



## Mrs. Clara Starks

July 1, 1928 - March 20, 2023

Clara Mae Starks (Gammy) was born on July 1, 1928 to the late Anderson and Annie Mae Hedgeman. At the age of three she was adopted and lovingly raised by John and Easter Whitehead. Clara attended school in her early years in Lake Providence and Pioneer Louisiana and later completed school in Berkeley California where she lived for seventeen years. Mother Clara loved music and began singing as a child at New Light Baptist Church in lake Providence. Later, she organized her own gospel group, and began to traveled to various places singing gospel music.

Mother Clara began then moved to St. Louis Missouri, and later to Grand Rapids Michigan. In 1965 she moved to Texas, and became an active member of New Life Baptist Church. In 1976, she joined The Church by Christ Jesus, where she was baptized and filled with the Holy Ghost. She served faithfully over fifteen years under the leadership of the late Bishop Leroy Shankle, Sr. and Supervisor Verdian Shankle.

Upon the leading of the Holy Spirit, on December 4, 2012, she later joined Grace Tabernacle Baptist Church under the leadership of Pastor Charles and Sis. Barbara Jeffery, where she was appointed to serve as the church mother. She was known for her beautiful, anointed voice that had a voice range from Alto to Bass. Her words of wisdom were unpredictable, and her knowledge phenomenal. Her council was sharp, yet true, as it uplifted and strengthened those who was blessed to hear and receive it.

The fourth chapter of Judges speaks of Deborah the warrior and prophetess,

our mother walked with the bull dog courage of Deborah. 2 Timothy 1:5 tells of Eunice, we saw how our mother walked in unfeigned faith, sincere faith as Eunice. In Act 9:36 tells of the servant Tabitha, our mother served tirelessly with the heart of a servant.

She was a loving foster grandparent, a graduate of the Lufkin (Citizens) Police Academy in Lufkin TX. She was also an entrepreneur, owning a flower shop and two restaurants, as well as a graduate from beauty school as a licensed cosmetologist.

She was united in matrimony to Robert Joe Starks in Lufkin Texas, where the two enjoyed traveling together. Her hobbies included cooking, fishing, gardening and journaling. On March 20, 2023 Mother Clara entered triumphantly into eternal rest, She is preceded in death by her husband Robert Joe Starks, mother Annie Mae Hedgeman, adopted parents John and Ester Whitehead, son Charlie DeSelle Jr, sisters Willie Mae Hopkins and Ruby Lee Steward, granddaughter Kianna Bailey and great grandson Ryan Houston.

Those she leaves to cherish her precious memory include her eight children, sons, Anthony and Billy Mickens (Angela), daughters, Cheryl Smith (Thomas) Evelyn DeSelle Coutee, Betty Deselle Holman, Shelia Benemon, Sonya Bailey and Michelle DeSelle, and one grandson that she raised as her own Christopher Hill, and a host of loving grandchildren, great grandchildren and great great grandchildren, nieces, nephews, cousins, a loving spiritual family and many friends all who affectionately called her "Gammy".

# Cemetery Details

## Brookside Memorial Park

13401 Eastex Freeway  
Houston, TX 77039

# Previous Events

## Visitation

APR 1. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Emmanuel Church Of God In Christ  
8813 Lockwood Dr  
Houston, TX 77016-5130  
(713) 631-4824

## Service

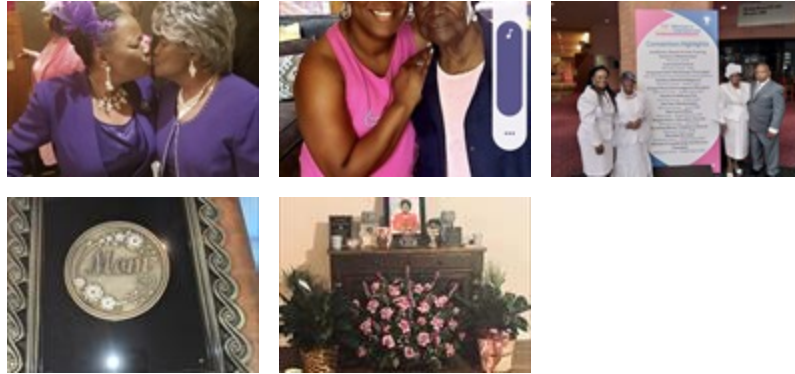
APR 1. 11:00 AM (CT)

Emmanuel Church Of God In Christ  
8813 Lockwood Dr  
Houston, TX 77016-5130  
(713) 631-4824

# Tribute Wall

BH

“ 20 files added to the tribute wall



betty holman - April 19, 2023 at 05:34 PM

PG

“ Pastor and Sis. CE Jeffery and GraceTab. purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Mrs. Clara Starks.



