

Obituaries



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In Memory of Mae Della Johns Rainey

JANUARY 19TH 2024 BY DEE LOFLIN

In Memory of Mae Della Johns Rainey

Mae Della Johns Rainey, the daughter of the late Oscar Johns and Levada Reed Johns was born in Elks Township of rural Stoddard County in Missouri on April 18, 1953.

Mae, as she was called by family and friends, although not the baby girl, was a favorite of her Aunt Sarah and Uncle Eulis. They spoiled her and she spent many days with them being doted on.

When she was old enough, she started Smith School where she excelled as a cheerleader. When the schools became integrated, she was enrolled in Bernie Public Schools where she completed eighth grade.

Like many in the sixties, there was one house where the kids would hang out, this was the Johns' house. At this house there was always a basketball game in progress. Now, McKinley, not being a basketball player, would follow the other boys to the Johns' house. There he and Mae found that they kind of liked one another. The attraction grew to where they began taking walks together and spending more time in each other's company.

Mae and Mckinley fancied themselves to be in love. Mae at the age of 14 and McKinley at the age of 17 decided to get married on March 14, 1968, before her family moved to St. Louis. This union lasted 55 years.

McKinley decided to join the Marines in order to take care of his young bride. While in the service Mckinley and Mae lived on El Torro Base in Santa Ana, California.

Mae and Mckinley were blessed with two daughters by birth, Karen Denise (Candi) who preceded them in death and Della Deloris (DeeDee) (Steven) who live in Malden.

Mae and McKinley also raised two sons, McKinley Rainey (Un Yong) of Seattle, Washington, and Dr. Gordon Rainey (Christy) of San Antonio, Texas.

After McKinley's stint in the Marines, the young family decided to move back to Missouri to be closer to family. They made a home in St Louis, but after about a year decided to return to the Bootheel.

Upon returning to Parma, Mae and McKinley both found jobs working at Inland Shoe Factory. Mae worked at Inland for about eight years where she excelled at running a stamp machine.

After much thought Mae and McKinley decided that she would become a stay-at-home mom.

While raising their children, Mae was known as auntie, momma, and grandma to many of the neighborhood children. Many made their way to see Auntie Mae Della.

Mae enjoyed life and she loved people. She was an avid card player, loved fill in the blank puzzles, bingo, scratch offs and listening to music. She also enjoyed fishing until she was unable to go.

Although Mae was not able to attend church regularly, she was a member of Bread of Life Ministries in Parma. She was a generous person, always willing to help those in need.

On January 16, 2024, Mae left us at the age of 70 years, 9 months and 28 days. To some that may seem old, but to those of us she left behind it was not a sufficient amount of time.

Take time to pray for her husband McKinley, who made and kept the promise to her parents that he would take care of their daughter and was with her until she drew her last breath.

The siblings she leaves behind are Charley and Ronnie Johns, Cathy (Willie) Rainey and Brenda Hardin all of St Louis, Dorothy (Tom) Vandiver of Barbiton, Ohio, Wanda Williamson of Akron, Ohio, and Pastor Teresa (Kenny) Campbell of Cape Girardeau.

Her grandchildren Krystal, Nason (Brittney), Breon, Keisha, McKinley Oscar, Mia, McKinley, Beyonce, Jacob, Maenique, Ella, Benjamin, her goddaughter Syreeta, and her special friend Natoya (Nikki) Johnson will share the loss of affection that comes with her passing.

Mae's parents Oscar and Levada Johns, along with her siblings, Sammy, Otis, Willie, Minnie and Edna, all preceded her in death.

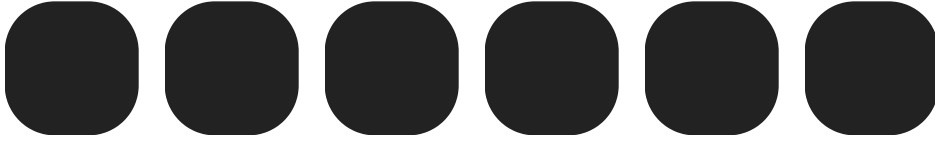
This obituary is just a synopsis of Mae Della's life. Words cannot express who she is and was to so many people. She was a daughter, sister, wife, mother, aunt, grandmother and great grandmother and friend. All these words are who Mae Della was, but the one word that describes her legacy is love.

