

*Homegoing Celebration*  
*For*  
*Mother Mary Elizabeth Sanderfer*



*Wednesday, July 6, 2016*

*11:00AM*

*Little Elk M. B. Church*

*4692 Snake Road*

*Athens, AL 35611*

*Pastor Eugene English, Officiating*

*Pastor Anthony Stewart, Eulogist*



## OBITUARY

**Mary Elizabeth Sanderfer** was born on March 29, 1929 to the late John Henry and Idell Shoulders of Athens, AL. She departed her life on the morning of June 30, 2016. She was happily wed for 57 years to Rev. Bennie H. Sanderfer. This Union was blessed with nine children: Mildred Robinson (Herbert), Evans, Georgia, Bernell Fontenot, Huntsville, AL, Bennie L. Sanderfer (Stella), Huntsville, AL., Madlyn Merritt (Harold), Melbourne, Florida, Ervin D. Sanderfer, Athens, AL, Ruth Watts, Chattanooga, TN, Regina Willingham (Carl), Decatur, AL, Teresa Lynn Brown, Athens, AL and Roger Darryl who preceded her in death. Also to this Union was the Angelic blessing of twenty grandchildren, twenty-two great grandchildren and one great great grandchild.

Mother Mary accepted Christ as her personal Savior at Little Elk Missionary Baptist Church under the Leadership of Pastor Freddie Sowell. She started early on a missionary journey that she would be totally sold out to God. She served as the church secretary for 19 years, and was actively involved in initiating and implementing the ministry of the additions.

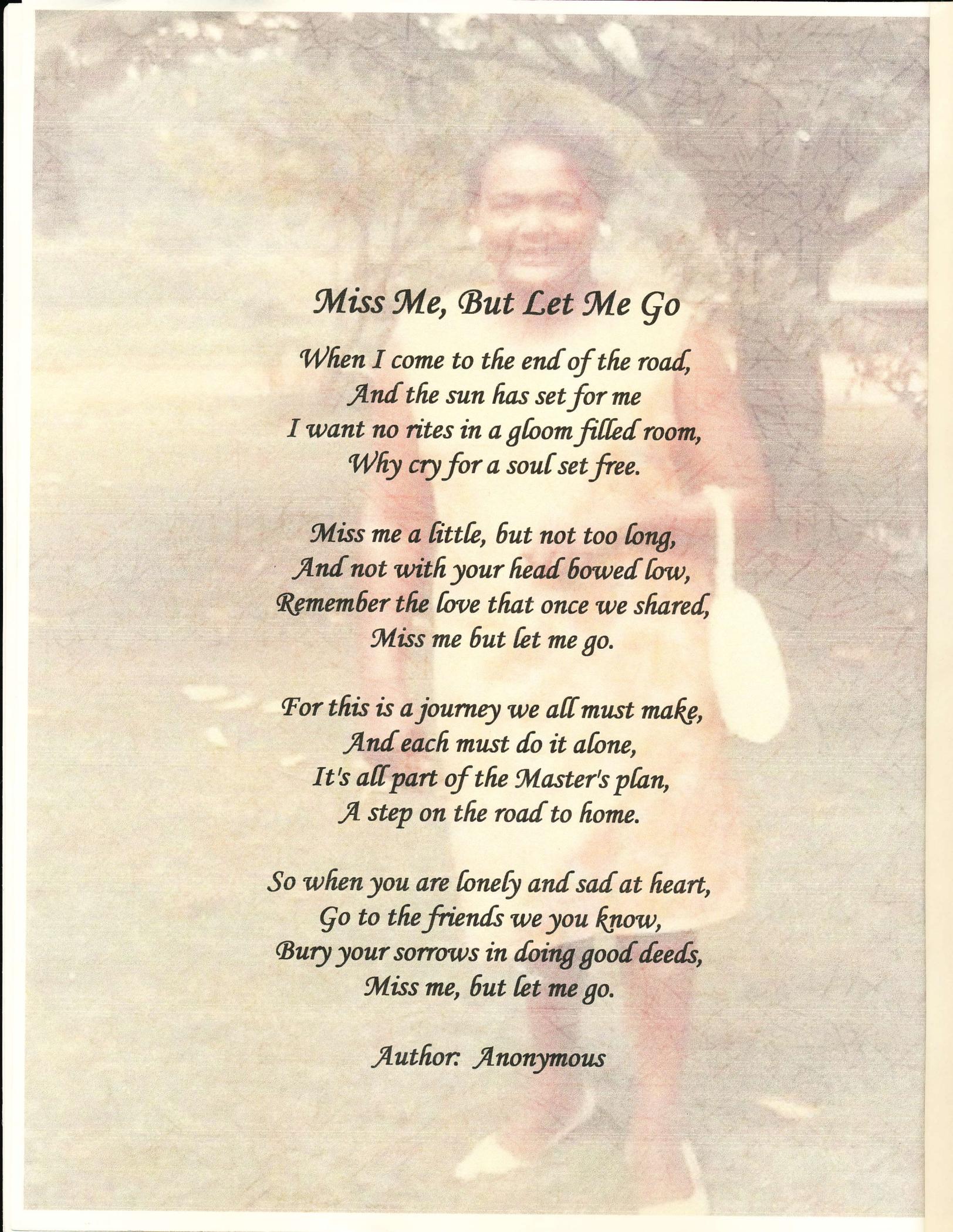
After the death of her husband in life (Rev. Bennie H. Sanderfer) she was led by the Holy Spirit to join Greater Hope M.B. Church under the Leadership of Pastor Anthony Stewart. Mother Mary loved and served faithfully until Father finished preparing her mansion in the sky. She was the epitome of a true Proverbs 31 Woman. She retired from the school system at Clements High School after 16 years of service. After retiring from Clements School, Mother Mary became a caregiver to many, many others and enjoyed helping others and giving advice, a Titus 11 Woman. She did not just focus on her own family but she walked, lived, and breathed the life she knew as a true servant of God. She loved big and witnessed everywhere she went.

