



Sarah Onyekwere

May 20, 1935 - May 27, 2023

Elder Sarah Onyekwere was born on May 20, 1932, the last child of Late Joseph Onyemere Ukasanya and Clara Ukasanya of Umuibeji Old Umuahia. She was her mother's baby-thus, her mother's handbag. She grew up following her mother's open house policy and caring for everyone she encounters. This attribute further developed in directions of a community leader and Nneoha.

Young Sarah completed her primary in St Silas Primary School and secondary education at Ovim Girl's Secondary School. She received her Grade II Teacher's Certification at Women's Training College (WTC) Old Umuahia, in the then Eastern Region. Her first teaching job was at Nkpa Central School where she was also the Net Ball Coach, which remained one of her favorite sports. During this time, she met the love of her life, our dear father, Late Mr. Apugo O. Onyekwere. They got married on June 1, 1957, at Amachara Methodist Church. Shortly after, she was blessed with their twin daughters, Ngozi and Onyinye, a first son in 1959 Chikeziri (of blessed memory) , followed a second son Chima Uzoma and a third son Chukwuemeka (of blessed memory).

After her marriage, she taught briefly at St. Ann's Primary School, Ahiaeke, Ibeku and later Ezeleke Primary School before traveling to London with her husband and son, Chikeziri. It was while in London, she gave birth to Chima Uzoma and earned a Diploma in Home Economics, Arts and Crafts.

On return to Nigeria this time from the US, our dad started the Comprehensive Secondary School Port Harcourt as the first Principal after completing a Masters Degree in Education from University of California Los Angeles while our mum secured a Bachelors in Nursery Education. Her love for nursery education became her passion and love for the rest of her educational career going forward. In Port Harcourt she taught at Creek Road Urban Primary School. And from Creek Road Urban Primary School Port Harcourt she followed her husband on transfer to Enugu and initially taught at Ogui Urban Primary School before the Civil War. It was in Enugu that she gave birth to her third son late Chukwuemeka Onyeiroajama (the enemy cannot be praised) on May 26, 1966.

Due to the civil war, the family moved to Umuahia where the young mother, wife and educationist evolved into a selfless, fearless, determined war support volunteer. They formed a support group that provided food rations, clothing for soldiers and support for families to enable them to relocate to safe grounds. Our mother became a mother not only to her children, but to the soldiers and refugees her support group could reach. On several occasions, our mother would be gone for 3 or more days because she and other women volunteers had been caught behind the enemy lines while feeding and rescuing soldiers and refugees. While some people were afraid to bring refugees to their homes, mom brought several to hers. Our home turned into a refugee camp. Her love and dedication to improving the lives of those marginalize and less privileged continues through out her life.

At the end of the civil war, she moved back to Enugu with her family, where she continued to be active in church and in education. She was involved in restarting several schools that had been damaged and abandoned and once that assignment was complete, she was moved to be a joint head to All Saints primary School (Ekulu Primary School). As the headmistress of Abakpanike Primary School with over 300 students, she reformed and improved the

school to an enviable standard which earned a promotion to the office of supervisors of schools. After the creation of states, she returned to Umuahia and became the head mistress of Amuzukwu Primary School and Library Avenue Primary School respectively. In recognition of her skills and rigor, she was appointed Senior Supervisor of Schools, in then Imo State, State School Board. In 1989, our mother lost the love of her life to death. Once again with determination and trust in God, she pulled her family together and decided to retire from the profession she loved so much and focus on family life.

Mom's happiest days were watching her children get married and she doted on her daughters and sons in-law. These marriages resulted in 14 children and 2 greatgrandchildren, in addition to Mom's innumerable adopted children and young housewives. Mom became the matriarch of this large Apugo Onyekwere family which she held together with love and prayers. Committing her family into the hands of the Lord, and indeed God helped her. In 2021, the cold hands of death snatched her first son, Chikeziri Apugo Onyekwere. Mom was devastated but did not lose faith in God. She became an example and model of how to mourn with hope. She held to her God and her faith.

As a true community activist, Mummy enjoyed mentoring, developing and organizing women volunteer groups like "Otu Olu Obodo" that worked to improve women's life and economy. She loved hosting state parties, picnics, cooking, baking; sports including tennis, net ball, taking walks, treadmill, and giving her kids including her grandchildren unending reading and writing assignments.

While in the US, both in Michigan and Maryland, she continued to serve God in local United Methodist Churches and was also a member of Corner Stone Church in Okemos, Michigan. She took joy in reading the bible and memorizing bible verses. Mum was ordained and Elder, Nneoma and

Diamond Mother in Methodist Church Nigeria. A prayer warrior who fasted every Wednesday for over 40years until her health could no longer allow her routine fasting. But she never stopped praying continuously daily and winning souls for Christ.

Mom lived a fulfilled life, fought the good fight of faith and now she rests in the bosom of her God. Mom was called home on May 27, 2023 at 20:03 US EST at Holy Cross Germantown Hospital surrounded by her children and grandchildren

Previous Events

Viewing

JUN **30**. 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

March Life Tribute Center, P.A. - Laurel
7601 Sandy Spring Road
Laurel, MD 20707
(301) 490-1550
<https://www.marchlifetributecenter.com>

Funeral Service

JUN **30**. 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM (ET)

March Life Tribute Center, P.A. - Laurel
7601 Sandy Spring Road
Laurel, MD 20707
(301) 490-1550
<https://www.marchlifetributecenter.com>

Tribute Wall



“ *March Life Tribute Centers - Laurel created a Webcast in memory of Sarah Onyekwere*



March Life Tribute Centers - Laurel - June 17, 2023 at 09:30 AM

EO

“ *In Loving Memory of a Special Grandma*

The day you left and gained your wings, my heart just broke in two. I wish you could have stayed with us, but heaven needed you. You left us with the memories, and we love you dearly still, no matter how much time goes by you know we always will. You were a very special person with kindness in your heart.

