



Mrs. Erma Jean Hickman-Pratt

March 30, 1927 - June 21, 2020

Erma Jean Houston was born on March 30, 1927, to the union of Benjamin Houston and Callie Mae Houston in Dekalb, Mississippi. Erma accepted Christ as her Savior at a very young age. She attended Spring Hill Missionary Baptist Church. She was married in Dekalb in 1942, to Willie Elijah Hickman. Their union was blessed with three children. Erma Jean relocated to Louisville, Mississippi in 1948. In April 1948, she gave birth to her second son, Willie James Hickman. Erma relocated to St. Louis, Missouri in 1960, with her best friend, Pearl. They attended nursing school together, where she met and fell in love with Jerry Pratt. They married on April 19, 1965 and relocated to Chicago, Illinois in June of that year. She attended Christian Missionary Baptist Church in Chicago. She held various jobs such as: a maid, housewife, and worked at Church's Chicken for several years. Erma had a great gift to share with the world; her love for children. She had a big heart and a generous spirit that will live on. If Erma saw children in need, she

didn't hesitate to care and love them as her very own. She was overjoyed to give children a place where they called home, and a person they called mother.

Erma Jean was small in stature with a big personality. She was way ahead of her time with a feminist mindset. Our grandmother was a strong, phenomenal, virtuous, black woman who wore so many hats. She was a wife, mother, father, mentor, minister, cook, maid, babysitter, confidant, independent, and a motivator. Erma wore them all with humility. She had many hobbies, such as crocheting, baking, and doing jigsaw crossword puzzles. Her favorite television shows were: Jerry Springer, Maury Povich, and General Hospital. For thirty years she volunteered at Sister's Miller (Golden Rule) and won Volunteer of the Year Award for six straight years. "Little Lovely" had a soft spot in her heart for animals. Her only dog was named Bitsy, she also had two rabbits named Midnight and Nigga. She also had a bird named Pipsie named after her favorite soda Pepsi. Granny nightly scriptures were Psalms 23 and John 14. Her favorite gospel song was Toiling, by Inez Andrews. She loved listening to her favorite Blues song, St. James Infirmary. She would always say, "This world don't owe me nothing, I lived my life to the fullest." Erma departed this life on June 21, 2020, she was preceded in death by her parents,

Benjamin Houston and Callie Houston; siblings, Ethel Grady, Ruby Rush, Rosezener Steele, Rosie Donald, Lois Hickman, Alex Houston, Callie Walker, R.C. Houston, Leon Brown, Fannie Bell Metts, Irma Ruth Greer-Tate, Bennie Lee Houston; two stepchildren, Anthony Pratt and Elizabeth Pratt, two grandchildren, Doris Triplett and Theo Hickman; and one great grandchild, Jamel Hill.

She is survived by her children, Cleotris Hickman (Ann) of Milwaukee, WI, Rosie Helen Triplett (Jim) of Milwaukee, WI, Willie (Willie Dub) Jean Fredricks of Milwaukee, WI and Willie James (Sandra) Hickman of Milwaukee, WI; siblings, Obie Dan (Vonner Lee) Houston of Louisville, MS and Earnest (Shirley) Houston of Chicago, IL; two children she raised as her own, Princess "Tell": Phillips (J.P' Phillis) of Atlanta, GA and April Metts of Milwaukee, WI; grandchildren, Kim Hickman of Milwaukee, WI, Theo Hickman's children of Milwaukee, WI, Ruthie "Polly" (J.B.) Hill of Milwaukee, WI, Anne Mae "Sister" Hickman of Milwaukee, WI, Elder Bobby (Subrina) Triplett of Milwaukee, WI, Tammie "Melissa" Triplett of Atlanta, GA, Willie "Barn" Hickman of Gary, IN, Ronnie Triplett of Milwaukee, WI, Latoya Fredricks of Atlanta, GA, Cartessia "Nikki" (Gerald) Seaborn of Birmingham, AL, Tymeka Fredricks of Atlanta, GA, Cory Hickman of Chicago, IL,

Trecia (Ameer) Hickman-Triplett of Milwaukee, WI, Twanna (Jon) Gilliard of San Antonio, TX, Shaundra (Ken) Lee of Milwaukee, WI, Teresa Miller of Atlanta, GA, Shaneka Pratt of Milwaukee, WI, Tyrone Pratt of Milwaukee, WI, Tranel Metts of Milwaukee, WI, Sanomi Walker of Atlanta, GA and J-Niyah Phillips of Atlanta, GA; great-grandchildren, Darnell, Glen, Kimberli, De'Jane, Corey, Nathaniel, Johnny, Janeen, Marsey, Teffney, Ventris, Heidi, Cynia, Marquette, Promise, Kayla, Kaniajha, Kalil, Jim, Seanissa, Stacy, Courtland, LaQuon, Tia, Annise, Quisean, Quentin, Ayala, Aja, Marques, Sacriisa, Brianna, Christian, Kiante, Alexis, Kailynn, Brooklynn; and host of great-great grandchildren, nieces, nephews, cousins, family, and friends.

