



Mary Frances Forston Benson

January 8, 1945 - June 21, 2025

Mrs. Mary Forston Benson, 80, answered the Master's call on Saturday, June 21, 2025, at a local health care facility. Mary was a lifelong member of New Monumental Baptist Church, where she served as an Associate Minister under the leadership of the late Dr. Virgil J. Caldwell.

She devoted her life to education, having graduated in the class of 1963 at Howard School. She later enrolled in Morris Brown College in Atlanta, Georgia, and received a Bachelor of Science degree. After graduation, she began her teaching career, having taught for thirty-five years in the Chattanooga Public School System at various elementary schools, including Joseph E. Smith, Mary Ann Garber, Piney Woods Elementary, and others. During her teaching years, she furthered her education by enrolling in Trevecca Nazarene College in Nashville, TN, and received a Master of Education in Supervision degree.

Mrs. Benson was an eloquent speaker and orator, a sassy (stylish) dresser, and was known for her colorful vocabulary. Her writings were impeccable.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Sallie Jarvis Forston and John Lee Forston; brothers, Eddie Lewis, Walter Thomas Forston, and John Lee Forston; sisters, Bettie Jo Hargrove, Juanita Whitten, Lois Faye Sims, and three weeks ago, Jacqueline Hutto Cooper.

She is survived by one sister, Mrs. Sarah Forston (Tommy) Cook; and a host of nieces, great-nieces, nephews, and great- nephews.

Mrs. Benson will lie-in-state on Thursday, June 26, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. at Taylor Funeral Home. Funeral service will follow at 12:00 noon in the chapel. Burial in Forest Hills Cemetery.

DIRECTIONS FOR LIVE STREAM: Click the link below to view the service.

<https://view.oneroomstreaming.com/index.php?data=MTc1MDgxMTAxMzE2NjUxNjcmb25lcm9vbS1hZG1pbiZjb3B5X2xpbms=>

Previous Events

Lie-In-State

JUN **26.** 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

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

Funeral Service

JUN **26.** 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM (ET)

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

Burial

JUN **26.** 2:00 PM - 2:30 PM (ET)

Forest Hills Cemetery
4016 Tennessee Avenue
Chattanooga, TN 37409

Tribute Wall



“ Auntie,
It's been a year since I lost you. You were ready to start your
Heavenly journey, that I understand. Sending you, my mother and
all the Fortson's in heaven Love and Hugs. Precious memories will
always last. Amen!
Tracey McMeen

Tracey McMeen - June 27 at 03:42 AM



“ 1 file added to the album *FuneralServiceCamera2-MaryBenson*



Taylor Funeral Home of Chattanooga, Inc. - July 11, 2025 at 08:50 PM



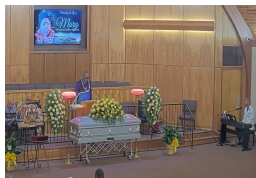
“ 1 file added to the album *CemeteryService-MaryBenson*



Taylor Funeral Home of Chattanooga, Inc. - July 11, 2025 at 08:50 PM



“ 1 file added to the album FuneralServiceCamera1-MaryBenson



Taylor Funeral Home of Chattanooga, Inc. - July 11, 2025 at 08:50 PM

PC

To the Family Queen Mary who wear mean hats well and was teacher of my brother and his son 💙 she was a teacher at heart ❤️ and loved what she did and will be missing very much praying 🙏 and condolences to everyone that new her was a blessing. Love ❤️ Mrs. Phyllis Parrish Crafter

Phyllis Parrish Crafter - August 17, 2025 at 10:07 AM

TW

“ Tanya Warren sent a virtual gift in memory of Mary Frances Forston Benson



Tanya Warren - July 04, 2025 at 07:05 AM

AE

“ I love Mrs Benson. She was one of the best teachers at Piney Woods Elementary she was stern but loving and kept students in line. Prayers to her loved ones.

April E - July 01, 2025 at 09:36 AM

RW

“ Many condolences to the Fortson family.. We are praying comfort and peace for the family. Mary Frances and I were in each others lives through being cousins, going to Howard High school , and being in Atlanta in colleges at the same time. Mary Frances came to my family and was a source of strength during the death of our sister, We appreciate all your roles and guidance you performed for us and others.. May you rest in peace..

Rosalind Woodard

Rosalind Woodard - June 30, 2025 at 11:54 AM

LW

“ LaTasha Watkins lit a candle in memory of Mary Frances Forston Benson



LaTasha Watkins - June 28, 2025 at 06:09 PM

SF

“ Sherai Foster lit a candle in memory of Mary Frances Forston Benson



Sherai Foster - June 26, 2025 at 07:06 PM

AV

“ Sending my condolences to the family of Aunt M as she was affectionately known to me. I was married to her nephew, the late Bruce Sims, who always stated she was his favorite auntie. She was always kind to me and my son Corey Sims, our son. Never a dull moment, she always had some of the funniest stories to share with you.

