



# Ernest Herbert Rodgers, Sr.

MAY 31, 1938 - MAR 13, 2020



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The House Of Johnson  
Funeral Home

# Table of Contents

<b>Obituary</b> .....	Page 3
<b>Tribute Wall</b> .....	Page 5
<b>Media</b> .....	Page 10



## **Ernest Herbert Rodgers, Sr.**

MAY 31, 1938 - MAR 13, 2020

**E**rnest Herbert Rodgers, Sr. was born on May 31, 1938 to the union of Daisy and Herbert Rodgers in Buckingham County, Virginia. Ernest was an avid outdoorsman who enjoyed such activities as fishing, hunting, and gardening. He also loved music, singing and dancing. He was a member of several music groups over the span of his lifetime; most notably, the male chorus at Second Mt.

Carmel M.B.C. and the Detroit Motor City Singers. Ernest was an incredible cook as well. He loved big family meals; his most requested dish was chicken and dumplings. He was well liked by his community, fellow co-workers, and friends. He was a people person who never met a stranger. He would often spark up a conversation with whoever happened to cross his path; at the super market, a baseball game, or even at an amusement park. Ernest had the gift of gab. He loved young people. He would often include some of the neighborhood children to join his family whenever they'd go fishing, to the beach, or any number of fun-filled activities. He mentored a number of those children and most viewed him as a father figure.

Ernest accepted Christ at an early age and was baptized while living in North Carolina.

He proudly served as a Deacon while attending Second Mt. Carmel M.B.C. He loved driving whether it was for work or for pleasure. He would sometimes drive for a living;

most notably for, the Faygo Beverage Company. Following his passion for cooking, he also worked as a baker at Farm Crest Bakery. As an entrepreneur, he owned such businesses as the Bus Stop Restaurant, and Rodgers BMW Limousine Services.

In August of 1968, he met and later married his wife of nearly 52 years, Mary Lee



## Obituary

**Ernest Herbert Rodgers, Sr.**

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Rodgers. From this union, two incredible children were born, Ava Marie, and Ernest Herbert, Jr.

Ernest transitioned from this life on March 13, 2020 at approximately 4:38 p.m. with his

son Jr. at his side. He leaves to cherish his memory, his devoted wife; Mary Lee Rodgers

of Chesterfield, Michigan, his son; Ernest Herbert Rodgers, Jr of Detroit, Michigan, his daughter; Joyce Baylor (Raymond) of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, his daughter; Alma Jean Simpson of Dillwyn, Virginia, his son; Herman Bolden of Cumberland, Virginia, his daughter; Ernestine Rodgers of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, his daughter;

Samantha Colbert of Detroit, Michigan, his brother; Andrew Rodgers of Philadelphia,

Pennsylvania, his sister; Georgiana Scruggs of Newport News, Virginia, along with a host of nieces, nephews, and grandchildren notably Madison and A'Vaughn Rodgers of

Harrison Twp., Michigan.

He was preceded in death by his parents; Daisy and Herbert Rodgers, his sister; Helen

Rodgers, his sister; Etta Mae Corley, his brother; Delaney Rodgers, his daughter; Ava Marie Rodgers, his son; Steven Rodgers, and his son; Dwayne Williams.



## Tribute Wall

**Ernest Herbert Rodgers, Sr.**

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**The House Of Johnson Funeral Home** shared an album called **Obituary**.



November 3 at 11:24 AM



**Barbara Stevenson** posted:

You will truly be missed. I will remember all the great memories of you. Much love your niece Barbara

March 27 at 8:00 PM



**Terrell Baylor** posted:

I love you Pops .. love you much !! Thanks for showing me how to Hunt ,Thanks for showing me things . the time we did spend together !!

March 27 at 8:00 PM



**Bruce Bothuel** posted:

A great friend, a wonderful teacher, a kind and generous soul who treated me like a son, you will be missed. Mary and family my love and prayers go out to you.

March 27 at 8:00 PM



**Phillip Wisecup** posted:

Mary, my thoughts, love, and prayers are with you and your family. Your faith and grace will see you thru.

March 27 at 8:00 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

Uncle Ernest, So many memories we share. I can still hear you calling me "boss" and you have always held a special place in my heart. I love you dearly and may you rest in peace. Now dad will have someone to fuss with up there lol.

