



## Opal Viola Sanders

May 17, 1925 - August 11, 2020

Funeral services for Opal Viola Sanders, age 95, of Rusk are scheduled for 11:00 a.m., Saturday, August 15, 2020 at Oakland Missionary Baptist Church with Rev. Don Copeland and Pastor Keith Hassell officiating. Burial will follow at Oakland Cemetery.

Opal Viola Halbert Sanders was born May 17, 1925, in Wills Point, TX, to Samuel Joel Thomas Halbert and Dora Mae McManus Halbert. Opal was one of six girls and two boys. She lived most of her life in Cherokee County.

Opal married John Aubrey Sanders, who passed away in 1992. They had been married 46 years and had one son, Johnny Ra. Opal was a retiree from the Rusk State Hospital. She was a long-time member of Oakland Missionary Baptist Church.

Opal was preceded in death by her husband, her parents, four sisters, two brothers and great-grandson, Eric Michael Sanders.

Survivors are her son, Johnny (Sandra) of Rusk; granddaughter Lisa (Darryl) Hassell of Mesquite; grandson David Sanders of San Antonio; sister Tommie Hill of Brownwood; 5 great-grandchildren and numerous nephews and nieces. Grandsons and nephews will serve as pall-bearers.

Opal will be remembered for years to come for her delicious cooking, notably chicken dressing. She enjoyed nothing more than working in her yard, where a weed didn't have a chance of surviving. She was happiest when her family was in her home. She will be remembered fondly as "Granny" to the children she babysat in her retirement years.

Visitation will be from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., Friday, August 14, 2020 at the funeral home.

# Cemetery Details

**Oakland Cemetery**

## Previous Events

### Visitation

**AUG 14.** 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Wallace-Thompson Funeral Home  
221 5th Street  
Rusk, TX 75785  
(903) 683-2222  
[info@wallacethompson.com](mailto:info@wallacethompson.com)

### Service

**AUG 15.** 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Oakland Missionary Baptist Church  
205 County Road 1718  
Rusk, TX 75785  
(903) 683-4845

# Tribute Wall



“ *Opal Viola Sanders*

October 04, 2023 at 11:30 AM



“ *You are in my thoughts and prayers at this time. May God and your memories be your comfort today and for the days to come.  
Sincerely,  
Jan Butterfield Waggoner*

**Jan Butterfield Waggoner** - August 15, 2020 at 04:19 PM



“ *Opal was a very sweet lady. It has been a pleasure to have known her. Prayers for the family.*

**albert nolley.** - August 15, 2020 at 11:02 AM



“ *Aunt Opal was a very dear lady to me. She will always hold a special place in my heart. I am so Blessed for the time I got to spend with her and for the memories that were made. I'm so Grateful for the part that she had in my life! I always enjoyed the visits to her home as a child and as an Adult. I enjoyed all the soap operas watched and stories that she shared. She always made you feel welcome and like you were one of her own. She loved to talk on the phone day or night! She was a precious Godly woman who will be missed dearly.*

**Kari** - August 15, 2020 at 12:02 AM

KB

“ Aunt Opal will always hold a special place in my heart. I am so grateful she had a part in my life and I cherish every moment especially the ones talking about her soap operas. She enjoyed those so much. Aunt Opal was one special lady that will be missed dearly.

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**Kim Bolton** - August 14, 2020 at 10:06 PM

CP

“ Granny helped make me into the person I am today. She helped to teach me right from wrong, with the assistance of a fly swatter of course, but even though I wasn't technically her kid she loved me as if I was. It was always the highlight of the summer whenever We got to go to Granny's to play with John, Joel, and Jordan. I'm know we worried her to death when we would go outside to climb the trees. She was an amazing woman who will be missed by many.

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**Colton Peters** - August 14, 2020 at 07:39 PM

CP

“ Granny put a big imprint on my life she she would keep me almost everyday until I started kindergarten and after that she would watch me when I was sick and my parents had to go to work she taught me a lot.

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**Cade Peters** - August 14, 2020 at 03:58 PM

SW

“ I will always love and miss Granny. She was the best babysitter a person could have. Bre'Ann got a great start in life by being fortunate enough to be cared for by Granny. It was my pleasure to take good care of her in return at the Arbors. Rest in Heaven Granny.

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**Susan Washburn** - August 14, 2020 at 03:04 PM

Kym  
Harper

“ I did not know Granny for long, but she left an imprint on my heart that will never go away. I have missed sitting in her living room and talking and laughing. She loved her family, and I could listen to her talk about them for hours. She always had something to give to Lisa before we left too. I miss her sweet, gentle hugs and her waving from the door until we were gone. I miss her stories playing in the background while she told her own stories. But, I am so grateful she is whole again and having the time of her life with some of her favorite people. ❤️

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**Kym Harper** - August 14, 2020 at 07:21 AM

PW

“ When Opal was in good health she would call most nights around 11 pm and ask Pat, are you still up? I have missed those calls. They were special.

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**Patsy Wood** - August 12, 2020 at 08:30 PM

JK

“ Opal was very special to me. She will be missed. She is rejoicing in heaven with Jesus and all if her loved ones

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**Jo El King** - August 12, 2020 at 05:58 PM