

FRANCES HELEN HANKINS GATELEY
MAY 12, 1935 --- APRIL 20, 2025

Helen Hankins Gateley was the fifth child born to Clinton and Effie Hankins in Center Ridge, MS. Like many during that time she was delivered at home by her midwife Grandmother Mattie Jones Hankins. She was a member of Liberty Baptist Church and a faithful member of Cohay Chapter No. 187 Order of The Eastern Star, until it merged with Willis Chapter No. 187 in White Oak, MS. on March 18, 2021, due to declining vision she was no longer able to drive to meetings. She worked at Raleigh Company for many years then was a cashier at Short Stop and the Pace Setter until she began to have health issues. She was strong willed and never failed to tell you what was on her mind, but had a soft side when it came to her grandchildren. She was a cancer survivor, and continued to fight during her declined health until emphysema and COPD finally took her on Easter morning. She was loved by many especially her family.

She is preceded in death by her beloved husband of 41 years Lonnie Joe Gateley, son Baby Ellzey, Granddaughter Trudy Helena Yates, Father Clinton Hankins and Mother Effie Hankins, Brothers James H Hankins, Jimmy D Hankins, Carrol Hankins and David Hankins, Sisters Betty J Hankins, Mary Fairley, Pearl Grace Robinson.

She is survived by her six children Cherry Ellzey Freeman (Ronald), Dianne Ellzey Williamson, Trudy Ellzey Yates (Bull), La Donnia Ellzey Dyess (Joe), Betty Jo Gateley Waddell (Mark) and Guy Dewayne Gateley (Rebecca). Her sisters Alice Overland and Johnnie Nell Lee. Eleven Grandchildren, Twenty-Seven Great Grandchildren and one Great-Great-Grandchild.

Officiating: Brother Kelly Tingle & Brother Rich Ables with special words from her son Guy Gateley.

Music: Bruce Gable with graveside by Rebecca Prestage.

Pallbearers will be her Grandsons: J.R. Gatlin, Kolt Austin, Joseph Gateley, Logan Gateley, Tony Prestage and JJ Loud.

Honorary Pallbearers: Rusty Blakeney, Michael Paul Ingram & Elton Westbrook

Special love and appreciation to our Mother's care giver our beloved sister Dianne Williamson who put her life on hold to dedicate it to our mother over the last several years. Without her love and care this time would have come much sooner.

Thank you to GETIVA of Newton for the care and compassion they have given to Mother during her time under their care, it was given with compassion and care.

Funeral arrangements by Keyes Funeral Home, Raleigh, MS. Website: keyesfh.com