mother to me in High School. She kept me out of trouble many of days. I love this lady dearly .I was so saddened to hear of her passing.   




**NicoleSodiivaish Brown** - January 09, 2020 at 08:02 AM

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“ We pray that God will grant you comfort and peace during your time of grief.  
CHARLES & Lillie Kimbrough

**Chris Kimbrough** - January 07, 2020 at 02:19 PM