March 27 at 8:00 PM



## Tribute Wall

**Ernest Herbert Rodgers, Sr.**

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MR

**Madison Rodgers** posted:

Sometimes God puts you through hard times to prepare you for even harder ones to make sure you are strong enough when the time comes. This is one of those times. When i think back on early memories of my granddad I think of fishing. When I was around 6 he, my grandma, and I would pack a cooler full of sandwiches, drinks, snacks, etc. And we would be out there before the birds even had a chance to wake up. I actually have a very vivid memory of the first fish I caught with him. It was a carp and the thing was so heavy we thought it was stuck on a log. Just as he goes to get the scissors to cut the line it started to jerk and I just remembered reeling til i couldnt reel anymore. Thanks for the help of a lot of cheering and a net it was mine and you can ask my grandma it was almost as big as my body. True story. Also I got to drive the boat once or twice because I was the boss as he would infamously call me. I just remember thinking it was so exciting as a kid. To this day because of that I have a deep love for fishing as well as nature. Speaking of water, I wouldnt have been able to swim in it without him and my grandma making sure I took swimming lessons. From that I learned a skill that could not only save my life but saved others as well. While it is with deep sadness Im currently reminiscing on such fond memories for a funeral, it is with great joy to know that he is now in a better place reunited with those once departed. When I think back on those memories and I smile I have faith that he will be smiling too and i know that i will always be the boss in his eyes.

March 26 at 8:00 PM

AS

**Addie V Smith** posted:

Thanks for being a great brother in-law I have and always remember, and miss your corn beef , you would always say the best corn beef ever, and you was right, no matter how hard I try I can never cook it like you. Lets not forget that cold slaw on top. Wow what fun we would have when you had the family reunions. Rest In Peace and tell George Hi and I miss him. Please dont be in heaven fussing over whos the better cook. LOLSister in lawAddie V Smith

March 26 at 8:00 PM

VS

**Vera Smith** posted:

Ernest, You brought new experiences and adventures to our family. I remember that you are the one who bought the first barbecue grill for us when we lived in Cabrini Green, and you made the best barbecue sauce. You were a wonderful cook, and you took me on my first fishing trip. I loved fishing even though I very rarely was able to catch a fish! I loved the trips that you used to take us and your family on. You were definitely unique with a powerful personality, and you made a strong impact on the family and the world. May you rest in peace and find contentment now that you have gone on to the next great adventure. I will never forget you. (From your sister-in law Vera) Mary and Ernest Jr. - my thoughts and prayers are with you. I love you very much.

March 26 at 8:00 PM



## Tribute Wall

**Ernest Herbert Rodgers, Sr.**

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**Anonymous** posted:

Rest in peace Ernest!

March 25 at 8:00 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

Pop words are not adequate to express the sorrow I feel. Everyone keep saying there is a reason, they say time will heal. But reason nor time will change the way I feel. No one know the heartache. No one can know how many times I've broke down and cried. I miss you and you will forever be my beloved father. I believe in Angels and know, you will always watch over me. Until we meet again I'm holding you close in my heart. Love and miss you.

March 22 at 8:00 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

Tina I am praying for you and your family in your time of loss. Remember I love you and God does too!

March 21 at 8:00 PM



**Whitney Watkins** posted:

We were never short of laughs. I appreciate the memories we shared and the lessons I learned from your ever expressive stories haha. Thank you for your love, Uncle Ernest, you will forever be missed! Aunt Mary and Junior, I love you all more than I can say. I will be praying for you all, and please know you have love and support here in Miami! God will keep you all! Love, Whitney ❤️❤️❤️

March 20 at 8:00 PM



**Shiri Carter** posted:

You always had a fun hunting story or one of your many other adventures to tell me about. I have fond memories of visiting you, my auntie, and cousins in Detroit during the summers. I will always remember when you took us all for a ride in the limo. I was a young girl, but that made me feel like a fancy lady. Lol. May your mind, body, & soul rest in peace. To aunt Mary and Jr.- May God give you strength and healing during this challenging time. All our love, The Carter Family ( John, Shiri, Hayden, Karis & Silas)

