



Mrs. Hellean "Mamaw" Crayton

August 25, 1933 - January 26, 2025

Her Story...

Hellean Crayton ended her earthly journey on Sunday, January 26, 2025, at the Magnolia Regional Medical Center. Hellean was known for her strong will, unwavering determination, love and support of her family and community.

Hellean was born on August 25, 1933, to the late Napoleon "Erb" Jones and Helen Franklin Jones. To this union fourteen children were born.

She attended the Union A.M.E. Church all her life. She served as a Choir Member, Usher, Missionary, Steward, Trustee, Church Secretary, Financial Secretary and on the Kitchen Committee. She believed in God with her full heart. You could say she was a person that showed unconditional love. She accepted people for who they were. She was generous and willing to help others who were faced with adversity.

Hellean and her siblings attended school at Friendship and later at New Hope. There were no buses to travel to their home, so the children had to walk several miles to catch the bus at Hwy 57. Their strength and bravery helped them to achieve, and they had to work the fields at the same time. Mr. "Erb" Jones was a sharecropper, so the children learned at an early age how to work and take care of themselves. Several children moved North for better job

opportunities. Yet, Hellean stayed in Mount Holly and built a better life for her and her family. The family continued to keep in touch with each other regularly, even though they all lived far away from each other.

She married Willie L. Crayton on May 28, 1952, to this union one child was born Barbara Ann Crayton.

Before she fulfilled her purpose in life she worked numerous jobs at KFC, Dixie Maintenance and the Boat Plant in Smackover. She drove the bus for a while at New Hope before the schools integrated in 1970-1971. But driving started long before the bus, she would take sick neighbors to and from the hospitals in Little Rock and various other places. Her favorite riders were Rev. J.C. Chitman and Governor Rufus.

In 1979, Superintendent Morris McKinnon hired her to drive the school bus for Mount Holly Public School. This truly was her passion. She had countless stories surrounding that little yellow school bus and her bus students who she loved dearly. If you rode Mrs. Hellean's bus you were taken care of in so many ways from washing faces during those early morning hours, being sung to, receiving hugs, given candy from that little plastic Ziplock bag or stopping by Watson's Store for a snack in the afternoon. Who could forget that switch that sat in the corner of the bus? Mount Holly School was a happy place where she met many friends and loved all the students. She worked at the school until her retirement in 2004.

After retirement, she devoted more of her time to caring for her great-grandchildren while their parents worked. She teased their parents that she was keeping a tablet on the children and the bill was adding up. She loved to go to church, cook, quilt, garden and fish. Also, she loved to talk on the phone to whomever she could get on the line. She had most of her friends' names and numbers written in the little red book. No matter who you were, your age

or ethnicity you were her friend. She never met a stranger.

She credited herself for being a Jack-of-all-trades. No matter what your complaint, she had the solution. No matter what your illness, she had the remedy and if by chance you were hungry and went down Hwy 57 from any part of the world you could stop by and were always welcome at her table. It was nothing to see that little car dashing down the roads of Mount Holly and surrounding areas to help someone sick, take them a quilt, food or just offer some good conversation or advice.

Hellean is preceded in death by her husband: Willie L. Crayton. Her parents: Napoleon Jones and Helen Jones. Her brothers: Clyde Jones, Willie Jones, Joe Jones, George Jones, Scipio Jones, Shulie B. Jones, Harmon Jones and John L. Jones. Her sisters: Mary L. Harper, Luddie B. Herner, Bessie Bush and Orlean Williams.

She leaves to cherish her memories her beloved brother, Cleather Jones of Chicago, IL, her loving daughter, Barbara Ann Harris of Mount Holly, AR, her grandchildren, Iris Harris Davis (Otis Davis) of Camden, AR, Ingra Genean Harris (Eric Dare) of Magnolia, AR, Laron Philander Harris II (Shakemia Harris) of Prairie Grove, AR, her great-grandchildren, Reese Trinity Dare, Laron Philander Harris III, Damari Sinclair Davis, Kyndal Aubree Harris and Amir Xander Harris. A host of nieces and nephews who compassionately called her "Auntie." Special nephews: James Williams, John H. Bush, Bobby J. Bush, Eric Williams and Derrick Williams-Special nieces: Gail O'Guinn and Erica Jones Special friends Ruby Adair, Macy Braswell, Monica Carter and lifelong friend Mrs. Abberteen Lewis, countless family members, neighbors, and friends.

