



Mrs. Nellie Grace Morgan

SEP 3, 1928 - FEB 8, 2024



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On September 3, 1928, in Clark County, MS, the late Reverend Richard and Nellie Mae (Jordan) Pruitt welcomed their sixth child and first-born daughter, Nellie Grace Pruitt. God called Nellie Grace to eternal rest on Thursday morning, February 8, 2024.

Academia

Nellie received her primary education through the Mount Jordan Methodist School in Clark County. She received her high school diploma and an associate degree from T.J. Harris High School and Junior College, respectively, in 1948, and a Bachelor of Religious Education degree from the Mississippi Baptist Seminary. In addition to her formal education, she completed the Certificate of Progress Program (COPP) through the Sunday School Publishing Board of the National Baptist Convention, USA Inc. (NBCUSA) and received her deanship certificate.

Professional and Business

Nellie pioneered early childhood education in Meridian having become one of the first teachers for Mississippi Action for Progress (MAP)'s HeadStart program. She would have nearly thirty-four years as a pre-kindergarten teacher through Mount Olive Kindergarten, Meridian HeadStart Center, and East End HeadStart. For nearly fifty years, she served as church musician for countless churches, namely: Ebenezer- Meridian (forty-seven years), Jerusalem- Dekalb (thirty-six years), Union Kemper Springs, Unity Springs- Dekalb, Mt. Calvary-Meridian, and Mount Olive - Meridian. Nellie was known for her grace and beauty, and she empowered countless customers as a Cosmetic consultant with Avon (twenty-three years) and MaryKay (over twenty-five years). She earned national recognition for her sales volume.

Christian Stewardship

Nellie was christened at infancy at the Mount Jordan United Methodist Church. After moving to Meridian and meeting her first husband Wade, she united with the Mount Olive Baptist Church of Meridian in the late 1940s under the late Rev. E. L. Thames. Once remarried to Henry James, she joined Sunlight Baptist Church of Meridian during her husband's pastorate and remained a



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member until reuniting with Mount Olive in 2002 under the pastorate of Bishop Zachary Operton. Nellie dedicated more than half of her life to mission, education, and evangelism. Her commitment to her faith includes the following: Pianist for Second New Hope District Association, Congress, and Women's Convention; and East Mississippi Baptist State Convention (EMBSC), Woman's Auxiliary, and Congress. Chair of Ministers' Wives and Widows for Second New Hope District, EMBSC, and NBCUSA Inc. In 1971, she was crowned National Queen of Ministers' Wives in Cleveland, Ohio, and she helped crown countless other women from the local area. Her work with the ministers' wives across the country helped build hospitals in Malawi, fund scholarships at the American Baptist College, and eliminate the mortgage for the Baptist World Center in Nashville, TN. She was also Dean of Christian Education for Sunlight Baptist Church.

Family Life

In the late 40s, Nellie met and married the late Wade Haralson of Meridian, MS. Unfortunately, Wade succumbed to

- a fatal car accident leaving Nellie a widow at age twenty-one. God ordained that a year following Wade's untimely death Nellie would meet her lifelong partner and husband Henry James, and they shared married life for nearly forty-two years until Henry's death in 1993. During her lifetime, Nellie shared her maternal love with the late Beverly Pruitt Bumpers and Beverly's children: Tammie Pruitt Jennings (Alvin), William Bumpers II (Eva), and Shari Bumpers. She also leaves memories with those who affectionately call her "Gran Gran": Morgan Jennings, DeVon Pruitt, Jailen Bumpers, Brittany Johnson, Leighyanna Johnson, William Bumpers III, Sonyanika McWilliams, and Alvin McWilliams; surviving brother and sister in-loves George Pierce II and Naomi Pruitt, respectively; and a host of nieces and cousins in the Jordan, Pruitt, Robinson, and Morgan families. Those who remember her closely will recall memories of Nellie fishing, taking trips to New Orleans, cracking jokes, playing bingo, socializing with friends at senior socials, and fundraising for her church and favorite charities.