I remember when you call me by name “Elizabeth, I hope you are behaving well” I will always say yes, your life was full of loving deeds and you will always remain in a special place in our hearts.

Sometimes we don't know how to deal with situations in life that can't seem real. Grandma, you will be forever here with the loving thoughts of you my dear.

Elizabeth Nmesoma Onyekwere - June 30, 2023 at 12:47 AM

“ Eulogy For My Beloved Aunty and Heroine

Today, I stand before you, my heart filled with profound emotions as I honor a woman who was more than an aunt to me - my dear Dada Mummy, our Nwanyisunday Sarah Onyekwere. As I grapple with the reality of her transition, I find solace in the belief that Heaven has gained an extraordinary heroine like Dada Mummy. Dada Mummy was a woman of extraordinary strength, a testament to the Igbo philosophy that encapsulates the undoubtable power of a woman - Umunwanyibu ike. Her words, laced with the essence of Christian love, were a reassuring refuge, lifting the spirits of those around her. Recounting the myriad of memories shared with her, from the days of my naive youth to my present age, would indeed be an endless voyage. She was not just my aunt, she was my Ugo, my second mother, my confidante, my spiritual bulwark, my listener, and my wise counselor. Living with her during my formative years was a blessing, and her daughters, Onyinye and Ngozi, my cherished little sisters in the journey of life. Dada Mummy personified the Igbo ethos of “Onye ahana nwanne ya,” which means “One who doesn’t neglect their kin.” Her love transcended boundaries; her heart was a beacon of unparalleled compassion. The legacy she leaves behind is immense, filling the void will indeed be a formidable task. Nwanyi Oma! Dada Mummy! I evoke an old Irish blessing to express my innermost wishes: “May the road rise to meet you. May the wind be always at your back. May the sun shine warm

*upon your face; the
rains fall soft upon your fields and until we meet again, may God
hold you in the palm of His
hand."
Rest in peace, Dada Mummy, for your indomitable spirit has found
tranquility. No more
pain, only divine peace. You are free.
Your spirit, your teachings, and your love will forever flourish in the
garden of my heart.
Until our heavenly reunion, my dear Aunty, where we shall part no
more.
Gaa nke oma, Dada Mummy! Journey well to God's eternal
kingdom. Your absence will
forever be felt.
Lady Ihuoma Nnama (née Onyemere)
(Your loving niece)*

Lady Ihuoma Nnama - June 26, 2023 at 09:30 PM

NO

“ Tribute
Ngozi & Onyinye

Mummy, our mother and spiritual guardian. You are now with God's angels including Daddy, Chike and Emeka. It is well.

Nnem Nnem. We love and cherish you. The Best mother anyone could ask for. You loved, cared and sacrificed for us. These past 15 to 17 months was hard on you, but you persevered to get us ready for this moment. Who does that?

We watched you each day, and ask God, why? Your response – “Its Alright, God's time is the best” You patiently waited. Adieu Mummy. You are now at peace and resting in God's bosom.

Where do we start or end. To write your story, every milestone will be a book on its own. You took care of your parents, mother and father in laws while caring for your family especially when mama NkeUkwu your mother, Daddy and Emeka were sick at the same time in your home and we were away in school overseas and Ile lfe. You never complained. You waited for Chukwuemeka your grandson to celebrate his first birthday before letting us know that Daddy was sick and hospitalized.

You have always been spiritual, teaching us, our children, and relatives on how to pray, memorize bible passages, worship and praise songs, contribution to church projects and tithing.

God prepared us and your grandchildren to learn how to care for you these past months. One of your daughters graduated from medical school, the other had adult foster homes while in Michigan and grand daughter from age 5 years spent time at the CPR station to learn how to perform CPR during American Academy of Pediatric National conferences rather than participating in fun activities for children.

People and children are drawn to you because of your inviting and loving spirit. You are grandma to everyone. Very empathic and forgiving.

Your strength, convictions, never let glaucoma prevent you from achieving your goals or living.

*We thank God for your life well lived, and the opportunity of calling you, our mother. Your legacy lives on through us you children, grandchildren including adopted and inherited children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.
Rest in Peace.*

*Your Twins
Engr. Ngozi & Dr. Onyinye*

Ngozi & Onyinye Onyekwere - June 26, 2023 at 09:27 PM



“ 55 files added to the tribute wall



Onyinye Onyekwere - June 26, 2023 at 06:37 PM

OO

“ 35 files added to the tribute wall



Onyinye Onyekwere - June 26, 2023 at 04:27 PM

CO

“ Good evening everyone, my name is Chimamanda Onyekwere, granddaughter of Grandma Sarah Onyekwere.

Grandma was a kind and loving grandma who brought joy into our lives. Even with the obstacles put in her way, she stayed positive and faithful to God. She never let anything stop her from being a loving and kind grandmother to us. Grandma Sarah's legacy still lives on, and we know that she will rest in heaven peacefully. We will never forget you.

Chimamanda Onyekwere - June 26, 2023 at 04:24 PM

SB

“ May God continue to Bless you Mrs. Onyekwere



Shayla Brooks - June 26, 2023 at 12:56 PM

SB

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Shayla Brooks - June 26, 2023 at 12:53 PM

SB

“ May God continue to Bless you Mrs. Onyekwere

Shayla Brooks - June 26, 2023 at 12:39 PM