March 19 at 8:00 PM



## Tribute Wall

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CW

**Carolyn Watkins** posted:

Ernest just thinking about the good old days when I would come to visit you all, and when we went to Canada I believe on a mini cruise and you, Mary and I danced all night. We were dancing fools (smile). Also thinking about the time when you took us hunting and we shot a rabbit and thought that we were doing something big then later found out that the rabbit was already dead HAHA. It was so cold but I went anyway because I was a daring person. My my those were the days. May you rest in peace in God's love. Always the same your sister-in-law Carolyn

March 18 at 8:00 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

I will never forget Ernest he was definitely one of a kind. I could ask him about anything and he would be able to give me a meaningful answer. We would spend hours chatting, and he would do 90% of the talking. Hunting would be what we would talk about the most. Once he took me with him, but I found out it wasn't for me. We will miss you Ernest, may you rest in peace.

March 18 at 8:00 PM

HW

**Harold Watkins** posted:

~ Harold Watkins, Miami Gardens, Florida

March 18 at 8:00 PM

TS

**Tara Simpson** posted:

I love you Grandpa, I will forever remember the things you taught me and the precious memories!!

March 17 at 8:00 PM

TS

**Tara Simpson** posted:

~ Tara Simpson, Dillwyn, Virginia

March 17 at 8:00 PM



## Tribute Wall

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CG

**Carlecia Gentry** posted:

He was a very loving uncle and will be greatly missed. A sweet man who loved his family and always took out time to spend with us when they would come down. Will miss that smile the most...until we meet again Uncle...Love you.

March 17 at 8:00 PM

MR

**Mary Rodgers** posted:

I was very excited when I first met you and fell in love. Although our relationship was rocky, God blessed us to hang in there for 51 years. We really did have a lot of fun and enjoyable times. I am already missing the early morning fishing trips and those long over the road driving vacations. :>) Rest in peace Rodgers until we meet again. Your loving wife.

March 16 at 8:00 PM

MM

**Mary Helen Miller** posted:

He was a kind man at heart. I loved him then and I love him now! RIL until we meet again. He always took time out with us when he visited. Gone but not forgotten! I will miss my uncle!

March 16 at 8:00 PM



# Media

# Ernest Herbert Rodgers, Sr.

MAY 31, 1938 - MAR 13, 2020



The House Of Johnson Funeral Home shared 2 photos to the Obituary album.

November 3 at 11:24 AM

**PALLBEARERS**  
*The Holy Guard, Pallbearers Club*

**FLOWER BEARERS**  
*Friends of the Family*

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT**  
The family of the late Ernest Herbert Rodgers, Sr. wishes to acknowledge the many expressions of sympathy and gestures of kindness shown to us following our loss. We offer our heartfelt thanks to the many friends who provided emotional and practical support for the family at this difficult time. Thank You!

**ARRANGEMENTS ENTRUSTED TO**  
*The House of Johnson Funeral Home*

Johnnie Chapel  
817 E. Simpson  
Indian Hill 43000  
Indian Hill, Ohio 43020  
(513) 285-4100 or (513) 285-6300  
"Where the Whole Community Serves, and the Whole Serves Jesus"

Sunrise: May 31, 1938 Sunset: March 13, 2020

**Celebrating The Life Of Ernest Herbert Rodgers, Sr.**

Saturday, March 14, 2020  
Family Hour 10:00 AM Funeral 11:00 AM

**Greater New Hope M.B.C.**  
5857 Delmar Street  
New Haven, Michigan 48048

**Pastor John Mack, Jr., officiating**

**Obituary**

**Ernest Herbert Rodgers, Sr.** was born on May 31, 1938 to the union of Daisy and Herbert Rodgers in the English County, Virginia. Ernest was an avid basketball player who enjoyed such activities as fishing, hunting and gardening. He also loved music, singing and dancing. He was a member of several music groups over the span of his lifetime: most notably, the male chorus at Second St. Church M.B.C., and the Gospel Men of 'n' Singers. Ernest was an incredible cook at work. He loved his family music; his most respected dish was chicken and dumplings. He was well liked by his coworkers, fellow coworkers, and friends. He was a people person who never met a stranger. He would often spark up a conversation with whomever happened to cross his path, at the supermarket, a basketball game, or even at an amusement park. Ernest had a gift of gab. He loved young people. He would often include some of the neighborhood children in his family whenever they'd go fishing, to the beach, or any number of fun-filled activities. He mentored a number of these children and most viewed him as a father figure.

