

*In Loving Memory  
Of*



**MRS. RUTH FLOWERS SARTIN**

SUNRISE: FEBRUARY 17, 1915 ~ SUNSET: AUGUST 13, 2000



MONDAY, AUGUST 21, 2000  
11:00 A. M.

**WESLEY BETHEL  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
1411 MISSOURI AVENUE  
EAST SAINT LOUIS, ILLINOIS**

REVEREND BRADLEY WATKINS, PASTOR  
REVEREND JAMES LITTLE, OFFICIANT

# The Obituary

**Mrs. Ruth Latoka Flowers (nee) Walker** of East St. Louis, Illinois departed this life Sunday, August 13, 2000 while hospitalized at Barnes-Jewish Hospital in St. Louis.

**Mrs. Flowers-Sartin** entered this life on February 17, 1915 to the late Charles W. Walker and Georgia Ann Terry. She was the oldest of four children born to this union: Charles, Jr., Myrtis and Primrose.

**Ruth** graduated from Gullage High School. She and her brother were valedictorian and salutatorian, respectively.

**Ruth** accepted Christ as her Savior at an early age and remained active in her church until her health failed. Even during her illness, she remained true to her faith.

Besides her mother and father; one sister, Myrtis and one brother, Charles, Jr. preceded her in death.

The Flowers were the first Black owners of a Movie Theatre in the State of Mississippi. Even during the toughest of times in a much-segregated atmosphere, the Flowers became great entrepreneurs by pressing on and proving that all things are possible through strength and faith.

In 1935, **Ruth** united in Holy Matrimony to the late Mr. Forest Sanford Flowers. To this union three children were born: Dwight, Sr., Forest Lamar, Sr., and Annie R. Thompson.

Later, the Flowers relocated to the City of East St. Louis, Illinois after visiting with family members. The Flowers came with a vision and started the Broadway Grill. They worked long and hard at this location until its closing in 1943. They moved on to open Flowers Confectionery the same year.

This establishment remains open in the same location as a family-owned business.

Mr. Flowers died in 1967 and Mrs. Flowers later married Genoa Sartin. At this time, **Ruth** became a full-time homemaker and helpmate to ANOTHER EXTRAORDINARY ENTREPRENEUR. Mr. Sartin preceded her in death in 1999.

**Ruth** leaves to cherish her memories two (2) sons, Dwight, (Joan) Flowers, Sr. of Kansas City, Missouri, F. Lamar, Sr. of Lexington, Kentucky; and one (1) daughter, Annie (Ernest) Thompson of Swansea, Illinois; one (1) sister, Primrose Henderson Williams of East St. Louis, IL; fourteen grandchildren; eleven (11) great-grandchildren and a host of other relatives, nieces, nephews; special friends, Mrs. Pearl Lee of Emeryville, California, Mrs Annie Mae Gaston of