Visitation will be held at Mathis Funeral Home in Dexter on Monday, January 22, 2024, from 11:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. Funeral services will then be conducted in the Mathis Funeral Home Chapel on Monday, January 22, 2024, at 12:00 p.m. with Pastor Carl Williams officiating. Interment will follow in Stanfield Cemetery in Clarkton.

Mathis Funeral Home in Dexter is assisting with arrangements.

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In Memory of Larry Joe Arnold

JANUARY 17TH 2024 BY DEE LOFLIN

In Memory of Larry Joe Arnold

Larry Joe Arnold, son of the late Paul Arnold and Gladys Shatley Arnold, was born on January 14, 1939, in Dudley, Missouri, and departed this life on January 15, 2024, at John J Pershing VA Medical Center in Poplar Bluff, Missouri at the age of 85 years.

Mr. Arnold was a Veteran of the United States Navy. He was a former school photographer and a resident of Dexter, Missouri. He enjoyed arrowhead hunting and reading about WWI, WWII, and Civil War history.

On July 11, 1962, in Yakima, Washington, he was united in marriage to Betty Nickolas. Mrs. Arnold survives of their home in Dexter.

Along with his wife, he is survived by his son, Mark Lemmons of McKinney, Texas; by two brothers, Bobby Ray Arnold of Old Monroe, Missouri, and Paul Eugene Arnold of Flint, Michigan.

Other than by his parents, he was preceded in death by his brother, JC Arnold.

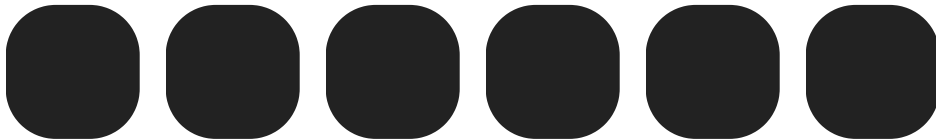
No service is planned.

Mathis Funeral Home in Dexter assisted with arrangements.

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In Memory of De'Borah Colleen Moore

JANUARY 16TH 2024 BY DEE LOFLIN

In Memory of De'Borah Colleen Moore

De'Borah Colleen Moore was born on September 8, 1974, to Robert Lewis Smith and the late Earline Donaldson Smith.

De'Borah was united in holy matrimony to Frederick Wayne Moore, Sr. in 1995 and through this union five children were born; DaLonte Dajuan Avery (John), Frederick W. Moore (Deyzha), ShaLonte S. Smith, Frejer M. Moore (Meha), and Fre'zier Montrell Moore.

De'Borah gave her life to Christ at an early age and continued to praise God and lift him up until he called her home. She was a very hard worker, when she did work, and she used to drive semi-trucks in the later years of her life. (she was indeed a jack of all trades) She would give a total stranger the clothes off her back and sing them a song if the spirit moved her to do so.

De'Borah loved everyone even if it wasn't reciprocated. Our family was truly blessed to have had her in our lives; if only for 49 years and 4 months.

De'Borah was preceded in death by one son Fre'zier Montrell Moore, her beloved mother, Earline Donaldson-Smith, her grandparents, Lex and Earsie Donaldson, and Bob and Willie Lee Nelson.

She leaves to cherish her memory, her father, Robert Lewis Smith; two daughters, Da'Lonte Avery (John) of Jonesboro, Arkansas, and Shalonte S. Smith of Malden, Missouri; two sons, Frederick W. Moore (Deyzha) of Alpharetta, Georgia, and Frejer M. Moore (Meha) of Springfield, Missouri; two sisters, Shanreckia L. Walker (Lonnie) of Malden, Missouri, and Shaneka Floyd of Little Rock, Arkansas; four brothers, Robert Lucian Smith of Mt. Clemons, Michigan, Maurice Montrell Smith of Sellersburg, Indiana, Chris Moore of Sikeston, Missouri, and Eric Sherrod of Malden, Missouri; nineteen grandchildren; her fiance, Corey Pittman who was with her at the time of death (for this Corey, our family extends a huge thank you); two bonus children, Tristan L. Anderson (Trissy) and Cydney Pough; a god-daughter, Tina Howard; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