We're going to miss you Mamaw!!!

Celebration of Life services will be held Saturday, February 8th, 2025, at R.L. Reed Funeral Home Chapel in Magnolia, Arkansas at 2:00 p.m. with burial to follow at Smeed Cemetery in Mount Holly, Arkansas, under the direction of R.L. Reed Funeral Home, LLC. Elder Leroy Martin, Officiant. Minster Artis Fletcher, Eulogist.

A visitation will be held Friday {Feb. 7th}, from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m., at R.L. Reed Funeral Home in Magnolia.

“For precaution due to the COVID-19, Masks are Encouraged but Not Required While Attending the Services and During Visitation Hours. However, wearing masks ensures safety for you and others. Thank you.”

Cemetery Details

Smead Cemetery

Union Rd. 81
Mount Holly, AR 71758

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 7. 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM (CT)

R.L. Reed Funeral Home
100 Hwy 79 North
Magnolia, AR 71753
(870) 901-3536

Celebration of Life

FEB 8. 2:00 PM (CT)

R.L. Reed Funeral Home Chapel
100 HWY 79 NORTH
Magnolia, AR

Tribute Wall

KM

“ Rest easy Auntie it was a blessing to c u again at our Crayton family reunion 2024 love always ur great neice Kim Crayton, Hughes, Jones, Davis, Murray n great great great neices n nephews Ruby Dean Jones Davis line..I love u

Kim Davis Murray - February 08, 2025 at 03:20 AM

FM

“ From Eric and Lolita McKinney. purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Mrs. Hellean "Mamaw" Crayton.



From Eric and Lolita McKinney. - February 07, 2025 at 04:22 PM

FM

“ From Eric and Lolita McKinney. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mrs. Hellean "Mamaw" Crayton.

From Eric and Lolita McKinney. - February 07, 2025 at 04:22 PM

IS

“ In loving memory, Johnny and Arden Sweet purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Mrs. Hellean "Mamaw" Crayton.



In loving memory, Johnny and Arden Sweet - February 07, 2025 at 11:52 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mrs. Hellean "Mamaw" Crayton.*



February 06, 2025 at 08:56 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Mrs. Hellean "Mamaw" Crayton.

February 06, 2025 at 08:56 PM



“ *Shelia Griffith lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Hellean "Mamaw" Crayton*



Shelia Griffith - February 06, 2025 at 08:19 PM



“ *My heartfelt sympathy and condolences to the family during this time of bereavement. May God comfort your hearts and grant you peace, strength, and understanding.
Love and prayers,
Roy Lee Lewis (Bubba Lewis)*



Roy Lee Lewis - February 06, 2025 at 11:26 AM

VB

“ Our thoughts, prayers, and condolences are with you during the time of your loss. May God comfort you today, and in the days, weeks, and months ahead. She will be so missed in our community.

Love and prayers,
Victor and Shawn Bean



Victor and Shawn Bean - February 06, 2025 at 11:22 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mrs. Hellean "Mamaw" Crayton.



February 05, 2025 at 09:14 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Mrs. Hellean "Mamaw" Crayton.

February 05, 2025 at 09:14 PM

JS

“ Thank you so much for being there for my mother and me during the time of her illness.
It's now time to take your rest. You will be greatly missed. We love you, but God loved you best. RIL ❤️
Charles and Jacquelyn Slade

Jacquelyn Slade - February 05, 2025 at 05:54 PM

JS

“ Jacquelyn Slade lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Hellean "Mamaw" Crayton



Jacquelyn Slade - February 05, 2025 at 05:33 PM

TA

“ The Ainsworths purchased the Simply Elegant Sp
athiphyllum for the family of Mrs. Hellean
"Mamaw" Crayton.



The Ainsworths - January 31, 2025 at 11:23 PM

DM

“ Praying to God for peace, comfort and strength for the family of Mrs.
Hellena Crayton. A beautiful soul at rest!!

