



Mary Frances Forston Benson

JAN 8, 1945 - JUN 21, 2025



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*Taylor Funeral Home
of Chattanooga, Inc.*

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Mary Frances Forston Benson

JAN 8, 1945 - JUN 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=MTc1MDgxMTAxMzE2NjUxNjcmb25lcm9vbS1hZG1pbiZjb3B5X2xpbnms=>



Events

Mary Frances Forston Benson

JAN 8, 1945 - JUN 21, 2025

Lie-In-State

Thursday, June 26, 2025

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM ET

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



Funeral Service

Thursday, June 26, 2025

12:00 PM - 1:30 PM ET

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

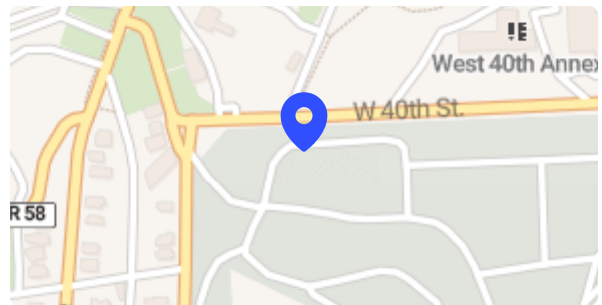


Burial

Thursday, June 26, 2025

2:00 PM - 2:30 PM ET

Forest Hills Cemetery
4016 Tennessee Avenue, Chattanooga TN 37409





Tribute Wall

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Taylor Funeral Home Of Chattanooga, Inc. shared an album called **FuneralServiceCamera2-MaryBenson.**



July 11 at 4:50 PM



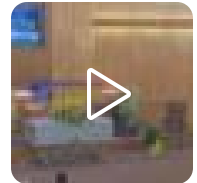
Taylor Funeral Home Of Chattanooga, Inc. shared an album called **CemeteryService-MaryBenson.**



July 11 at 4:50 PM



Taylor Funeral Home Of Chattanooga, Inc. shared an album called **FuneralServiceCamera1-MaryBenson.**



July 11 at 4:50 PM



Phyllis Parrish Crafter August 17 at 6:07 AM

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



Tanya Warren sent a virtual gift in honor of Mary.



July 4 at 3:05 AM



April E posted:

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.

July 1 at 5:36 AM



Tribute Wall

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RW

Rosalind Woodard posted:

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

June 30 at 7:54 AM

LW

Latasha Watkins lit a candle in honor of Mary.



June 28 at 2:09 PM

SF

Sheral Foster lit a candle in honor of Mary.



June 26 at 3:06 PM

AV

Angela Davis Virden posted:

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.

June 26 at 9:46 AM

AB

Antionette Boston posted:

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"

June 26 at 7:48 AM



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James Westmoreland Iii lit a candle in honor of Mary.

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.



June 26 at 5:19 AM



Martha K. Forston posted:

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.

June 25 at 5:55 PM



Gloria Mcclendon lit a candle in honor of Mary.



June 25 at 2:40 PM



Eva Hammock lit a candle in honor of Mary.

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



June 25 at 1:50 PM



Eva Hammock lit a candle in honor of Mary.



June 25 at 1:48 PM



Tribute Wall

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DW

Debra Wheeler lit a candle in honor of Mary.



June 25 at 11:07 AM

DW

Debra Wheeler June 25 at 11:10 AM

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.

AW

Allene Ward lit a candle in honor of Mary.

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



June 25 at 7:33 AM

TF

The Hunter, Tate & White Family lit a candle in honor of Mary.



June 25 at 6:36 AM

SD

Sharon A Douglas lit a candle in honor of Mary.



June 24 at 7:36 PM

CW

Carlethia D Watts lit a candle in honor of Mary.



June 24 at 7:16 PM



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Valery McConnell lit a candle in honor of Mary.

June 24 at 6:30 PM



Ann Pierre lit a candle in honor of Mary.

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

June 24 at 1:06 PM



SD Sharon A Douglas June 24 at 7:39 PM

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 🙏



Marilyn Brown lit a candle in honor of Mary.

June 24 at 10:14 AM



Jacqueline Knight lit a candle in honor of Mary.

June 24 at 10:09 AM



Shara Long lit a candle in honor of Mary.

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

June 23 at 7:41 PM





Tribute Wall

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PF

Phyllis Patten Fleming lit a candle in honor of Mary.
Phyllis Fleming lit a candle in memory of Mary Benson.

June 23 at 7:06 PM



DS

Dywana Sanders lit a candle in honor of Mary.

June 23 at 7:48 AM



CP

Carlitha Palmer lit a candle in honor of Mary.

June 23 at 4:29 AM



LE

Linda S. Eubanks lit a candle in honor of Mary.

June 22 at 12:56 PM



BK

Bumcum Kacey lit a candle in honor of Mary.

June 22 at 12:00 PM



LC

Linda Cox Carter lit a candle in honor of Mary.

June 22 at 11:57 AM





Tribute Wall

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WH

Wonda Hickman lit a candle in honor of Mary.

June 22 at 9:22 AM



LH

Laretta Harrison lit a candle in honor of Mary.

June 22 at 6:57 AM



MJ

Mary Alice Thornton Jackson lit a candle in honor of Mary.

June 22 at 6:16 AM



LF

Lynn Ford lit a candle in honor of Mary.

June 21 at 4:21 PM





Media

Mary Frances Forston Benson

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Taylor Funeral Home Of Chattanooga, Inc. shared a video to the FuneralServiceCamera2-MaryBenson album.

July 11 at 4:50 PM



SCAN TO WATCH



Media

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Taylor Funeral Home Of Chattanooga, Inc. shared a video to the CemeteryService-MaryBenson album.

July 11 at 4:50 PM





Media

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Phyllis Parrish Crafter August 17 at 6:07 AM

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Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Mary by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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