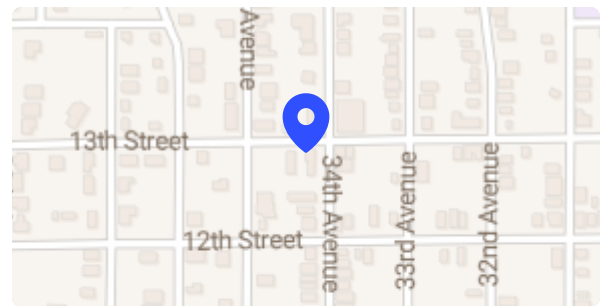
Events

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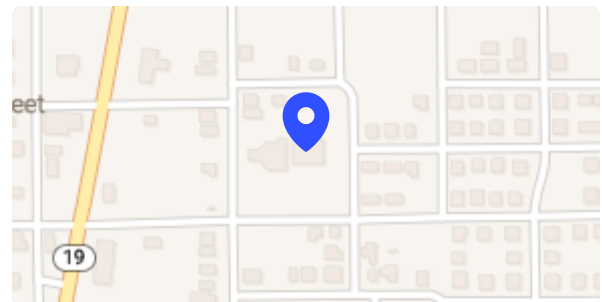
Visitation

-  **Thursday**, February 15, 2024
-  6:30 PM - 7:30 PM CT
-  **Berry and Gardner Funeral Home - OP Chapel**
1221 34th Avenue, Meridian MS 39301






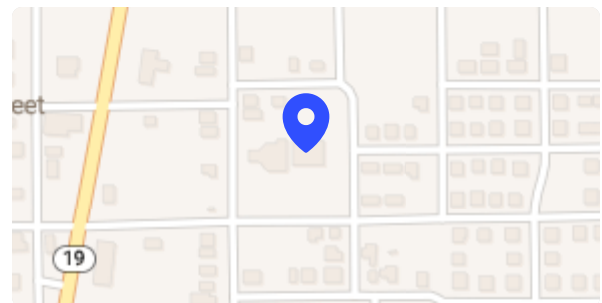
Viewing

-  **Friday**, February 16, 2024
-  12:00 PM CT
-  **Mt. Olive Baptist Church**
544 49th Avenue, Meridian MS 39307






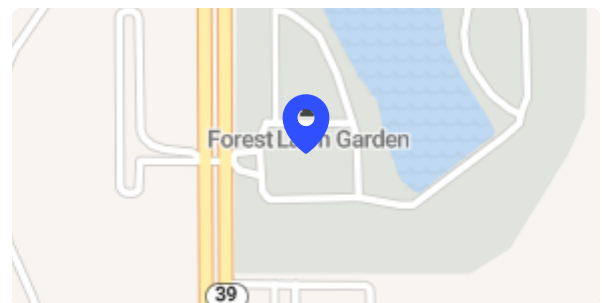
Funeral Service

-  **Friday**, February 16, 2024
-  1:00 PM CT
-  **Mt. Olive Baptist Church**
544 49th Avenue, Meridian MS 39307



Burial

-  **Friday**, February 16, 2024
-  2:30 PM CT
-  **Forest Lawn Memorial Gardens**
7774 MS-39, Meridian MS 39305






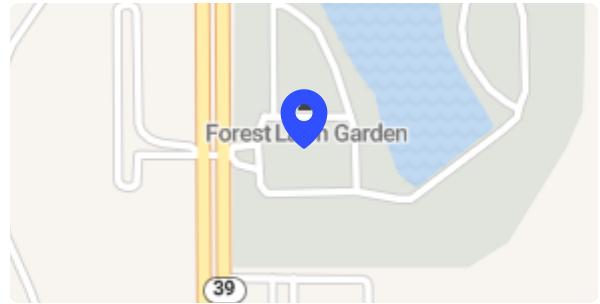
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Cemetery Details

 **Forest Lawn Memorial Gardens**
7774 MS-39, Meridian MS 39305





Tribute Wall

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The Irby Family planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Nellie.



February 15 at 11:44 PM



Anonymous sent a Beautiful in Blue to the Morgan family.



February 15 at 11:44 PM



Sabrina Wilson posted:

As a young girl growing up in Savannah Grove community, I remember Mrs. Morgan as our neighbor (Charles & Jean Rew, Sr.), my first head Start teacher at First Union Baptist Church, and picking fruit from the Morgan's fruit trees. Teaching, sharing, and blessings came from her home and flowed into the community. Many memories I have, and the children of Charles & Jean, will forever remember Mrs. First Lady Nellie Morgan. Rest In Peace.Sabrina Rew-Wilson

February 15 at 4:36 AM



Fannie Mae Jennings, I Love You planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Nellie.



February 14 at 8:20 AM



Fannie Mae Jennings, I Love You sent a Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum to the Morgan family.

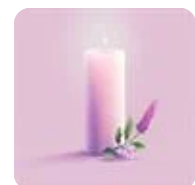


February 14 at 8:20 AM



Donald And Mary Naylor lit a candle in honor of Nellie.

Donald Mary Naylor lit a candle in memory of Nellie Morgan



February 13 at 6:33 PM



Tribute Wall

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Sincerely, Letitia Johnson sent a Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum to the Morgan family.

February 13 at 1:08 PM





Memories only last if you share them

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



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