

# Rebecca M. Lockridge

## *In Memoriam*

*July 24, 1922 - December 12, 2023*

**WHEREAS,** Rebecca Maggie Lou Norwood Lockridge was born to her parents Will and Sylvi Etta Alderson Norwood on July 24, 1922, in Columbia, Tennessee as the fourth of eight siblings. It was at an early age that she accepted Christ. Rebecca was known to be called “Beck” by her close friends and by relatives she was known as “Sugar” or “Sug” [shug]. Rebecca met the love of her life Albert B. Lockridge, also from Columbia, TN; **AND**

**WHEREAS,** Rebecca and her sister Martha migrated from Tennessee to Detroit, MI in February 1944 and with strong work ethics, they both secured stable jobs to save money to buy their parents a home, to get them off of the sharecropper’s farm. Upon arrival to Detroit, Rebecca worked as a professional seamstress, making car seat covers. Her work was amazing, with enormous attention to detail and outstanding craftsmanship. After Albert completed his military service, Rebecca and Albert wed December 16, 1946. From this union, five children were born - Althea, Valerie, Grailyn, Regina and Mark. While her children were young, Rebecca sourced ways to add to the household and teach a strong work ethic by taking clients at home for sewing and steaming. She was also known for making elaborate church choir robes. The Lockridge’s were longtime members of Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church in Detroit. Albert, a deacon at Tabernacle, a UAW precinct delegate, union steward and 33<sup>rd</sup> degree Grand Master Mason passed away in 2005 at the age of 83. **AND**

**WHEREAS,** When the children were in school, in 1965, Rebecca rejoined the workforce working for the Detroit Board of Education. Prior to coming to Chadsey High School, she worked at Priest Elementary School as a Noon-Hour Aide with head start children. She found working with young people to be extremely rewarding saying, “I have been called ‘mother, mama, grandma, grannie, auntie and friend’. To me this is an honor because I feel that I’ve represented all these roles, to many of these young people.” Her professional career allowed her to wear many hats having worked in Chadsey High School Attendance department and being assigned the Guidance department. Her main function was assisting students in the Career Center in which Rebecca believed to be the most important function in the high schools to bridge the gap between high schools and future aspirations. She helped countless students while fulfilling her personal aspirations to pursue and obtain her GED. **AND**

**WHEREAS,** Mrs. Lockridge spent an innumerable amount of time developing others and she also devoted that same time to herself and her ministries involvement at the

Tabernacle. She was extremely active in Prayers Partners Ministry, the Big Sisters, Children's Ministry and Vacation Bible School. It was on her heart to always visit the sick and shut-in and found a slice of joy bringing them peace. Working in the community post-retirement was her final mission, giving the thirsty the living water of God. This ministry filled spirit made it natural for Mrs. Rebecca to also be a long-time member of her neighborhood group, the Midwest Civic Council. It wasn't uncommon for her to take in a stranger, clothe the naked and visit loved ones in prison. One of her quotes leaves a lasting imprint with the words, "If I can help somebody as I pass along, my life will not be in vain." and while she may not have been licensed in psychology, she held a Doctorate in the word of love and God. **AND**

**WHEREAS,**

While Rebecca Lockridge participated in several exercise groups a couple times a week and thoroughly enjoyed bowling, she has been called the "Medical Comeback Kid" on various occasions having previously outlived a strange medical anomaly in 2007 and beating cancer while undergoing radiation therapy in 2017. On December 17, 2023, she "checked out". Her loss is beyond measure and her family rejoices knowing that she "checked out" with that heavenly ticket to reunite with her husband, siblings, parents and others. Mrs. Rebecca "Sug" Lockridge will forever be remembered as a classy woman that always had a kind word and believed in the power of prayer. **NOW THEREFORE BE IT**

**RESOLVED,**

That on this day, January 30, 2024, **Council President Pro Tempore James E. Tate, Jr.**, and the entire **Detroit City Council**, hereby present this testimonial resolution as an expression of gratitude and esteem, on behalf of the residents of the City of Detroit, to honor the life and dedication to the City of Detroit to the family of Mrs. Rebecca M. Lockridge.