



## Rev. Sophia Iana Sanders Mott

November 1, 1927 - May 23, 2024

Reverend Sophia I. Mott was born on November 1, 1927, in Apopka, FL, to the late Cato W. Sanders and Ella J. Campbell Sanders. She was the seventh child of eight children. She married Robert Lee Mott, and through their union, there were seven children.

Sophia attended Hungerford Prep in Eatonville, Florida. She then pursued higher education at Edward Waters University in Jacksonville, FL, where she graduated with a bachelor's degree in business. Sophia was a valuable member of the Apopka community. She worked as a bookkeeper for many years at Phillis Wheatley Elementary-Junior-Senior High School before moving on to the Orange County School Board. She later served at both Apopka Junior High School and Apopka High School as an Occupational Specialist. After retirement, she became a minister of the gospel.

Sophia's spiritual journey began at St. Paul A.M.E. Church, where her father served as a Trustee. She accepted Jesus as her personal Lord and Savior at an early age. Later, she moved to Mt. Tabor A.M.E. Church. There, Sophia served in many distinct positions and held many offices throughout the years. One of her most fulfilling positions was working with young people by playing the piano, directing the children's choir, and organizing a children's church. In 1989, Sophia acknowledged her call into the ministry and pursued her license to preach by attending the AME Institute for four years. In 1993, Sophia was

ordained as Reverend Sophia I. Mott. She was appointed a Local Deacon in the African Methodist Episcopal Church at St Mary A.M. E Church, Osteen, Florida, while serving under the leadership of her eldest daughter, Reverend Ellen Rozier. In 1995, Reverend Sophia I. Mott was ordained as a Local Elder at St. Mary A.M.E. Church. She served as a Local Elder for 29 years under three of her children who served as pastors until her health declined. She remained a faithful member of St. Mary for 31 years until her passing. Under her ministry, she formed the G.M. ("Grandma Mott") Singers and the G.M. Singers Next Generation.

Reverend Sophia I. Mott was called home to be with the Lord on Thursday, May 23, 2024. She was preceded in death by her parents: Cato and Ella Sanders; two sisters: Katie Sanders and Ella Sanders; and five brothers: James Sanders, John Sanders, Milton Sanders, Wilfred Sanders, and Charles Sanders. She was also preceded in death by her sons: Robert Mott Jr, "Robin", Reverend Cato Mott Sr., and stepson, Bobby Mott, Sr.; two grandsons: Bobby Mott Jr. and Joshua Mott; and one great-granddaughter, Nashay Gibbs.

She is survived by her four daughters: Reverend Ellen Rozier of Milford, MI, Reverend Fatha DeSue (Reverend Clarence, Jr.) of Starke, FL, Grace Fair (Joseph) of Deltona, FL, and Reverend Gloria M. Payne of Orlando, FL; as well as her daughter-in-law, Marylon Mott of Lake Mary, FL. She is also survived by 15 grandchildren, 24 great-grands, 3 great-great grands, and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and sorrowing friends.

# Cemetery Details

## Edgewood Cemetery ~ Apopka

141 South Edgewood Drive  
Apopka, FL 32703

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAY 31. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church  
1012 South Park Avenue  
Apopka, FL 32703

## Service

JUN 1. 3:30 PM (ET)

St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church  
1012 South Park Avenue  
Apopka, FL 32703

# Tribute Wall

CD

“ *Clara Desue lit a candle in memory of Rev. Sophia Iana Sanders Mott*



Clara Desue - June 02, 2024 at 07:39 PM

PH

“ *Pastors Ron & Gina Holmes purchased the Serene Reflections Bouquet for the family of Rev. Sophia Iana Sanders Mott.*



Pastors Ron & Gina Holmes - May 31, 2024 at 03:36 PM

NF

“ *Nathaniel Patterson (Mr. Bo) & Family purchased the Small Garden Dish for the family of Rev. Sophia Iana Sanders Mott.*



Nathaniel Patterson (Mr. Bo) & Family - May 30, 2024 at 06:34 PM

SF

“ *Signed, your Favorite purchased the Heavenly Grace Spray for the family of Rev. Sophia Iana Sanders Mott.*



Signed, your Favorite - May 30, 2024 at 05:38 PM

LT

“ *Lear Corp Dev & Strategy Team planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Rev. Sophia Iana Sanders Mott.*

**Lear Corp Dev & Strategy Team** - May 30, 2024 at 10:16 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Rev. Sophia Iana Sanders Mott.*



May 30, 2024 at 10:16 AM

CS

“ *City of Starke Staff planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Rev. Sophia Iana Sanders Mott.*

**City of Starke Staff** - May 30, 2024 at 09:54 AM

CS

“ *City of Starke Staff purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Rev. Sophia Iana Sanders Mott.*



**City of Starke Staff** - May 30, 2024 at 09:54 AM

AB

“ This is Archie Buie, retired FL Conference pastor, and coordinator of what's call the Retiree Connection egroup. I have let the pastors and surviving spouses know of your mother's death, and requested their prayers for you & your family. There are over 600 pastors in the egroup, so many are praying for you. My wife, Carolyn, and I also want to express our deepest sympathy on your mother's death. We give thanks for her long life and ministry. In God's love, Archie & Carolyn Buie (Lakeland, FL)

Archie Buie - May 29, 2024 at 03:53 PM

L1

Words to show I care God in His words say that HE WILL Comfort in this time of sorrow. I pray for you Grace and all of you. Weeping endures in the night but Joy comes in morning I was always welcome in your home. Keep holding on to God's unchanging hands God love you all You are never alone..Loretta Hughley

Loretta Hughley CLASS OF 1971 - May 31, 2024 at 02:44 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Rev. Sophia Iana Sanders Mott.



May 29, 2024 at 11:51 AM

FD

“ Reverend S.I. Mott was and is my hero. She taught me to always pray and go to God and love Him. I have known her for 73 years. She's my Mom.

Fatha JoAnne Mott DeSue - May 28, 2024 at 11:43 PM



“ *Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Rev. Sophia Iana Sanders Mott.*



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May 28, 2024 at 11:13 AM



“ *Lit a candle in memory of Rev. Sophia Iana Sanders Mott*



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**Terric Durden** - May 27, 2024 at 06:33 PM



“ *Sending my heartfelt condolence to the entire family of Sophia Mott. "May God strengthen your hearts and minds during your time of sorrow"*



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**Sadie White** - May 27, 2024 at 04:21 PM



“ *To the Mott Family My remembering of Mrs Iana will always be in my heart I remember her at Wheatley Elementary and a wonderful neighbor there on 9th street she always visited my mom. My Condolen to the Family*

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**Vert Pollard** - May 25, 2024 at 06:33 PM

MK

“ *MAMIE LONG KELLY sent a virtual gift in memory of Rev. Sophia Iana Sanders Mott*



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**MAMIE LONG KELLY** - May 25, 2024 at 05:44 PM

GB

“ *G.Lavern Baker lit a candle in memory of Rev. Sophia Iana Sanders Mott*



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**G.Lavern Baker** - May 25, 2024 at 10:44 AM

MS

“ *MONICA DENISE SCOTT lit a candle in memory of Rev. Sophia Iana Sanders Mott*



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**MONICA DENISE SCOTT** - May 25, 2024 at 09:09 AM