



Elsie Elkins

April 5, 1941 - May 8, 2015

Elsie Keys Elkins, 74, passed away May 8, 2015 in Atlanta, GA. Visitation will be 5pm-8pm Monday at Stringer Family Funeral Home in Hazlehurst. Services will be 11am Tuesday at Zion Hill Baptist Church with burial at Strong Hope Cemetery. Stringer Family Funeral Home in Hazlehurst is handling arrangements.

Elsie was a devoted Christian and longtime member of Zion Hill Baptist Church. She was a remarkable pianist who began playing for the church as a young girl and went on to record albums as a member of the gospel group The Zionlighters. Her artistry however was not limited to music; she was also a talented designer and seamstress who created elegant gowns for beauty pageant contestants. Her dresses became so popular that beauty queens would travel from all over the country to her shop, Elkins Exclusives.

In her later years, she moved to Atlanta to be with her daughter's family, where, in addition to being a loving mother, she became their beloved "Granny". Her grandchildren, Stella and Ezra, meant the world to her and she to them.

She is survived by her daughter and son-in-law, Sherry Elkins Gardner and Richard E. Gardner III of Atlanta, GA; sister, Grace Lavern Sandifer of Wesson and Melba Joyce Crane of Brookhaven; brothers, James Estus Keys

and Carl Ray Keys both of Wesson; and grandchildren, Anna Estelle Gardner and Richard Ezra Gardner IV.

Tribute Wall



“ *Elsie Elkins*

January 28, 2023 at 04:45 PM



“ *Your Major and Legacy Giving Team purchased the Basket Full of Wishes for the family of Elsie Elkins.*



Your Major and Legacy Giving Team - May 11, 2015 at 02:51 PM



“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with yall, Sherry and the rest of Mrs. Elsie's family. I just told Mama. She said once we went to visit yall and Elsie gave her a bunch of material and patterns and she used them to make Sis and me the prettiest little dress. Such a kind heart and beautiful smile! She will be missed on this earth, but I know we'll see her again in the sweet by and by!*

janice mullen smith - May 09, 2015 at 09:35 AM



“ *1 file added to the album New Album Name*



Rhonda Hepler - May 08, 2015 at 11:24 PM

JB

“ *Elsie was a great cousin. She was very talented and will be greatly missed by all who knew her. My prayers are with my family*

Janet Owen Brown - May 08, 2015 at 05:56 PM

EP

I have so many fond memories of times with Elsie. She was one very special person in my life and I will miss her greatly. She will always have a place in my heart. Rest in peace my sweet cousin.

Ethel Parker - May 11, 2015 at 08:52 AM