

A Celebration of Life

To our mother:

*A Life well-lived, well-loved
In service to God, her
Family, her husband, and her
Children*

From your children

Mary Helen Hawthorne Bryant entered this life on July 19, 1946, in Gulfport, MS. She answered our Heavenly Father's call to return home on May 4, 2022. She was the eldest of eight children born to the late Mr. Buford Hawthorne and Ms. Mable Griffith Brown. Our mother has always taken care of others and we believe being the eldest helped prepare her for that role. During her years she attended 33rd High School.

Mary Helen Hawthorne Bryant was united in marriage to John Bryant Jr. on May 18, 1963. He was the love of her life. They were married for 57 years until Mr. Bryant departed this earthly life on November 2, 2020. To this union three children were born and later adding two more to complete the family tree.

To our mother, family always came first. Because of that, she became the matriarch once her mother passed on, being the glue, we needed to hold us together. She was never one to judge. She was never one to try and change you to fit her perception, she would love people where they were, making it easy to confide in her about anything. Our mother was known as a one-of-a-kind person, devoted to those around her being ready to help and give whenever she could. She showered her children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, family, and friends with so much love that we couldn't have asked for more.

As a young girl, she was a member of Mercy Seat Baptist Church. Later in the years, she and her family became members of Progressive Baptist Church where she stayed until the end. She also worked at Memorial Hospital for 24 years. She enjoyed going to church, getting her hair done, playing crossword puzzles, and cooking for her family. We will miss her red beans, spaghetti, mac & cheese, dressing, gumbo & pound cakes.

Our mother is preceded in death by her husband John Bryant Jr, her parents Mr. Buford Hawthorne and Ms. Mable Griffith Brown, her step-father Gus Griffith, her paternal & maternal grandparents, two brothers Don Hawthorne & Joel Griffith, a sister Linda Nix and one niece Teanna Nix, two brother-in-laws, Authur Smith and James Bryant

She leaves to cherish her sweet memories her children, three daughters: Jittaun (Chris) Thomas and Robin (Rogacki) Thornton both of Gulfport MS. Victoria Hawthorne of Atlanta GA, two sons John (Lena) Bryant and Kenneth Wright both of Biloxi MS. Her four siblings: a Brother Buford (Mae Ruth) Hawthorne of Bassfield MS. three sisters: Mable Jackson of Montgomery Al., Dorothy Thompson of Gulfport, MS, Celia Griffith of Smyrna, GA., She also leave to cherish eight Grandchildren: Chris, Lakiva, Mesha, Porschea, Tevi, Hannah, Rugayya, Azairia, Eight Great-grandchildren: Nasir, Niylah, Na'Shawn, Nalani, Nova, Keenan, Ariaah, Brian Kyle, Two sisters-in-law: Mary Hendrieth, Louisa White, one brother-in-law Ricky Bryant, Her five lifelong close friends: Hazel Jackson, Freddie Fortenberry, Josephine Jones, Edith Harrien, Bobbie Shepherd and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends left to celebrate her life and legacy.