



Emma Benford

October 20, 1953 - June 13, 2026

Emma Jean Benford, 72, of Chattanooga, departed this earthly life to eternal life on Saturday, June 13, 2026, at her residence. She was born October 20, 1953, in Chattanooga, Tennessee to Juliette Freeman and Sam Benford. Emma was educated in the Chattanooga Public School System. She was formerly employed by Life Care of Chattanooga.

Emma was a woman of faith, strength, and unwavering devotion to her family. She accepted the Lord as her Savior and was a dedicated member of Miracle Missionary Baptist Church. She was a true prayer warrior.

Emma was preceded in death by her parents, Juliette Freeman and Sam Benford; stepfather, Walter L. Freeman; brothers, Harold, Melvin, Michael, and David Benford, Victor Freeman, and Guy Wilkerson; sister, Olivia Benford; grandson, Juan Boyd; granddaughter, Autumn Pittman; uncles, Robert Branch and Clarried Smith; aunts, Lottie Oliver and Ruby Lena Word; nephews, Carlos Benford, Dennis Freeman, and Alex Freeman.

She leaves to honor and cherish her memories, her loving daughter whom was also her primary caregiver, Juliette Benford; two sons, Darrell and Everett Hicks; grandchildren, Jacquetta and Jacquanya Love, Kemonti (Tomeshia) McDowell, Jerrica Ball, Denaira, Ladarius, Evette, Everett, Jr., Jade, Sabrina, and Ke'everious Hicks, Chandria Ballard, Jamar Hayes, Byron Walton,

Devontae Norris, Darrell Trammell, Evan, Emari, and Emoni Pittman; a host of great-grandchildren; six brothers, Nathan (Rena) Benford, Norman Freeman, Ronnie (Zundra) Readus, Walter (Hilda) Lindsey, Terrance Jones, all of Chattanooga, and Gregory (Gwendolyn) Pittman of California; four sisters, Lois Martin, Betty Freeman, both of Chattanooga, Sandra Benford of Georgia, and Sheila Whitlock of California; aunt, Norma Hughley of Chattanooga; two sisters-in-law, Ivalene Benford and Melissa Freeman, both of Chattanooga; special friends, Rodney Southers and Charles Ballard; a host of nieces; nephews; cousins; other relatives and friends.

Emma will lie-in-state on Saturday, June 27, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. at Taylor Funeral Home. Funeral service will follow at 11:00 a.m. in the Chapel Burial in Lakewood Memory Gardens, East.

Previous Events

Lie-In-State

JUN **27**. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Taylor Funeral Home
3417 Wilcox Boulevard
Chattanooga, TN 37411-1076

Funeral Service

JUN **27**. 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM (ET)

Taylor Funeral Home
3417 Wilcox Boulevard
Chattanooga, TN 37411-1076

Burial

JUN **27**. 1:00 PM - 1:30 PM (ET)

Lakewood Memory Gardens East
4621 Shallowford Road
Chattanooga, TN 37411

Tribute Wall



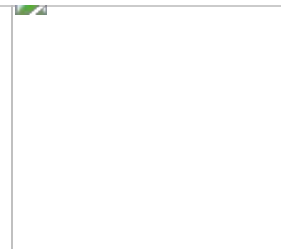
“ *Carlethia Watts lit a candle in memory of Emma Benford*



Carlethia Watts - June 27 at 06:03 PM



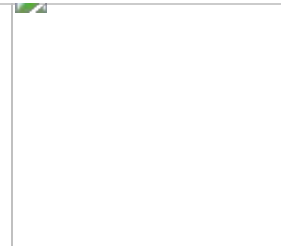
“ *Tiffany Shelton lit a candle in memory of Emma Benford*



Tiffany Shelton - June 27 at 12:23 AM



“ *My heart felt condolences to the family. Emma's warm smile and her love for cooking good food are my fondest memories.*



Yolanda Calloway - June 26 at 11:51 PM



“ *JoAnn Whitlock lit a candle in memory of Emma Benford*



JoAnn Whitlock - June 26 at 10:05 AM



Cynthia Whaley

“ ON BEHALF OF THE WHALEY FAMILY, WE
EXTEND OUR WARMEST FLET
SYMPATHIES TO THE BENFORD FAMILY...
MAY THE UNMATCHED NAME OF JESUS
CARRY YOU THROUGH 🕯️🙏💜🙏🌟🙏