She was preceded in death by two brothers, Leo Shoulders & John Henry Shoulders.

She leaves to cherish her memories: Her children; grandchildren; great grandchildren; great great grandchild; three sisters, Nancy Sanderfer, Dorothy Owens and Myrtle Jean (Jerry) Lucky, Mansfield, Ohio.; one brother, Joseph (Ruby) Shoulders, Mansfield, OH; one special aunt, Rosie French, Athens, AL; two sisters-in-laws, Bennie Shoulders (John Henry, Jr., deceased), Mansfield, OH and Louise Shoulders (John, deceased), Chattanooga, TN; two special nephews, MacArthur (Claire) Sanderfer and Roosevelt Sanderfer (Mary, deceased), Athens, AL; a host of nieces, nephews, great nieces, great nephews, loved ones and friends.

# Order of Service

Processional		
Selection		Choir
Prayer		Pastor Antoyne Green <i>New Life Baptist Church</i> <i>Athens, AL</i>
Scripture	Old Testament New Testament	Rev. Henry Collier Elder Herbert L. Robinson, Sr.
Selection		Choir
<u>Messages of Love</u>		(2 minutes, please)
As I Knew her (cousin)		Sis. Linda Farrar
As a Church Member		Dea. Leo Williams
As I knew Her		Min. Ronald Robinson
Words of Comfort		Dr. Wendell Thompson, Pastor <i>Owens Chapel M. B. Church</i> <i>Huntsville, AL</i>
Selection		Choir
Acknowledgements		Sis. Bernice Sanderfer
Obituary		Read Silently
Duet		Dea. Harold Merritt, Sr. Min. Harold Merritt, Jr.
Eulogy		Rev. Anthony Stewart, Pastor <i>Greater Hope M. B. Church</i> <i>Athens, AL</i>
Solo		Sis. Darshell Sanderfer
Closing Prayer		Dr. Eugene English, Pastor <i>Little Elk M. B. Church</i> <i>Athens, AL</i>
Recessional		



*Miss Me, But Let Me Go*

*When I come to the end of the road,  
And the sun has set for me  
I want no rites in a gloom filled room,  
Why cry for a soul set free.*

*Miss me a little, but not too long,  
And not with your head bowed low,  
Remember the love that once we shared,  
Miss me but let me go.*

*For this is a journey we all must make,  
And each must do it alone,  
It's all part of the Master's plan,  
A step on the road to home.*

*So when you are lonely and sad at heart,  
Go to the friends we you know,  
Bury your sorrows in doing good deeds,  
Miss me, but let me go.*

*Author: Anonymous*

# Mary Elizabeth Sanderfer



*Godly Woman*

She is Far More Precious Than Rubies  
Proverbs 31:10



# M-O-T-H-E-R

"M" is for the million things she gave me,  
"O" means only that she's growing old,  
"T" is for the tears she shed to save me,  
"H" is for her heart of purest gold;  
"E" is for her eyes, with love-light shining,  
"R" means right, and right she'll always be,  
Put them all together, they spell  
**"MOTHER,"**

A word that means the world to me.



# MOTHER

# FAMILY

*The Love Of Family Is Life's Greatest Blessing*



F  
A  
M  
I  
L  
Y





**Pall Bearers**  
Grandsons

**Flower Bearers**  
Granddaughters

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

The family of the late Mary E. Sanderfer wish to express their gratitude and appreciation to their many friends and neighbors for their kind expressions of sympathy shown during our time of bereavement. We wish to thank Harbor Chase Senior Assisted Living Staff, Heritage Senior Living, Madison West Hospital, and everyone that sent cards, well wishes-flowers, food, calls or expressions of love or your act of kindness.

**Harbor Chase**



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### **Interment**

Little Elk Cemetery  
Athens, AL

### **Repast**

Little Elk Missionary Baptist Church Fellowship Hall

### **Final Arrangements Entrusted to**

Royal Funeral Home  
718 Brownsferry Street  
Athens, AL 35611