Dorothy Miles Moore - January 30, 2025 at 11:04 PM

EC

“ Sending Love and Prayers to the Crayton
Family. She a Beautiful Person, So Blessed to
have her for so many years.

Love Jean & Johnny Carey



Elvie J Carey - January 30, 2025 at 08:05 PM

BC

“ *Condolence and Prayers for the Family of Hellean. She will be greatly missed by so many people.*

Bobby Jack Carey



Bobby Jack Carey - January 30, 2025 at 07:56 PM

JC

“ *Condolences and Prayers to the Family of a very Precious Lady*



Johnny L Carey - January 30, 2025 at 07:36 PM

GL

“ *Sending prayers and condolences to the family 🙏. She was such a sweet lady!! She will be greatly missed! A life well lived 🙏*

Gloretta Lee - January 30, 2025 at 10:20 AM

VM

“ *Sending our sincere prayers and condolences to the family 🙏🙏
Vernon & Vivian Meeks , Alexandria Louisiana*

Vernon & vivian Meeks - January 30, 2025 at 12:07 AM

MM

“ *Mr. & Mrs. Sidney Miles Redford, Michigan sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Hellean "Mamaw" Crayton*



Mr. & Mrs. Sidney Miles Redford, Michigan - January 29, 2025 at 08:34 PM

MM

“ *Our family is keeping your family in our thoughts and prayers.*

Mr. & Mrs. Sidney Miles Redford, Michigan - January 29, 2025 at 08:33 PM

FS

“ *Sending love and prayers to the Crayton Family May God continue to embrace you and strengthen all of you during your time of sorrow 🙏🙏🙏*



Frankie Shaw - January 29, 2025 at 07:43 PM

LH

“ *We are sending our condolences to the family as we pray for your comfort. May precious memories sustain you. God Bless. Levell and Earlene (Richard) Hildreth*



Levell & Earlene Hildreth - January 29, 2025 at 06:13 PM

CJ

“ *Sincere Condolences and Prayers to the family. Rest cousin!* ”



Cowanza Jones - January 29, 2025 at 04:05 PM

VB

“ *Our thoughts, prayers, and condolences are extended to the family. May God comfort your hearts today, and in the days, weeks, and months ahead.* ”



*Love and prayers,
Victor and Shawn Bean*

Victor and Shawn Bean - January 29, 2025 at 02:57 PM

JC

“ *Heaven just got sweeter!* ”

joyce Cathey - January 29, 2025 at 12:05 PM



“ *Nicole Adair lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Hellean "Mamaw" Crayton* ”



Nicole Adair - January 29, 2025 at 08:46 AM



Prayers for the family. Love Ms hellean was a very sweet lady and will be truly missed

Nicole Adair - January 29, 2025 at 08:48 AM

LS

“ *Prayers and heartfelt Condolences to the family of Mrs.Crayton,May the good Lord be your comforter now and forever*



Laverne Shaw - January 28, 2025 at 08:22 PM

JN

“ *RIH Aunt Hellean*



Jen Oliver (great niece) - January 28, 2025 at 04:08 PM

TJ

“ *Tracy Deshonda Jackson-Doss lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Hellean "Mamaw" Crayton*



Tracy Deshonda Jackson-Doss - January 28, 2025 at 10:12 AM

RB

“ Growing up Mrs. Hellean was my bus driver. Later in life, I became her insurance agent and friend. She was a very special person that I enjoyed visiting with. I am so sorry for your loss.

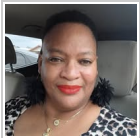
Raymond Bailey - January 28, 2025 at 10:05 AM

AB

“ Aleshia Boone lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Hellean "Mamaw" Crayton



Aleshia Boone - January 27, 2025 at 07:10 PM



“ Tonya Johnson sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Hellean "Mamaw" Crayton



Tonya Johnson - January 27, 2025 at 06:34 PM

SC

“ Sorry to hear of the passing of such a sweet person. My thoughts and prayers go out to her family and friends. I met Mrs Hellean at Mt Holly School where we both drove buses. I will always remember her smile when she greeted everyone. Susie Curl

Susie Curl - January 27, 2025 at 06:19 PM

WG

“ Wanda Lambert Goodner lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Hellean "Mamaw" Crayton



Wanda Lambert Goodner - January 27, 2025 at 05:45 PM

WG

Ms Hellean was a very humble, nice, and sweet person!!