Cynthia Whaley - June 26 at 04:07 AM

LH

“ Lathetta lit a candle in honor of Emma

Lathetta Havis - June 26 at 02:03 AM

S

“ Sonya Stiggers lit a candle in memory of
Emma Benford

Sonya Stiggers - June 25 at 08:13 PM



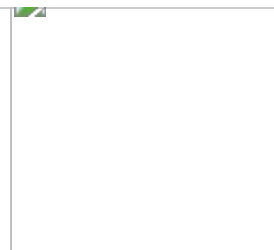
“ One of the sweetest ladies you will ever meet you will be truly
missed



Jerome Bonner - June 25 at 03:58 AM



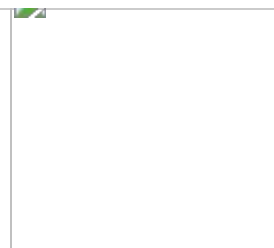
“ *Tawanda Davis lit a candle in memory of Emma Benford*



Tawanda Davis - June 25 at 01:00 AM



“ *Jean Pickens lit a candle in memory of Emma Benford*



Jean Pickens - June 24 at 03:22 PM



“ *Joyce Fears lit a candle in memory of Emma Benford*



Joyce fears - June 24 at 12:57 PM



Denaira
Hicks

“ To my Granny,
There are no words to truly express how much you meant to me. My heart is broken, but I am so thankful for the love, wisdom and memories you gave me. You were the foundation of our family, and your kindness touched everyone who knew you. I will miss your smile, your voice, and your hugs.

Though you're no longer here with us, your love will live on in our hearts forever. Rest peacefully, Granny. You will be truly missed, loved always, and never forgotten.

Love,
Dee-Dee, Jayde&Jameer

Denaira Hicks - June 23 at 07:49 PM

GG

“ Gloria Patton Griffin lit a candle in memory of
Emma Benford



Gloria Patton Griffin - June 23 at 04:51 PM

L

“ The good times we had on Fort Street..with
Ma Pig .Lottie Bell called me her brother.
Robert....Michael my best friend. ..Blimp.
David..Ma Julia.....Dank.and Emma next to
Hymie Store..all memory's I will forever hold
in my heart...till we meet again rest till the geat awakening..

Lenard Wigfall - June 22 at 02:22 AM



“ *My condolences to the Benford family*

Shun Patton - June 18 at 05:40 PM



“ *Prayers for the Benford family and other relatives.*



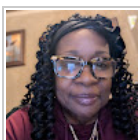
JoAnn Whitlock - June 18 at 09:45 AM



“ *Yolanda Lloyd lit a candle in memory of Emma Benford*



Yolanda Lloyd - June 17 at 11:51 AM



“ *To my extended family
You have my sincere condolences and comforting prayers...
Minister Tracie Freeman*

Tracey Freeman - June 16 at 09:33 PM

B

“ *Beverly Sales lit a candle in memory of Emma Benford*

Beverly Sales - June 16 at 02:08 PM

D

“ *Dondra Parker lit a candle in memory of Emma Benford*

Dondra Parker - June 16 at 12:20 PM

JP

“ *Condolences to the entire Benford, Freeman families and friends. You are in my thoughts and prayers.*
Jean Pickens

Jean Pickens - June 15 at 01:27 PM

R

“ *Ramona Parks lit a candle in memory of Emma Benford*

Ramona Parks - June 15 at 12:13 PM



“ *Sending my heart felt condolences to Norman and Nate and the entire family, you all are in my prayers 🙏🙏🙏* ”

Katrina Gordon - June 15 at 11:12 AM



“ *Lynn lit a candle in memory of Emma Benford* ”



Lynn - June 14 at 09:45 PM



“ *My condolence to the family* ”

Linda Dews - June 14 at 06:09 PM



“ *Vicky Kinamore lit a candle in memory of Emma Benford* ”

Vicky Kinamore - June 14 at 04:32 PM

SL

“ *Sam Lacy lit a candle in memory of Emma Benford*



Sam Lacy - June 13 at 08:34 PM