

Ms. Mattie Ruth Furlow Sampson, affectionally known as “Babysis”, was born on October 18, 1929, in Sumter County, Georgia to the parentage of the late Mrs. Marie Cobb Furlow and the late Mr. Joseph Furlow, Sr. She is the granddaughter of the late Mr. Julius Cobb and the late Mrs. Lula Mae Sanders Cobb.

She attended public school in Americus, GA, one of which was McCoy Hill School.

She married the late James B. Ross, Sr. Later in life, she remarried.

At an early age, she attended the family’s church, Union Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church in Americus. Later in life, she joined Word of Faith Ministry under the leadership of Elder Gloria Bryant.

Mattie took her first employment as a nanny for a family of business owners. Mattie lived and had been employed in many places. In New York City, she was a cook in the hospital food service department. She was, also, a seamstress and a waitress while living in New York City. Mattie loved to travel. She lived and worked in Detroit, Michigan, as well as, Miami, Florida. She moved back to Americus to help take care of her mother in her mother’s latter years. She settled upon High Point, North Carolina as her permanent home for most of her adult life. In her final days, she lived in Americus close with her son and daughter-in-law.

Mattie was a babysitter to so many of her loving family members— raising several generations. Mattie was known for being an excellent cook of sweet potato pies, bread pudding, and cream cheese pound cake—just to name a few of her delicacies. She loved to dance, laugh, and just have fun. One of her favorite sayings was, “If God don’t wake you up, you’ll sleep right on through (the alarm).”

She departed this life on the morning of October 19, 2021, at Phoebe Sumter Hospital Americus, GA. She was preceded in death by **three sisters**: Josephine Bell, Mary Lizzie Furlow Brockman, and Eloise Smith.

Her memory will be cherished by her devoted **son** and **daughter-in-law**: James and Beulah Ross, Americus, GA; **two sisters**: Lillie Ree Bell, Miami, FL and Irma Furlow, Huntsville, AL; **three brothers**: Joseph (Liz) Furlow, Jr., Opa-locka, FL; Sam (Mary) Furlow, Durham, NC and Rocket (Brenda) Furlow of Huntsville, AL;

three grandchildren: Deanna Ross, Jennifer (Will) Smith, and Valerie (Chris) Blocker; **two great-grandchildren:** Arielle Smith and Shiloh Blocker; and a host of devoted nieces, nephews, and caregivers: Linda (Alfonso) Furlow, High Point, NC; Deborah Callaway, High Point, NC and Gloria (James) Bryant, Americus, GA; cousins, other relatives and friends.