



Elmon Ray

January 31, 1938 - July 7, 2024

Elmon Ray transitioned from labor to reward on July 7, 2024 in Flowery Branch, Georgia after a brief illness.

Elmon, or Mother Ray, as she was affectionately called by all who knew and loved her, was born on January 31, 1938, in Attapulgus, Georgia to Edward and Rossie Ray. When she was six months old, her family migrated north to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania where she lived most of her life. As a child, she joined and attended Calvary Baptist church in Philadelphia with her family.

Elmon was educated in the Philadelphia School System and graduated from John Bartram High School in 1956. After graduation, she pursued careers at the Quaker City Laundry and as a Nurse's Assistant at the Bryn Mawr Hospital. She retired from Bell of Pennsylvania after 26 years as a Customer Service Representative. Following her retirement, she moved to Massachusetts where she held several part-time jobs to help maintain her fabulous wardrobe and hairstyles.

When Elmon's daughter, Keya, moved to Georgia, she decided that she would join them so that she could help take care of her grandchildren, Josh and Jessie who were the apple of their Grammy's eye. She loved celebrating their birthdays. Her favorite thing to do was to light the candles on the cake, turn out the lights, and sing Happy Birthday. Grammy cherished those precious

moments and was so proud of her grandchildren.

Mother Ray was known for her fashion sense and short hairstyles which she liked “fried, dyed, and laid to the side.” Mother Ray never met a stranger and was beloved by everyone

she met. She was proud of being a Deaconess at the Union Baptist Church in Cambridge, Massachusetts. She also served on the Mother’s Board and head of the Pastor Support Ministry for Rev. John W. Harris at the Thankful Baptist Church of Kennesaw, Georgia. Elmon loved worshipping at St. James United Methodist Church in Alpharetta, Georgia under the leadership of Rev. Dr. Michael T. McQueen.

Mother Ray’s funny skits, sayings, and desire to be the clean Madea in Tyler Perry movies kept many in the churches she attended laughing. She also imparted wisdom and was never ashamed to tell the story of her life, warts and all, so that women, especially younger women could be free from the shame of their mistakes and become all they were created to be in Christ.

Mother Ray was preceded in death by her parents, Edward and Rossie Ray, and a sister, Mary Anne Ray.

She is survived by her daughter, Reverend Keya Hillman; grandson, Joshua Hillman; granddaughter, Jessica Hillman; two sisters, Joeddie (George) Cooper and Carrie Crane; and a host of family and friends.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 14. 1:00 PM (ET)

Thankful Baptist Church of Kennesaw
928 Kennesaw Due West Raod NW
Kennesaw , GA

Funeral Service

JUL 14. 2:00 PM (ET)

Thankful Baptist Church of Kennesaw
928 Kennesaw Due West Raod NW
Kennesaw , GA

Tribute Wall

SA

“ My name is Shirley Abdullah I worked with Mickie for the 26 of my 43 years with Bell, Bell Atlantic, Bell of Pa then Verizon. Keya you and your family have my prayers and sympathy. Your mother and I always talked about having one child each my son name is Karim and we always greeted each other saying how are our K children doing. I now live in Florida and so sorry I lost touch with your mom she has a special place in my heart.

shirley Abdullah - July 14, 2024 at 04:49 PM

KH

I remember you. Had a special place on mom's heart as well.

Keya Hillman - July 17, 2024 at 06:30 AM

CB

“ Praying for Pastor Keya and family 🙏❤️🙏



Cynetia Banks - July 13, 2024 at 11:13 AM

VE

“ UWF Members were Blessed to have met The Mother Ray! We could feel Love and encouragement from her and shared Worship online at St. Paul UMC-Summit.



Vanessa W Ellison - July 12, 2024 at 06:34 PM

LU

“ Leland Qwest UMC purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Elmon Ray.



Leland Qwest UMC - July 12, 2024 at 10:23 AM

YM

“ Yvette M. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Elmon Ray.

Yvette M. - July 11, 2024 at 08:44 PM

YM

“ Yvette M. purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Elmon Ray.



Yvette M. - July 11, 2024 at 08:44 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Elmon Ray.



July 10, 2024 at 02:39 PM

EM

“ I will never forget Sis Ray, we sat beside each other every Sunday at Thankful. She would whisper to me and say-pray for me. Sis Ray was a beautiful woman of God, she got along with everybody. She loved her family, especially Keya and the grandchildren. She will be missed. Rest now in peace my Sister because all the troubles of this world are over for you. One day we'll meet again and we'll greet each other with a big smile as we always did. Keya may God give you the strength you need, she was not only your Mother but your Best Friend. 🙏🌹🦋🥹



Emily R Mason - July 10, 2024 at 12:07 PM

JM

“ Sending Prayers and Condolences to the Family 🙏



Joyce Mitchell - July 10, 2024 at 09:39 AM

GM

“ Gloria K Maddox sent a virtual gift in memory of Elmon Ray



Gloria K Maddox - July 10, 2024 at 09:21 AM

GY

“ *Our most sincerest condolences are shared with you and your family during this time. We pray with you and for you.*



Grover E and Janice C Young - July 10, 2024 at 08:45 AM

TM

“ *Toya Morrison lit a candle in memory of Elmon Ray*



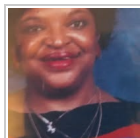
Toya Morrison - July 09, 2024 at 11:35 PM

TP

“ *Condolences and Prayers to Pastor Keya and her Family. Mother Rae has gained her wings. Job well done. She will be missed her warm welcoming smile and a twinkle in her eyes.*



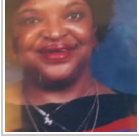
Theresa Puryear - July 09, 2024 at 10:04 PM



“ *Regina Harris lit a candle in memory of Elmon Ray*



Regina Harris - July 09, 2024 at 05:02 PM



“ Regina Harris sent a virtual gift in memory of Elmon Ray



Regina Harris - July 09, 2024 at 05:02 PM



“ Toni Johnson sent a virtual gift in memory of Elmon Ray



Toni Johnson - July 09, 2024 at 02:27 PM



“ Toni Johnson lit a candle in memory of Elmon Ray



Toni Johnson - July 09, 2024 at 02:26 PM



“ Catherine Wilmont lit a candle in memory of Elmon Ray



Catherine Wilmont - July 09, 2024 at 01:19 PM

MM

“ *Mary Moore lit a candle in memory of Elmon Ray*



Mary Moore - July 08, 2024 at 02:10 PM