



Mr. Roy C. Sanford

July 8, 1938 - September 2, 2025

Mr. Roy Cecil Sanford was born July 8, 1938, to the union of Katie Freeman and Leroy Sanford in New Albany, Mississippi.

Roy received his formal education within the Union County School System in New Albany, MS. He completed high school at U.C.T.S. in 1957. While in high school, Roy was a good football player.

He also developed a love for chemistry during his studies.

He accepted Christ as his Savior at a young age and faithfully attended Golden Gate Church of God in Christ. Roy served as a choir member, praiser, and an assistant to the late Pastor Pitchford.

Following high school, Roy married Ilene Johnson of Pontotoc County, MS.

Roy was employed at the Grapette Bottling Company in New Albany, MS for several years before moving to Chicago, Illinois.

In his leisure time, Roy enjoyed reading and spending time in the company of young ladies, often inviting them to events and outings. He was well-known as quite the ladies' man in both New Albany and Chicago.

He later wanted to leave Chicago and move to Milwaukee to be near his sister "Cat" in the early 70s. Remembering his upbringing and Christian values, Roy joined Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church under the leadership of Pastor Louis Sibley until his transition.

Roy departed this life on September 2, 2025. He was preceded in death by his sisters, Katie Brown in 1963, Mattie Oakes in 1988; parents, Katie Freeman in 1957 and Leroy Sanford in 1975; his only son, James Woods in 2008; niece, Bettie Easte, and sister, Mattie.

Roy is survived by one daughter, Evonne Dye-Grove of Booneville, MS; one sister, Mary Newton; nieces Bridget and Jocelyn Newton of Milwaukee, WI; three granddaughters, two great-granddaughters, three great-grandsons all of Etta, MS; one grandson, Terrance Dye of Booneville, MS; two great-grandsons one in Booneville, MS; and one in Memphis, TN; one nephew, Stephen Brown and great-nephew, Marcell Brown both of Chicago, IL; three great-nieces, Letitia Johnston of Chicago, LaTonya Long of Dallas TX, and Lashawn Easte-Carter of Memphis, TN; a special, longtime friend, Forestine Woods-Foster of Etta, MS; and a host of other family and friends.

Cemetery Details

Glen Oaks Cemetery

4530 N. Green Bay Ave
Milwaukee, WI

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP 12. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (CT)

Northwest Funeral Chapel
6630 W. Hampton Ave
Milwaukee, WI

Funeral Service

SEP 12. 1:00 PM (CT)

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Milwaukee, WI