Ernest accepted Christ at an early age; she was baptized while living in North Carolina. He proudly served as a Deacon while attending Second St. Church M.B.C. He loved driving whether it was for work or for pleasure. He would sometimes drive for a living, most notably for the Fargo Emergency Company. Following his passion for cooking, he also worked as a baker at Farm Creek Bakery. As an entrepreneur, he owned such businesses as the Blue Ship Restaurant, and Rodgers B&B Lodging Services.

In August of 1998, he met and later married his wife of nearly 22 years, Mary Lee Rodgers. From this union, two incredible children were born, Jim Marie, and Ernest Herbert, Jr.

Ernest transitioned from this life on March 13, 2020 at approximately 4:30 pm, with his wife by his side. He leaves to cherish his memory, his devoted wife, Mary Lee Rodgers of Cantonville, Michigan, his son, Ernest Herbert Rodgers, Jr. of Detroit, Michigan, his daughter, Jigon Rochelle (Rochelle) of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, his daughter, Alan Jean Simpson of Idaho, Virginia, his son, Herman Holden of Cumberland, Virginia, his daughter, Ernestine Rodgers of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, his daughter, Samantha Carter of Detroit, Michigan, his brother, Andrew Rodgers of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, his sister, Georgiana Strang of Newport News, Virginia, along with a host of nieces, nephews, and grand children including Ashburn and Tregina Rodgers of Harrison Twp., Michigan.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Daisy and Herbert Rodgers, his sister, Helen Rodgers, his sister, Ella Mae Carter, his brother, Rodney Rodgers, his daughter, also Marie Rodgers, his son, Steven Rodgers, and his son, Deacon B'Elam.

**Order of Service**

Organ Prelude	..... Mrs. Justice
Practical	..... Clergy, Family & Friends
Selection	..... Choir
Scripture	..... Minister
Prayer	..... Minister
Solo	..... Ernest Rodgers, Sr.
Acknowledgment of Cards, Condolences	.....
Resolution and Obituary	..... Sr. Marjorie Hensley
Singing	..... Cecelia Thomas
Remarks	..... Family and Friends
..... (One Minute Prayers)	..... Choir
Selection	..... Family Only
Funeral	..... Pastor John Mack, Jr.
Recessional	..... Clergy, Family and Friends
Organ Postlude	..... Mrs. Justice

**Remember Me! I Will Live Forever**

The day will come when my body will be spun a white sheet, wearily tucked under four corners of a mattress bound in a hospital, heavily impregnated with the long and the long, it's someone moment a doctor will determine that my brain has ceased to function and that, for all intents and purposes, my life has stopped. When that happens, do not attempt to mend or repair me; see my body by the use of a machine. And don't call this my deathbed. Let it be called the bed of life, and let my hands be taken from the table where I laid before. Once my spirit is in the man who has never seen a woman, a lady's love or love in the eyes of a woman. Once my heart is a person whose love is not a mere feeling, but rather, love that is real. Once my hand is the woman who was pulled from the wreckage of this life so that she might live to see her grandchildren play. Once my history is the man who spends his a number of days from work to work. Take his time, your mission, every friend and near as he has and find a way to make a crippled child with epilepsy every corner of my heart. Take my wife's personality, and let that give us this, someday a grandchild will stand at the cradle of a bed and a bed get will have the heart of rain against his window. There what is left of me and sustain the other in the world to help the broken again. If you must have something, let it be my faith, my weakness and all propitiate against my fallen man. Once my eye is the devil. One you need to find. If I believe, you wish to contribute me, do it with a kind deed or worse to someone who needs you. If you do all I have said, I will live forever.

**Do Not Stand at My Grave and Weep**

Do not stand at my grave and weep, I am not there, I am sleeping  
I am the dream that you wake to see - If in the sunlight you spend your  
I am the gentle rain from heaven - If you ever wish to see the morning break  
I am the soft, whispering wind - If you ever wish to see the morning break  
I am the soft, whispering wind - If you ever wish to see the morning break  
I am not there, I do not sleep, I do not stand at my grave and weep  
I am not there, I do not sleep, I do not stand at my grave and weep  
I am not there, I do not sleep, I do not stand at my grave and weep



# Memories only last if you share them

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



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