



Erma Mae Sanders

January 16, 1935 - October 19, 2021

Erma Mae Sanders (formerly James) was born on January 16, 1935 in Gonzalez Texas, to the late Thomas James SR and Maseline James (Jackson). Sister to Bernice James (D), W.J James (D), Richard T. James (Ophelia James), Ruth V. Hurte (D), Thomas James JR (D), Pete James and five half siblings and two step siblings.

Mother to Raymond Woodard JR (D), Michael Sanders, Cheryl Sanders (D), Michael Sanders, Paul Sanders, and Jolanda Sanders (Donald Frelow). In addition, she also raised her three grandchildren Michael Sanders JR, Lucky Abrams JR, and Diana Abrams. She was blessed with over 25 grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great grandchildren combined.

She was preceded in death by her first husband Raymond Woodard SR and 2nd husband Paul Sanders SR.

Remember me when I am gone away,
Gone far away into the silent land;
When you can no more hold me by the hand.

Erma or “mama” as she was affectionately known to most spent her formative years in Corpus Christi Texas before moving to California with her young family. Raising her children and grandchildren were a priority but she was also known for having a good time. Her favorite past-times include playing dominoes, casino trips, spades, and traveling. Even in her later years it was not unusual for her take trips alone to visits friends in places like Chicago. Although she spent most of her life in California, she was a true Texan and often spoke to us about her youth there. She would travel to Texas as often as possible to visit family and friends. Erma’s no-nonsense attitude and tenacity instilled in her children and grandchildren independence and the knowledge that we could accomplish anything if we worked hard enough.

Erma had a long life, but this does not make her passing any less difficult. Her loss will be felt for a long time. Her laughter, light, and love are gone from us forever, but we take comfort that she is at peace and taking a well-deserved rest. She would not want us to be consumed by our grief but to live on and make her proud.

Events

NOV 10 **Interment** 01:30AM
All Souls Cemetery
550 Glen Cove Road, Vallejo, CA, US, 94591

NOV 10 **Viewing** 10:00AM - 11:00AM
Harris Funeral Home Legacy Center
1331 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, CA, US, 94702

NOV 10 **Service** 11:00AM
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