

# CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF



*Edward Lee Sanders*

February 4, 1938 – July 2, 2025

# Edward Lee Sanders

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Unconditional love; a daughter's love

When I was weak, you strengthened me

When I was unsure, you assured me

You were my courage when I second guessed myself  
And my comfort when I was afraid.

If ever I felt empty, I had you to complete me

You filled my cup before I could give up

You gave me hope



Only by you have I felt loved

It is only through that I find security

And now you have left me here in this awful world

WHO WILL COMFORT ME NOW?

But you gave me the tools I need to survive

So your grandsons and I will move on.

We will take the lessons you taught us about people, this world,  
and we will rise above it.

This I promise you



I love you so much daddy,

YOU WERE AND WILL ALWAYS BE MY EVERYTHING

Your princess,

Lawanda



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## EDDIE'S STORY

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It was a proud day for Elijah & Katie when they brought their second child and first-born son, Edward Sanders into the world on February 4, 1938, in Yazoo City, Mississippi. As the first of two children, Edward and his older sister, Dorothy, affectionately coined each other with the titles “sister, and little brother”. Upon the passing of years, these terms of endearment stuck, and “little brother” came to be known to everyone as “lil-bro”.

As the eldest son, Edward was his father's right hand. He worked alongside him on the family-owned plantation and learned to be a hard and dependable worker. His training transferred to his eight younger siblings, who viewed him as a role model, and second father. In his spare time, he liked to fish and hunt. He and his brothers, Leon and James, would often have contests to see who could create dust from the tin cans they threw in the air, shooting them into fragments on the way down.

As with many blacks suffering from the oppression of the Jim Crow South, Edward moved to Chicago, IL. He found a job at General Motors, where he met Fred Reid, who was originally from a neighboring town in Mississippi. He and Fred soon became traveling buddies when visiting their families back home. In the summer of 1959, Edward met Fred's cousin Eula Mae, and the couple married a year later, on November 12, 1960. Through this union, they were blessed to raise three healthy children into adulthood: Napoleon, Lawanda, and Lorenzo.

Upon retiring from General Motors in 2001, he renewed his faith in God, was baptized as one of Jehovah's Witnesses, and served as an evangelizer. After the loss of his youngest son Lorenzo, in 2018, Edward's health began to decline. He joined him in death seven years later, on July 2, 2025, along with both his parents, and brothers: Leon, James, and Curtis.

Although gone, his memory lives on through his wife: Eula Sanders, his eldest son Napoleon (Catrina), his daughter: Lawanda, his grandchildren: Napoleon Jr., (Lil Nate-Tamia) Bernard (BJ), Marty (Malik), and Demetrius (Mone), his great grandchildren: Naliyah, Nakotah, Nalani, who is yet to be born, and a special great-grand niece, Emoni. He will also be mourned by his brother: Jeff (Elizabeth), sisters: Dorothy, Ruth-Helen, Alberta, Velma (Jesse), and Gloria, along with his nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

John 5:28 & 29:

"Do not be amazed at this, for the hour is coming in which all those in the memorial tombs will hear his voice and come out...

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## SIX DEGREES OF SEPARATION

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### EDWARD & EULA

You can spend half your life around people, and still never know them. Life is funny that way. I grew up in Louise, Mississippi, in the same house with my cousin's Fred and Claude, Reid. We all went to school together in Midnight Mississippi, where I met Ruth, Jeff, and Alberta Sanders. Yet it took me coming all the way to Chicago in the summer of '59, to meet their older brother, and my future husband.

My cousin Fred came home to visit, and I decided to ride back to Chicago with him. That's when I met Edward Sanders. He wasn't tall, but he was certainly dark and handsome, with smooth skin. We talked about life in Mississippi and made connections over my knowledge of his younger siblings.

On our first date, we went to Ronnie's Steakhouse in downtown Chicago. I felt like he was a bigshot. Here we were, this young black couple, spending almost every weekend at some fancy place. It was certainly different than I had been used to in the south.

I was only supposed to be in Chicago for the summer. By the time it ended, Edward made it clear he didn't want me to go anywhere. And I wanted to stay, too.



We were married the next fall on November 12, 1960,  
And remained together for almost sixty-five years

I won't pretend it has all been perfect, but we kept our promise to each other to be here for richer and poorer, through health and sickness, for better and worse, until death ripped us apart.

We were here for each other until he could be here no longer

And that will stay with me for as long as I live,

Eula Mae Sanders



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## FATHER KNOWS BEST

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Dad,

I want to thank you for raising me to be the man that I am today.

You have been my role model, and I have always looked up to you.

I have no idea where I would be right now without the love that you and mom have shown me.

As you can see, you raised me right.

So regardless of where life takes me, I will remain on the path that you set before me.

I know you will continue to be with me, even if it is from up in the clouds.

Sleep peacefully, pops

I love you,

Nate



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## PEPSI



**P**rotector and provider, Keeping us safe

**E**verlasting love that you never stopped giving

**P**recious memories to hold on to, forever

**S**oaring high in the sky, watching us from heaven

**I**dolizing you, forever as our star

With love from grandson,

Mone

When it comes to Edward Sanders, he was more than a grandfather. He was a second dad. He supported us through everything when I was growing up: Taking us back in forth to school, football and basketball games, whatever. He was right in the bleachers watching us play. Whatever I wanted to do, he did everything in his power to help me achieve it. I remember how special he made me feel on grandparents' day...

Even when I got older, I remember how patient he was with me when I took Driver's Ed. He made me drive him everywhere, and before I knew it, I had my fifty hours. He made me practice parallel parking, and he let me do it in his Escalade and his red Cadillac, AKA his favorite.

I loved just being with him, like when we'd sit on the couch and watch the NBA finals and wrestle-mania together. One of my fondest memories is his reaction every time I'd take him for a test drive in a new car.

"Oh man, this car is fast, ain't it?"

He had a way of making me feel special. And he is the reason that I'm the man I am today.

To him I just want to say, I love you, Grand-dad and as long as we are breathing, please know that me, Malik, Lil Nate, and Mone will always shine as a reflection of you.

Love, BJ

## SIBLING RIVALRY

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**Leon**



**Velma**



**Jeff**



**Gloria**



**Ruth Helen**



**Alberta**

**Dorothy**



**Curtis**



**James**

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Gone but not forgotten:

Leon, James, and Curtis Sanders



CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF

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Musical Selection:

Kingdom Song 57  
Various Artist

Tribute:

Brother Kenneth Carr  
Marty, Malik  
Bernard Jr.

Emcee

Tanya Sanders - Flores



THE FAMILY OF EDWARD SANDERS WOULD LIKE TO THANK EVERYONE  
FOR THEIR PHONE CALLS, PRAYERS, THOUGHTS, AND WELL WISHES,

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