Wanda Lambert Goodner - January 27, 2025 at 05:46 PM

LR

*Our condolences go out to the immediate family members of Helene Crayton, our cherished and beloved cousin. Helene made a special effort to stay connected to her extended family. She often shared with us family memories and anecdotes that we didn't know or had forgotten. Helene will truly be missed in this earthly life - a void never to be filled. Blessings.
Love, Laura Rowe
Houston, Texas*

Laura Rowe - January 27, 2025 at 06:12 PM

SY

*Please accept my condolences on the loss of your mother and grandmother. She will be truly be missed. She was like the family historian.
Blessings
Love, Sally Peoples
Lorain, Ohio*

Sally Peoples Yahoo - January 28, 2025 at 03:19 PM



“ My condolences to my Family in the loss of my Dear Aunt Hellean you will be Truly Missed. RIP.

Henry Shaw Jr - January 27, 2025 at 05:30 PM

BM

“ Mrs. Hellean was my bus driver and brother (Will Nash’s) bus driver from the time I went to Kindergarten, until I was done with 6th grade. We were her first and last stop every day. I remember a lot of hugs on early mornings, telling other kids to leave her babies alone, lots of singing Jesus Loves Me and He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands, while driving early mornings. Hugs from her as an adult with my own kids were few as we didn’t cross paths much anymore, but they were so precious and memorable. The world is a little less bright with her gone now. She was the funniest and most cheerful bus driver. She will be so so missed! I have a hundred plus childhood bus stories with her in them. She was a remarkable person. Hugs and prayers to her family! She was so loved!

Brandy Martisek - January 27, 2025 at 04:02 PM

AN

“ Alice Norful lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Hellean "Mamaw" Crayton



Alice Norful - January 27, 2025 at 03:44 PM

BF

“ Brandy Martisek, Will Nash, & Family purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Mrs. Hellean "Mamaw" Crayton.



Brandy Martisek, Will Nash, & Family - January 27, 2025 at 03:30 PM

MS

“ *Maria Sutfin lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Hellean "Mamaw" Crayton*



Maria Sutfin - January 27, 2025 at 03:22 PM

WN

“ *Mrs. Hellean was my bus driver for Mt Holly school ever since kindergarten we were her first stop in the morning and her last drop off she would stop buy and visit us from time to time when she was over fishing at hinderson creek below my grandparents she was a great Christian who walk with the Lord and his word she was a wonderful lady and will be missed by all who new and loved her.*

William Nash - January 27, 2025 at 02:57 PM

TG

“ *Trudy Glover lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Hellean "Mamaw" Crayton*



Trudy Glover - January 27, 2025 at 02:01 PM

MP

“ *Mary S. Pickings lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Hellean "Mamaw" Crayton*



Mary S. Pickings - January 27, 2025 at 10:20 AM

DH

“ Dearlean Hughes lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Hellean "Mamaw" Crayton



Dearlean Hughes - January 27, 2025 at 09:37 AM

TP

“ Tonya Porchia lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Hellean "Mamaw" Crayton



Tonya Porchia - January 27, 2025 at 09:32 AM



“ Pamela Shaw lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Hellean "Mamaw" Crayton



Pamela Shaw - January 27, 2025 at 01:15 AM

SW

“ We extend our condolences to the family of Sis. Helena Crayton. She was a great lady and long-time family friend. She will be missed. Praying for the family 🙏🙏🙏



Sharon Williams-Ford - January 26, 2025 at 11:53 PM

KD

“ Kelly Davis lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Hellean "Mamaw" Crayton



Kelly Davis - January 26, 2025 at 10:53 PM

CD

“ Charles Davis lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Hellean "Mamaw" Crayton



Charles Davis - January 26, 2025 at 10:53 PM

DW

“ Dianne Willis lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Hellean "Mamaw" Crayton



Dianne Willis - January 26, 2025 at 09:58 PM