Pastor and Sis. CE Jeffery and GraceTab. - March 31, 2023 at 12:09 PM



“ As I sit here counting the days I’m still have yet to register that ur gone but yet u live in my heart I’m gonna miss those phone calls as well as those FaceTimes can’t believe my number 1 lady has been called home I remember every time moma (sonya) did something to me r made me upset first thing flying out my mouth im telling MY GRANNY n I run to call r find u just so u can fuss at her lol u held all my secrets u was my best friend rather we was miles apart r around the corner from each other I’m gonna miss u so much my love 🥺🥺  
 💔💔🙏🙏



Constance Cummings - March 31, 2023 at 03:49 AM



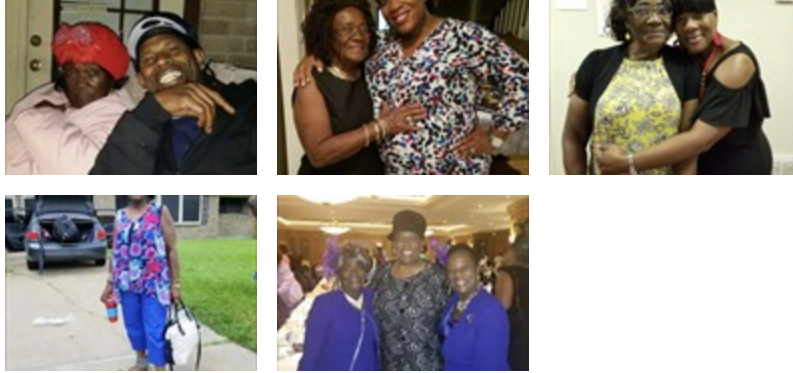
“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Mrs. Clara Starks.



March 30, 2023 at 11:26 PM

BH

“ 13 files added to the tribute wall



betty holman - March 30, 2023 at 06:06 PM

BH

Long live the Queen. Forever in my heart ❤️❤️❤️❤️❤️❤️

betty holman - March 30, 2023 at 06:07 PM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mrs. Clara Starks.



March 30, 2023 at 06:02 PM



“ *It's said that Grandmothers are a gift not to be taken lightly. So many lose them, before they are old enough to know their magic. Unfortunately, this isn't the case for myself and a few others. THANK YOU for showing me how to LOVE in the midst of a storm. You are, were, and still is the CALMING waters for me..MY DEAR GUMDROP, you'll truly be missed...Forever within my heart, with much love I THANK YOU AGAIN* 💜💜💜



Sharita Bailey - March 30, 2023 at 05:59 PM



“ *Shena Bailey lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Clara Starks*



Shena Bailey - March 30, 2023 at 11:53 AM



Dezareé Mickens - March 30, 2023 at 12:38 PM

SW

“ Oh my where do I start? You are the true definition of a God fearing woman. I remember going to church with you as a child, staying the nights with you, sitting on the porch having conversations about life as your dog run around. What I am most thankful for was your loyalty.. I could tell you anything and you was just like a diary. You have never doubted me. I hate life led us to be apart; but one thing about it no matter how far I've never lost the love I have for you and I remember our sweet times. Thank you for loving me, thank you for believing in me. My sweet Gammy you'll be missed ☐💜

SheaShea Williams - March 30, 2023 at 10:35 AM

DM



Dezareé Mickens - March 30, 2023 at 12:33 PM

KS

“ THE GAMMY”



Kizzy Starks - March 30, 2023 at 01:17 AM

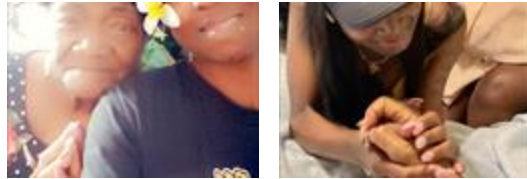
DM



Dezareé Mickens - March 30, 2023 at 12:34 PM

DM

“ My heart beyond broken 💔 yuh will forever be in my heart 💜 ITS ALWAYS THE GAMMY FOR ME 🥰🥰 love yuh always 💜  
LONGLIVETHEGAMMY 💜🙏



Dezareé Mickens - March 30, 2023 at 01:15 AM

DM

“ My favorite old woman 🙏 ”Dezzi Lou”gone forever @ miss yuh my lovely lady ☐ Yuh was the light 💡 of this FAMILY”THA GAMMY” MY LOVE 💜 IS FOREVER @IM GONE ALWAYS KEEP YUR NAME ALIVE MY”OLD WOMAN”LONG LIVE THE GAMMY 🙏🙏💜

Dezareé Mickens - March 30, 2023 at 01:05 AM

KH

“ Geechie I love me so you- until we meet again! Love Kenny G and family!



Kenny Holman - March 30, 2023 at 12:47 AM

DM



Dezareé Mickens - March 30, 2023 at 12:36 PM

KS

“ WELL DONE GAMMY... I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU THANK YOU FOR YOUR UNWAVERINGLY LOVE I VOW TO KEEP YOUR LEGACY ALIVE FOREVER IN MY ❤️💔 #1 GRANDDAUGHTER KIZZY

Kizzy Starks - March 30, 2023 at 12:28 AM

CF

“ Gonna miss everything about you Im gonna continue to make you proud and be as strong of a woman like u was gone but will never be forgotten you will remain in our hearts 💕💕💕

Cummings & Bailey family - March 30, 2023 at 12:23 AM

JD

“ Always my Gammy and I'll always be your Phinelly! ❤️  
Love Jackie

Jacqueline Dixon - March 29, 2023 at 08:59 PM

BE

“ Bobbie Edwards lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Clara Starks



Bobbie Edwards - March 29, 2023 at 06:35 PM

CC

“ Forever Loved Gammy you may be gone but never forgotten. Mourn you until I join you. Calvin and Family

Calvin Coutee - March 29, 2023 at 03:48 PM

LJ

“Forever in our hearts. We love and miss you so much Gammy-Boone and Family❤️

Larry Holman Jr - March 29, 2023 at 03:02 PM

GF

“Love and will miss you always my "Gammy Girl".💜 - The Givens Family

Givens Family - March 29, 2023 at 02:49 PM



Moma you will forever be in my heart I will always love you and miss thanks for making me the woman I am you was a Strong woman love your No.5 daughter

Renaë Bailey - March 29, 2023 at 02:55 PM