



Florence Patton

JUL 5, 1916 - JAN 9, 2023



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William and Rebecca Roden welcomed their youngest child, Florence Rebecca, on July 5, 1916. Florence, who was born in the family home in St. Louis, Missouri, joined siblings William, Julian, Elizabeth, Frank and Bernice. Shortly after her birth, the family moved to a home on North Market Street just minutes away from William Roden's stable. One of the last farriers in the city, William's robust horseshoe business and his place in St. Louis history was a source of pride for Florence.

Florence was educated in St. Louis Public Schools and graduated from Sumner High School. After high school, she worked first at United Mail, a direct mail business that supported veterans, before joining her sister, Bernice, at F. W. Woolworth. It was while she was working at Woolworth that she met her husband, Anthony, through a mutual friend. They married and welcomed their son, Anthony Roy Patton in 1936; daughter, Sandra Bernice Patton Pitts was born in 1944. It was at this point that Florence became a full-time homemaker as Anthony's job with a railroad company took him away from home for weeks at a time.

Florence loved people and parties; and as a young adult, her siblings were only too willing to oblige her passion. As she told the story, her father eventually purchased a car and along with her sister, Bernice, she and her brothers, would "borrow" it for drives that often ended in East St. Louis party venues. Later in life, this love to be on the go, never waned. Her favorite pastimes included travel and spending a little time at a local casino or a day at the races.

Family was important to Florence and of all the Roden family members, she was the one you could count on for a phone call or an envelope with a "little extra" for the beneficiary. If you needed any information on the family, Florence was the person to contact.



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She had a lifelong passion for baseball, and the St. Louis Cardinals was her favorite team. Yet, when Hall of Famers Jackie Robinson and Roy Campanella were in their bat swinging heydays, she was one of their biggest fans.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Anthony; son, Anthony Roy Patton; daughter, Sandra Bernice Patton Pitts and granddaughter, Donna Lynn Pitts.

Mourning her passing are: grandchildren, Anthony Roy Patton, Jr., (Karla Olmos), Candace Fisher and Melanie (Jesse) Rigby; great-grandchildren, Marshall Faulk, Jr., Drew Fisher, Tatum Fisher, Jordan Rigby, Jonah Rigby, Joshua Rigby, Joel Rigby and Vilca Quezada; nieces, Thelma “Devolia” Roden Forbis, Mildred Roden Boyd, Francine Roden and Shirley Roden Holmes; nephew, Clarence Roden; daughter-in-law, Yvonne Patton; the Patton nieces and nephews with whom she was especially close, and a host of great nieces, nephews and cousins, who held her dear.

As we lay our beloved Florence to rest, we should be mindful that during her lifetime there were two World Wars, a Suffragette Movement that gave women the right to vote, and a Civil Rights movement that defended the right for African Americans to vote. As a member of the Colored Clerks Circle, she was a working woman on the front lines of both desegregation and equal rights for women. Yet, she saw African American success stories daily from her home in The Ville, a thriving community of African American commerce in the heart of St. Louis.

Along with her mother, and sister, Bernice, Florence traveled with Annie Malone, creator of Poro College and Hair Care Products. It was Malone, a selfmade millionaire and close family friend who hired Florence, Bernice, Elizabeth and Rebecca after William Roden’s death when the depression gripped the country. She saw her brother, Julian, fight a union and win, so African Americans could become motion picture projectionists in the segregated theaters in the city.

She saw Congresswomen Shirley Chisolm, the first African American woman in Congress, become the first African American woman to run for president. And, like many Americans, she watched the swearing in of President Barack Obama,



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the first African American to hold the highest office in the nation. Nineteen individuals, with several serving multiple terms, occupied the Whitehouse during her lifetime – from Woodrow Wilson to Joe Biden.

She saw Thurgood Marshall, the first African American to ascend to the Supreme Court. She watched as he set the stage for four women including the first African American woman, Ketanji Brown Jackson, follow in his footsteps. Before her passing, Vice-President Kamala Harris became the first woman and the first African American woman sworn into the second highest office in our country. The list of American and African American firsts that she bore witness to is endless.

We stand on her shoulders, as well as those of the entire Roden family, and are forever grateful.




