



## Sarah Leolia Gambrell

December 15, 1936 - September 14, 2024

Sarah Leolia Gambrell of Portsmouth, Virginia entered eternal rest on Saturday, September 14, 2024, at the age of 87. She was born December 15, 1936, to her parents, the late Mr. Joseph Murphy and Elsie Palmer.

She began her Christian Walk at Fourth Baptist Church under the leadership of Pastor S. L. Scott in Portsmouth, Virginia. Led by the Holy Spirit, along with Mittie C. Yarbrough, Louise Pearson, Carrie M. Brown, and Margrett Cobbs-Smith worked on the mission field in the Hampton Roads area. From that work, in 1969 The First Church of Deliverance was established. She was a true servant of God, who loved God's word and lived a committed life to Christ. She loved serving others throughout her life; she worked as an exemplary Certified Nurses Assistant and Food Service Worker for Portsmouth Public School System until she retired.

Left to cherish her legacy daughter Gloria Ann Collins (James), son Franklin Bailey; siblings Lorraine Howel, Carrie Mae Brown, Elsie Mae Gallop; grandchildren SheVonne Rodgers, Franklin Cobb (Aretha), James Collins Jr., Jonelle Wilson (Rodney), Jameka Canady (Marvin), Marco McCloud; nine great grandchildren, a host of cousins, nieces, nephews, extended family, and friends.

# Cemetery Details

## Olive Branch Cemetery

2 Cpl J M Williams Ave  
Portsmouth, VA

# Previous Events

## Visitation

SEP **23.** 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

J.T. Fisher Funeral Services  
1248 N. George Washington Hwy.  
Chesapeake, VA 23323  
(757) 487-3700  
info@jtfisherfuneralservices.com  
<https://www.jtfisherfuneralservices.com>

## Graveside Service

SEP **24.** 11:00 AM (ET)

Olive Branch Cemetery  
2 Cpl J M Williams Ave  
Portsmouth, VA

# Tribute Wall

YD

“ I remember Minister Gambrell giving me an ornamental perfume gift from Avon when she had assigned me to memorize the Books of the Bible - a Bird of Paradise. She used to encourage us as "young people" to get up and testify during church services. I marveled at how she was not ashamed to give God praise wherever she was, and that was a witness to me.

I used to occasionally go over to her home as a teenager, across the street from I. C. Norcom High School on Turnpike Road, while waiting for my friend to finish band practice. It speaks volumes to me that as a youth, I wanted to go and visit my mother's friend, when I could have chosen a million other places to be. It was like a home away from home.

---

**Yolander Yasmin Yarbrough Davis** - September 23, 2024 at 01:45 PM

VR

“ Valerie R. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Sarah Leolia Gambrell.

---

**Valerie R.** - September 23, 2024 at 11:51 AM

VR

“ Valerie R. purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Sarah Leolia Gambrell.



---

**Valerie R.** - September 23, 2024 at 11:51 AM



“ 22 files added to the album Life Tributes



---

**J. T. Fisher Funeral Services** - September 20, 2024 at 10:37 AM



“ Oh my GOD, words can never express the way my family felt for Sister Gambrell, she was one of my moms good friends... I remember how my mom would cook eggrolls and we would eat, laugh, and go over bible scriptures, your mom was one of the sweetest persons that i could ever know. I know your heart is hurting and all i can say is that she was truly loved by our family... my mom was Missionary Virginia Taylor...again please except my sincere condolences.



---

**Catherine Toler** - September 18, 2024 at 04:41 AM



*I was saddened to learn of Mrs Sarah's passing, however we all know to absent from the body is to be present with the Lord. This child of God is resting in the arms of the Lord.*

---

**Michelle Key Parker** - September 22, 2024 at 12:11 AM