Visitation will be held at Mathis Funeral Home in Bernie on Saturday, January 20, 2024, from 12:00 p.m. until 1:30 p.m. Funeral services will then be conducted in the Mathis Funeral Home Chapel on Saturday, January 20, 2024, at 2:00 p.m.

Mathis Funeral Home in Bernie assisted with arrangements.

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In Memory of Doris Lea Nelson

JANUARY 15TH 2024 BY DEE LOFLIN

In Memory of Doris Lea Nelson

Doris Lea Nelson, daughter of the late Berninard Killian and Marjorie Fellows Cox, was born on November 22, 1942, in Dexter, Missouri, and departed this life on January 8, 2024, at Jackson Manor in Jackson, Missouri, at the age of 81 years.

Mrs. Nelson was a former licensed practical nurse, and she was a resident of Dexter, Missouri.

She was united in marriage to William Nelson. Mr. Nelson preceded her in death on June 18, 2013.

She is survived by her daughter, Darla Young (Eric) of Hamilton Ontario Canda; by her sister, Cathy Starnes (Gary) of Dexter, Missouri; by her step-brother, Floyd Cox Jr.; by her step-children, JoAnn Lloyd, Susan Jarrell, and Danny Nelson (Donna); by her grandchildren, Jennifer McGarrah (Cecil), Justin Christman (Lynne), Whitney Payne (Tyler), Jerimy Obergoenner (Lucia), Jill Watkins (David), Shawn Lloyd, Michael Lloyd, LaDawn Crowe, Christal Thomas (Matthew), Robert Christian, and Don Christian (Freda Mae); by her great grandchildren, Dayla McGarrah, Raelyn McGarrah, Georgia Christman, Logan Christman, Tucker Payne, Gavin Thomas, Abbie Lloyd, Ethan Christian, Emily Christian, Taylor Christian, Zoey Christian, Emmie Christian, Payton Christian, and Nate Prince; and by her nieces, Ashley Starnes, Amber Starnes, and April Wamble (Brent).

Other than by her husband and parents, she was preceded in death by her son, Dwane Allan Owens; by two daughters, Velva Foyle and Marietta Obergoenner; by six brothers, Thomas Killian, Dean Killian, Randall Killian, Morris Cox, Leslie Cox, and B.J. Cox; and by her sister, Elfreda Cox.

Visitation will be held at Mathis Funeral Home in Dexter on Tuesday, January 16, 2024, from 10:00 a.m. until 11:00 am. Funeral services will then be conducted in the Mathis Funeral Home Chapel on Tuesday, January 16, 2024, at 11:00 a.m. Interment will follow in the Dexter Cemetery.

Mathis Funeral Home in Dexter is assisting with arrangements.

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In Memory of James “Fletch” Leggett IV,

JANUARY 13TH 2024 BY DEE LOFLIN

In Memory of James “Fletch” Leggett IV,

James “Fletch” Leggett IV, son of the late James Leggett III and Doris Stroup Leggett, was born on February 23, 1955, in Cape Girardeau, Missouri, and departed this life on January 11, 2024, at his residence in Bloomfield, Missouri, at the age of 68.

Mr. Leggett had worked in IT and was a musician, playing the guitar, bass, keyboard, and saxophone. He had a dry sense of humor, and he loved all animals.

He is survived by two daughters, Jennifer Leggett of Bloomfield, Missouri and Andrea Leggett of Aurora, Colorado; and by his sister, Susan Shea of Bloomfield, Missouri.

Other than by his parents, he was preceded in death by his long-time companion, Audrey Rhodes-Ragsdale.

In honor of “Fletch”, memorials may be made to any animal shelter.

No services are planned.

Mathis Funeral Home in Dexter assisted with arrangements.

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