~ Her Loving Family ~

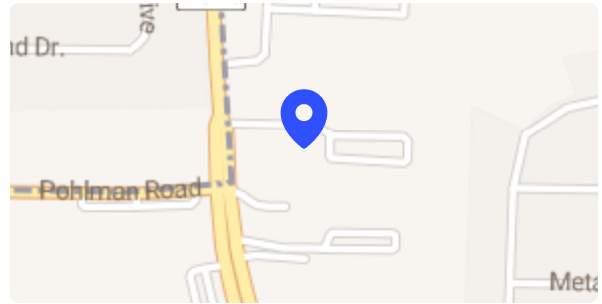


Events




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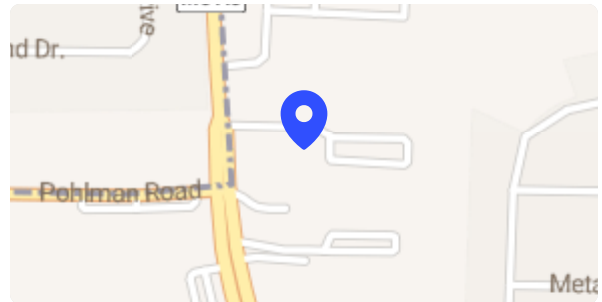
Visitation

-  **Saturday**, January 21, 2023
-  9:30 AM - 10:30 AM CT
-  **McClendon Mortuary and Cremation Services**
12140 New Halls Ferry Road, Florissant MO
63033






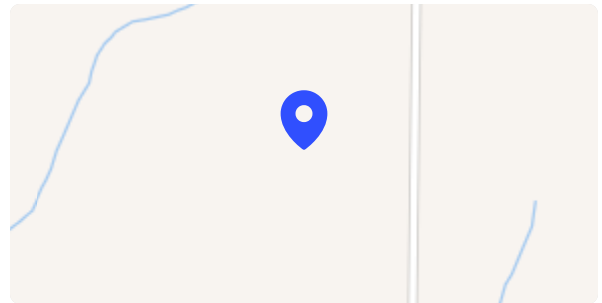
Service

-  **Saturday**, January 21, 2023
-  10:30 AM - 12:15 PM CT
-  **McClendon Mortuary and Cremation Services**
12140 New Halls Ferry Road, Florissant MO
63033






Burial

-  **Saturday**, January 21, 2023
-  12:45 PM - 1:00 PM CT
-  **St. Peters Cemetery**
MO



Repast

-  **Saturday**, January 21, 2023
-  1:30 PM - 3:30 PM CT
-  **Pasta House**
11202 W Florissant Ave, Florissant MO 63033



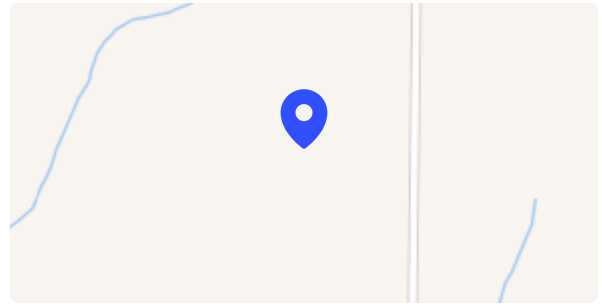


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Cemetery Details

 **St. Peters Cemetery**
MO





Tribute Wall

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McClendon Mortuary And Cremation Services shared the funeral program for Florence Patton.

January 20 at 10:11 AM



Susan Lagrone posted:

What a wonderful lady....who I met through her daughter Sandra. We continued our relationship over the years. So sorry to hear of her passing and also sorry that I did not know in time to say Good Bye. My condolences to her family. Susan LaGrone

January 27 at 8:54 AM



Yvonne M White lit a candle in honor of Florence.

Remembering our beloved Aunt Florence and thanking God for her life and love for over 106 years. ❤️🙏❤️

January 25 at 6:36 AM



Marilyn Patton-Gross lit a candle in honor of Florence.

January 21 at 4:13 AM



Gloria J Patton lit a candle in honor of Florence.

Aunt Florence I always loved staying at your house with Donna Lynn when I came to St Louis. I love you and will miss you dearly. R.I.P you lived live a wonderful life.

January 20 at 8:41 AM



Norma Patton-Golden posted:

Florence, you were always kind to me. I will always cherish the memories of meeting every Friday at your home on Red Bud for Fish fry (Buffalo fish,) you, Bernice & Elizabeth & Simmons. You always made your delicious meatless Spaghetti. You fought a Good Fight. Time to rest now. 🙏

January 14 at 12:26 PM



Tribute Wall

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Connie Brown posted:

Aunt Florence, you lived a beautiful life, full of Grace. Rest in Peace. Love You.

January 14 at 6:22 AM



Connie Brown lit a candle in honor of Florence.



January 14 at 6:18 AM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Florence by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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