



Nona Faye Atkins

March 28, 1950 - November 11, 2024

Nona Faye Atkins was born on March 28, 1950, in Millerville, Alabama, as the second child of the late Essie Lee and James “Jim” Townsend. She was preceded in death by her devoted husband, Eddie James “Hank” Atkins; her beloved brothers, Alfonso Adair Sr. and Donald Simmons; her sisters-in-law, Annie Ruth “Boo” Reed and Cora “Sister” Rucker.

Nona “Faye” graduated from Goodwater High School in Goodwater, Alabama, and later pursued a career as a certified nursing assistant and phlebotomist. After moving to Atlanta, she met the love of her life, Eddie James “Hank” Atkins, and they married on March 8, 1982. Faye joined her husband at Vine City Baptist Church, where she dedicated countless hours to the church community, serving in roles like the President of Servant Care and church secretary.

Faye was truly the heart and backbone of her family. To every child, she was “Grandma,” and to so many others, she was “Auntie.” She delighted in cooking for all and cherished every moment spent with the children who came through her door. Her heart overflowed with love, and her spirit was bright and contagious to everyone around her. Her home, filled with elephants (each with trunks lifted for luck), was a place of warmth and joy. She loved nights at the casino and was always ready for a lively game of spades. She was always the listening ear for anyone who needed it.

On November 11, Nona “Faye” was called home to be with the Lord. She leaves her cherished memories to two daughters, Francine “Ceno” Kelly, and

Shanetta “Tay” Atkins; two sons, Maurice Kelly and Robert “Chris” Kelly; and a host of beloved bonus children. She was a proud grandmother to seven grandchildren—Sheba, Robin (Braxton), Erika “Jazz,” Staci, Christopher, Neverlyn, and Eric (Brittany)—and cherished a host of bonus grandchildren. Faye was also blessed with 10 great-grandchildren.

She is survived by her sister Tarneshia Searcy; brothers-in-law, Conrad (Gwen) Atkins Jr., Johnny (Linda) Gibbons, and Rev. Abraham (Delores) Gibbons; and her sisters-in-law Janie (Marcus) Earls, Penny Gibbons, Betty Carr, Catherine Gibbons, and Evangelist Mary Ellen. Her special friend, Mary Hankins. Faye also leaves behind a host of loving nieces, nephews, other relatives, and dear friends who will forever cherish her memory.

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV **22**. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Rainbow Park Baptist Church
2941 Columbia Dr
Decatur, GA 30034-4146
(404) 288-1910

Family Hour

NOV **22**. 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Rainbow Park Baptist Church
2941 Columbia Dr
Decatur, GA 30034-4146
(404) 288-1910

Funeral Service

NOV **23**. 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM (ET)

Greater Vine City Baptist Church
166 Walnut St NW
Atlanta, GA 30314

Burial

NOV **23**. 12:30 PM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Washington Memorial Gardens
700 Jordan Lane
Decatur, GA 30033-5731

Tribute Wall

MF

“ *Faye was such an amazing person!She was always ready to lend a helping hand and listen!! am truly blessed to have known her and thank her for the love and kindness she always showed my family and !!*



Michelle Francis - November 20, 2024 at 05:27 AM

MS

“ *Margaret Sterling lit a candle in memory of Nona Faye Atkins*



Margaret Sterling - November 19, 2024 at 04:11 PM

MS

Faye and I worked together years ago at the Plasma Center. She always had a encouraging word for anyone. I have so many memories of her. I recently seen her on Facebook and I wished her happy birthday. I was devastated to hear about her passing. I will miss her dearly. . My condolences to the family. God bless you

Margaret Sterling - November 19, 2024 at 04:16 PM

TF

“ *To My Church Family, words cannot fully express the sorrow I felt after learning about the death Faye. May you ever treasure the wonderful times and the memories you all had. My Prayers are with the entire family. Wishing you Peace and comfort and you face the days ahead and loving memories to forever hold in your heart. Love Tina Knowles*

Tina Knowles/ Church Family - November 19, 2024 at 10:04 AM



“ *Lavender & White Mixed Half Casket Cover was purchased for the family of Nona Faye Atkins.* ”



November 18, 2024 at 05:42 PM