Cemetery Details

Graceland Cemetery

6401 N. 43rd St.
Milwaukee, WI

Previous Events

Visitation Only

JUL 7. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Northwest Funeral Chapel
6630 W. Hampton Ave
Milwaukee, WI

Tribute Wall

VR

“ *Verdie Rush lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Erma Jean Hickman-Pratt*



Verdie Rush - July 07, 2020 at 01:44 PM

VR

Condolences to my cousins, and I just want to let you all know I feel your pain and I love you dearly. I'm so sorry circumstances allow my absence. May God give you comfort in this time of need.

Verdie Rush - July 07, 2020 at 01:48 PM

DG

“ *To My Brother Willie Hickman and family. Know that your in my thoughts and prayers during this difficult time of sorrow. You've been a Great Son to your loving Mother. Remember all the great memories Willie that you have which will comfort you to eternity. Love your Sister Debra Glover and family.*

Debra Glover - July 07, 2020 at 01:28 PM

TH

“ *To our Cousin Willie Hickman-Pratt Family. Our heart felt deepest condolences, in the passing of your Mother. She will always be close to you because she will be in your heart and the memories, and life lessons she taught you. May the peace of God comfort you'll doing this time and Days's to come. Love you, Shelby, Beverly and Terry Hathorn Lithonia, GA*

Terry Hathorn - July 07, 2020 at 11:11 AM

TH

“ *Condolences to my brother Willie and family your loss but heaven gained an angel. Sending prayers and love and hugs for you during this time. May your memories give you strength. Love Tonya*

Tonya Hill - July 07, 2020 at 10:44 AM

CC

“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



Cynthia Crenshaw - July 07, 2020 at 10:39 AM

MW

“ *Condolences to the family of Emma Pratt. You are in My prayers and in my heart always. Love you Michelle Wellington(Triplett).*

Michelle Wellington(Triplett) - July 07, 2020 at 10:07 AM

CC

“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



Cynthia Crenshaw - July 07, 2020 at 03:09 AM

VE

“ *My fondest memories of Aunt Jean, is her extreme kindness and her ability to make me laugh. She was full of love and she expressed it to everyone that came into contact with her. She will be missed by many.
May the Lord continue to comfort the hearts of the family.
Versie Estes*

Versie Estes - July 05, 2020 at 09:41 PM

VE

“ *Versie Estes lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Erma Jean Hickman-Pratt*



Versie Estes - July 05, 2020 at 09:36 PM

DB

“ *You were so free hearted. We can come to your house and find anything. If you didn't have it, we could put in an order for Sister Millers and you would get it. You were loved by so many people. Thank you for making me laugh and for a woman that turned no one away. That was your Reasonable Service. Ephesians 2:10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. God has not forgotten your Labor of Love which you know by now.*



Doris Borage - July 05, 2020 at 09:23 PM

PA

“ I love you so much Aunt Jean! You were more like a mother to me than a Auntie. I will always love you tt my heart is aching without you my love but you gone and get your rest on. And save a seat for me I remember like yesterday when bitcy tried to bite me one day and auntie through me behind her back and beat bitcy with her shoe! I was crying so hard my auntie grabbed me and said I will beat tht so and so u Know what. RIH Aunt Jean and my heart goes out to our family it will take some time but we will heal everyone.

From your niece Pam and her husband.

Pamela - July 03, 2020 at 11:58 PM

CF

“ MY GREAT GRANDMA AUNT JEAN WAS THE BEST SHE LOVED AND OUTLIVED ALOT OF PEOPLE!!! I COREY FAIR NEED US AS A FAMILY TO STAY STRONG AND DONT GIVE UP!!! AMEN!!

Corey Fair - June 29, 2020 at 04:28 PM

CH

“ Condolences to the family of Emma Pratt. Prayers and kind thoughts be with each of you.
The battle has been won.
Your cousin 🙏

Charles Huddleston - June 28, 2020 at 06:12 PM

RT

Days has past but my heart still hurt knowing I can't just pop up to see you . Each night I dream of you just knowing you was my everything . Granny . I love you and just know I will fix this

Ronnie Triplett - August 14, 2020 at 02:43 PM