



Mrs. Edna Mae Hayes

October 24, 1947 - May 8, 2024

SAVANNAH- Mrs. Edna Mae Hayes, 76 passed away peacefully Wednesday, May 8, 2024, at St. Joseph's Hospital with her family by her side. Edna Mae Hayes (Gates) was born October 24, 1947, in Savannah, GA to Lucious Russell and Mary Lee Gates. She attended Tompkins High School (c/o1968) and obtained her High School Equivalency Certificate in January 1985.

On June 25, 1966, she wed Otis Hayes, Sr. in Savannah, GA, officiated by Rev. Robert Sweet.

Four children were born of their union: Wanda Hayes Hogsett, Eric Hayes (deceased), Otis

Hayes, Jr., and Craig Hayes. Years after Otis Hayes, Sr.'s untimely death, Edna married James

Graves. Years later she united with fellow Clifton Baptist Church member Edward Saxon in

holy matrimony on March 1, 2014. Edward predeceased Edna on October 16, 2019, and

afterward, she faithfully cared for their family pet, Princess.

Edna worked at EOASGA and later at St. Joseph's/Candler Health System for over twenty

years and retired after her disability. She volunteered during and after her employment and

received a prestigious award for twenty years of service.

Edna enjoyed family, conversing with family and friends by phone, reading and studying the Word of God, and she loved her Clifton Baptist and The Dwelling church families. She was active in multiple ministries, including the Christian Men & Women Bible Study Ministry and The Gospel Chorus. She was best known for her heart in helping others in the food pantry ministries with multiple churches and organizations, and she served many in her community by delivering food to others. Edna was an avid gardener known for taking and giving clippings of plants and flowers she liked and cooking food for many who stopped by her home.

Edna and Edward were very involved in education and attended Parent University for multiple years where she graduated with Honors. She gained many certificates in the healthcare field and was very active in caregiver training programs at Home Instead Senior Care.

Edna Mae Hayes (Gates) is preceded in death by her loving brothers, James Russell, Charles Gates, Johnny Russell, and Isaac Gates; loving sisters, Edna Mae Manigault, Lucia Mae Wright, Dorothy Daniel, Mary Lee Gates and Nancy Gates; and many other loving relatives.

Edna leaves to cherish her memory and legacy: Daughter Wanda (Frederick) Hogsett, sons Otis Hayes, Jr. (Sonja, deceased) and Craig (Latrechia) Hayes, Sr.; loving brothers, Lucious Gates, Jr., Jacob Russell, Tommy Gates, Oliver Gates; loving sisters Lillie Mae Griffith,

Josephine

Robinson, and Juanita Gates; six grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, cousins, and extended family of church members, longtime neighbors, and friends.

Donations are preferred in place of flowers, but all are welcome.

Cemetery Details

Cherokee Hill Cemetery

Port Wentworth, GA

Previous Events

Public Viewing

MAY 18. 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

Sexton- Hall Funeral Home
5 Birkenhead Road
(21 South Coastal Highway)
Port Wentworth, GA 31407
(912) 964-4336
sextonhall@att.net
<https://sextonhallfh.com>

Visitation

MAY 18. 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Sexton- Hall Funeral Home
5 Birkenhead Road
(21 South Coastal Highway)
Port Wentworth, GA 31407
(912) 964-4336
sextonhall@att.net
<https://sextonhallfh.com>

Funeral Service

MAY 19. 1:00 PM (ET)

The Dwelling Church
115 E Lathrop Avenue
Savannah, GA 31415

Tribute Wall

TF

“ Mrs. Edna Hayes was a beloved patient of ours here at Jones Family Dental. We loved seeing her smiling face. She was such a blessing to our office. She left a great legacy here on earth. She will be greatly missed.

Tonya Fox - June 06, 2024 at 11:32 AM

BB

“ My life long friend, we met in the fifth grade at Tompkins Elementary School. Edna would always spend the weekend with my family and I. She was a beautiful person from the inside out. I will never forget her. I encourage her children and grandchildren to carry on her legacy, she loved all of y'all so much. But now she is resting in the arms of Jesus, each of you be encourage in the Lord and keep looking up to him. from Barbara Lee Brown.



Barbara Lee Brown - June 06, 2024 at 06:38 AM

TF

“ The Simmons Family lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Edna Mae Hayes



The Simmons Family - May 18, 2024 at 07:51 PM

SW

“ To Otis and Family, Death leaves a heartache no one can heal. Love leaves a memory no one can steal.keeping you and your family in my prayers. From Sharon Williams and Patrick Williams



Sharon Williams - May 16, 2024 at 05:27 PM

KR

“ Kara Robinson purchased the Be My Love Bouquet with Red Roses for the family of Mrs. Edna Mae Hayes.



Kara Robinson - May 15, 2024 at 11:09 AM

TH

“ To the Hayes/Gates families I extend my deepest condolences and prayers for GOD'S peace to strengthen each of you at this time of such great loss. I have many memories as a coworker and friend that I will treasure.

Toni S. Hales (Friend/Coworker) 🌹

Toni S. Hales - May 14, 2024 at 09:09 PM

EP

To the family of our dear sister Edna Hayes, we send our prayers and condolences.

Sister Edna was a gentle sweet spirit who fellowshiped with Widows Harvest Ministry Of Savannah, Inc. We will miss her, yet we celebrate her presence with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. May you find peace and comfort as you reflect on the experiences you shared with her.

Evelyn Polite - May 15, 2024 at 09:06 AM

SP

“ I will miss her she will always be in my heart. She was my cousin wife. We spend time together every 3rd Saturday I visit her church where she takes her grand kids to help with they food giveaway. She always asked how everyone is doing in Ellabell. She kept a beautiful smile all the time no matter what she's going through she forever kept that smile. Wanda and family I have you all in my prayers love you. SARAH POWELL

Sarah Powell - May 13, 2024 at 08:47 PM

SP

“ Sarah Powell lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Edna Mae Hayes



Sarah Powell - May 13, 2024 at 08:38 PM

TF

Our hearts go out to Mrs. Edna Hayes's family during this difficult time. Our thoughts and prayers are with you as you navigate this loss. The Simmons Family. ❤️🙏

The Simmons Family - May 18, 2024 at 07:42 PM