

**God Saw**  
God saw you getting tired, when a cure was not to  
be. So He wrapped His arms around you,  
and whispered "Come to Me".  
You didn't deserve what you went through,  
so He gave you rest.  
God's garden must be beautiful,  
He only takes the best.  
And when I saw you sleeping,  
So peaceful and free from pain.  
I could not wish you back to suffer that again.

**FLOWER BEARERS  
FAMILY AND FRIENDS**

**Dallbearers  
Family and Friends**

**Acknowledgements:**

The family of Joan Saffron, is most grateful for your many  
acts of kindness bestowed upon us. May God so graciously  
bless and keep you in His loving care.

**Arrangements Entrusted To:**  
**R. A Prince Funeral Services**  
16222 Broadway Avenue  
Maple Heights, OH 44137  
**Phone: 216-518-1777 Fax: 216-518-1975**  
raprince.com

*Celebrating the Life  
Of  
Joan Saffron*



**Sunrise**  
November 16, 1932

**Sunset**  
July 17, 2021

**Wake: 10:30 AM**

**Funeral: 11:00 AM**

**R. A. Prince Funeral Services**  
16222 Broadway Avenue  
Maple Heights, OH 44137

**Rev. Jason Bricker,**  
**Officiating Minister**

## Order of Service

Organ Prelude.....	
Processional.....	Minister & Family
Scripture..... Old/New Testament.....	Minister
Prayer.....	
Selection.....	
Acknowledgement/Resolutions.....	
Reflections.....	(Limit to two minutes please)
Obituary.....	(Read silently)
Selection.....	
Eulogy.....	Rev. Jason Bricker
Recessional.....	

Interment:  
Evergreen Memorial Park Cemetery  
5505 Northfield Road  
Bedford Heights, OH 44146



## Obituary

Joan Wanda Saffron, was born on November 16, 1932, in Miami, Florida. She completed both elementary and middle school in Miami, before enrolling in the prestigious African-American High School, Fessenden Academy in Ocala, Florida. Joan met Henry Roland Raiford while, attending Fessenden. The couple married shortly after her graduation from Fessenden. The union produced one son, Ramon Lamont Raiford.

Joan received her higher education at Bethune-Cookman University in Daytona Beach, Florida, majoring in Elementary Education.. Joan contracted Polio after her first semester and became paralyzed from the waist down forcing her to postpone her education for 2 years for treatment and rehabilitation. Through her strong will and the will of God she eventually was able to walk again. Joan was determined to overcome her illness, returned to Cookman and completed her degree. She graduated in 1956 with a Bachelors of Science Degree. During this period her marriage ended.

Joan began her teaching career in Sarasota, Florida. She taught in Sarasota for three years before, marrying William Saffron and moving to Cleveland, Ohio in 1959. This union produced two sons, Arturo and Kermit. She was employed by the Cleveland Metropolitan Public Schools from 1959 to 1987 where she was loved by all her students.

Joan loved to travel, meet people and experience different cultures. She vacationed in the Caribbean, Europe and Canada. In 1987 she went to Mogadishu, Somalia in East Africa to visit her son who was there doing development work for the relief organization Africare. While in Mogadishu she volunteered at the American School as a tutor. That showed Joan's total dedication to the education of children. Before returning to the United States she spent some time traveling in Kenya.

Joan returned to Cleveland and continued her passion, teaching with the Cleveland Public Schools until retiring in 1999. Joan had a gift for reaching children. There was not a place she would go without being recognized by a former student as their favorite teacher and the influence she made in their lives. She touched many lives in Cleveland. She will be missed by many and forgotten by none.

Joan leaves to mourn her passing her sons: Ramon Raiford, Arturo and Kermit Saffron, her grandchildren: Ramon Raiford Jr, Arturo Fisher, Ayo Dele Raiford, Vondell Saffron, Nikesha Goshe, Tatiana Goshe, Leslie Rogers, and William A. Saffron, sisters: Andrea Moore, Chandrea Sykes, Vanessa Ewell and Cynthia Thompson, and a host of loving nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, great-grandchildren and other family and friends.

Humbly submitted  
The Family