



## Mrs Eudean Ray

November 24, 1933 - October 27, 2025

Wilma Eudean Riddell Ray

Born 11-24-1933

Wilma Eudean Ray, 91, peacefully passed away Oct. 27 at her daughter's home in Knoxville, TN where she had resided for the past five years. Wilma was born and raised in Marydell, MS, and lived most of her life in Carthage, MS.

Celebration of Life will be held at Trinity Baptist Church in Carthage, Saturday Nov 1. Visitation will be from 12 noon to 2 p.m., with services following at 2 p.m. Interment is at Carthage Memorial Gardens.

For more than a decade Eudean managed the Carthage school cafeterias. At age 40 she went to nursing school where she earned a Licensed Practical Nursing degree and worked at Leake Memorial Nursing Home for a decade.

Eudean was a loving mother, wife and grandmother, an amazing cook, and a gifted artist. She spent much time crocheting, often for others (100 warm hats for Samaritan's Purse to distribute in shoeboxes). Up until the last week of her life, though very limited physically, she enjoyed making dish cloths and giving them away to friends, family, caregivers and guests. She loved basketball after excelling at the sport in high school and avidly watched women's

basketball, particularly Mississippi State, University of Tennessee, and Indiana Fever of the WNBA. For many years, she and her husband, Jerry Dean, worked together growing huge vegetable gardens (sharing with many) and making crafts. He did the wood working and she did the painting.

Eudean was an active member of Trinity Baptist Church while in Carthage. She loved her church family and missed her ladies Sunday School class, led by Penny Rogers.

She was pre-deceased by: husband, Jerry Dean Ray; daughter, Debbie Racer, grandson, Danny (Bo) Sessums; great grandson, Taylor Lifford; father, "Jack" Riddell; mother, Lillie Mae Plunkett Riddell (who passed away after giving birth to Eudean, along with a stillborn twin brother ); Aunt Lois Ballard (who raised her for the first four years of her life) and Uncle Herbert Jordan and Aunt Molly Jordan (who raised her to adulthood); and a sister, Fay Lindsay.

She is survived by daughter, Judy Ray Lee (Victor); granddaughters, Kristi Sessums, Jessica Lee, and Caryn Lee, grandsons, Danny Lee, Morgan Lee, John Matthew Lee; great-grandsons, Trevor Thomas (Mikaela), Trey Kennedy, Trent Brown, Thomas Lifford, and Kaiden Lee; great granddaughters, Tatum Lifford, Tori Lifford, and Tricia Lifford; great-granddaughter, Hailee Grace Houser.

Arrangements handled by Wilcox Funeral Home. The service will be officiated by Pastor Dale Roger (Trinity) and Pastor Victor Lee (son-in-law).

Pallbearers are Trevor Thomas, Trey Kennedy, Trent Brown, Luke Brown, Tommy Malone, and James Sistrunk.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to Trinity Baptist

Church Children's Fund, 208 Oakhill Drive, Carthage, MS 39051.

# Cemetery Details

## Carthage Memorial Gardens

North Pearl St  
Carthage, MS

# Previous Events

## Visitation

NOV 1. 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Trinity Baptist Church  
208 Oakhill Dr  
Carthage, MS 39051-3813  
(601) 267-9334

## Celebration of Life

NOV 1. 2:00 PM (CT)

Trinity Baptist Church  
208 Oakhill Dr  
Carthage, MS 39051-3813  
(601) 267-9334

# Tribute Wall

SR

“ *One of the sweet ladies I know. We worked together at the old Extended Care at the hospital in town years ago.* ”



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**Sheilah Roper** - October 30, 2025 at 11:17 PM