Angela Davis Virden - June 26, 2025 at 01:46 PM

AB

“ Ms. Benson you will be soooo truly missed. Regardless of where or when you saw me I was always greeted with a big smile and a hug. Take your rest and know that you have impacted many. Love always "Dimples"

Antionette Boston - June 26, 2025 at 11:48 AM

Jl

“ The Westmoreland family sends our condolences to Ms. Benson's family during their time of grievance. Ms. Benson was my 3rd Grade teacher at East Side Elementary, and she was one of those teachers who wanted all of her students to be something in life. She played no game when it came to bad behavior or bad grades, and I thank her for keeping me in line during those important years. She will always remain one of the best teachers I've had, that I will never forget. RIP, Ms. Benson.



James Westmoreland III - June 26, 2025 at 09:19 AM

MF

“ *To The Family of the Late Mary Frances Forston Benson:*

John Lee Forston, III, David Anthony Forston and Martha Kinnard Forston the family of John Lee Forston, Jr. Sends heartfelt condolences to Mary's family.

When John Lee Forston, Jr. passed on December 13 1997, Mary opened up her home to us. She cooked meals and made us feel like we were truly family. Thank God that she was a God fearing soul.

Martha K. Forston - June 25, 2025 at 09:55 PM

GM

“ *Gloria McClendon lit a candle in memory of Mary Frances Forston Benson*



Gloria McClendon - June 25, 2025 at 06:40 PM

EH

“ *Eva Hammock. I was so sad to here of your passing. You where a great teacher and mentor.*



Eva Hammock - June 25, 2025 at 05:50 PM

EH

“ *Eva Hammock lit a candle in memory of Mary Frances Forston Benson*



Eva Hammock - June 25, 2025 at 05:48 PM

DW

“ *Debra Wheeler lit a candle in memory of Mary Frances Forston Benson*



Debra Wheeler - June 25, 2025 at 03:07 PM

DW

I met Mary in 1977 at the Barbizon Apartments when my husband and I first got married. My prayers are with her family at this time of grief.

Debra Wheeler - June 25, 2025 at 03:10 PM

AW

“ *I am so sorry to hear of the loss of Mary. May God strengthen you and your family during this time of sorrow.*



Allene Ward - June 25, 2025 at 11:33 AM

TF

“ *THE HUNTER, TATE & WHITE FAMILY lit a candle in memory of Mary Frances Forston Benson*



THE HUNTER, TATE & WHITE FAMILY - June 25, 2025 at 10:36 AM

SD

“ *Sharon A Douglas lit a candle in memory of Mary Frances Forston Benson*



Sharon A Douglas - June 24, 2025 at 11:36 PM

CW

“ *Carlethia D Watts lit a candle in memory of Mary Frances Forston Benson*



carlethia d watts - June 24, 2025 at 11:16 PM

VM

“ *Valery McConnell lit a candle in memory of Mary Frances Forston Benson*



Valery McConnell - June 24, 2025 at 10:30 PM

AP

“ May her memory go forward to little the way
for others. I have known her for 70 years.
Rev. Ann Jones Pierre



Ann Pierre - June 24, 2025 at 05:06 PM

SD

I will miss your smile your sharp dressing school teacher with a heart of
gold, Take your rest , God love you more , your work is done 🙏

Sharon A Douglas - June 24, 2025 at 11:39 PM

MB

“ Marilyn Brown lit a candle in memory of Mary
Frances Forston Benson



Marilyn Brown - June 24, 2025 at 02:14 PM

JK

“ Jacqueline Knight lit a candle in memory of
Mary Frances Forston Benson



Jacqueline Knight - June 24, 2025 at 02:09 PM

SL

“ Our sincere condolences to the family in the loss of your love one.
Mary was our neighbor for 50yrs
she will truly be missed



Shara Long - June 23, 2025 at 11:41 PM

PF

“ Phyllis Fleming lit a candle in memory of Mary Benson.



Phyllis Patten Fleming - June 23, 2025 at 11:06 PM

DS

“ Dywana Sanders lit a candle in memory of Mary Frances Forston Benson



Dywana Sanders - June 23, 2025 at 11:48 AM

CP

“ Carlitha Palmer lit a candle in memory of Mary Frances Forston Benson



Carlitha Palmer - June 23, 2025 at 08:29 AM

LE

“ *LINDA S. EUBANKS lit a candle in memory of Mary Frances Forston Benson*



LINDA S. EUBANKS - June 22, 2025 at 04:56 PM



“ *Bumcum Kacey lit a candle in memory of Mary Frances Forston Benson*



Bumcum Kacey - June 22, 2025 at 04:00 PM

LC

“ *Linda Cox Carter lit a candle in memory of Mary Frances Forston Benson*



Linda Cox Carter - June 22, 2025 at 03:57 PM

WH

“ *Wonda Hickman lit a candle in memory of Mary Frances Forston Benson*



Wonda Hickman - June 22, 2025 at 01:22 PM

LH

“ *Laretta Harrison lit a candle in memory of Mary Frances Forston Benson*



Laretta Harrison - June 22, 2025 at 10:57 AM

MJ

“ *Mary Alice Thornton Jackson lit a candle in memory of Mary Frances Forston Benson*



Mary Alice Thornton Jackson - June 22, 2025 at 10:16 AM

LF

“ *Lynn Ford lit a candle in memory of Mary Frances Forston Benson*



Lynn Ford - June 21, 2025 at 08:21 PM