



Ms. Mary Payton

January 8, 1938 - August 5, 2024

23 Psalms

The Lord is my shepherd; I have everything I need!
He lets me rest in the meadow grass and leads me beside the quiet streams.
He gives me new strength. He helps me do what honors him the most.
Even when walking through the dark valley of death,
I will not be afraid for you are close beside me, guarding, guiding all the way.
You provide delicious food for me, in the presence of my enemies.
You have welcomed me as an honored guest, blessings overflow!
Your goodness and unfailing kindness shall be with me all of my life,
and afterwards, I will live with you forever in your home.

On August 5, 2024, an Angel eased into the home and took the hand of our beloved Mary Smith Payton. Mary, the oldest daughter of the late William Earl Smith and the late Mary Everette Smith was born January 8, 1938 in Tarboro, North Carolina.

Mary graduated from Bethel Union High School in 1957 and attended Elizabeth City State Teachers College. Afterwards, she relocated to New York City and worked, while living with her Uncle Peter, Jr. and his wife. She then moved to Danbury, Connecticut and married the love of her life David Payton, Jr. on June 6, 1959. While living in Connecticut she was employed with Eagle Pencil Company for several years. Mary always challenged herself to achieve more. She obtained her cosmetology license and started her own beauty

shop, which she built onto the back of her home. Mary also worked as a certified nursing assistant at Mediplex of Danbury.

In Connecticut, Mary was a member of Mt. Pleasant AME Zion Church, where she sang in the choir and attended many church conventions over the years. Later she became a member of Christ Temple Holiness Church, where her father-in-law was the pastor. There she served as an usher.

In 1988 she moved back home to North Carolina, continued working as a cosmetologist in her own business, and worked as a certified nursing assistant until experiencing a decline in her health. Mary was a very giving person who would help anyone if she could. She especially loved supporting young people who were away at college and would send them cards with encouraging words. Mary was a member of St. Mary Missionary Baptist Church. She served many years on the 1st Sunday Usher Board, as president of the Youth Ushers, Able Book Club, and secretary of the Sunday School.

A loving mother to her children, Mary eagerly participated in all their endeavors, whether it was music, dance, school, or sports. She enjoyed watching basketball, especially the UConn Huskies. But she especially loved watching her son Ben play basketball as she coached the cheerleading team at Henry Abbott Technical School in Danbury, Connecticut. This assured her a front row seat to cheer him on! She was overjoyed and absolutely loved watching the Dallas Cowboys' games with her daughter Sheila and her son-in-law Tim, whom she loved dearly.

Mary was preceded in death by her parents William and Mary Smith, husband David Payton, Jr; siblings, Elizabeth Adams, William Earl Smith, Jr, Joseph Smith, Flint Smith, Seymour Smith, and grandchild, Benjamin Payton, Jr.

Mary leaves to cherish her loving memories two daughters, Sheila Payton Jones (Timothy) of Winterville, NC, a daughter she reared Jacqueline Moore (Wimbley) of Bridgeport, CT; two sons, William David Payton (Gwen) of Greenville, NC, and Benjamin Warren Payton (Latonya) of Waterbury, CT; a step-son, David Anthony Greene (June) of Hesperia, CA; one sister, Evangeline Smith Wilson (James) of Greenville, NC; a godson, Corey Purvis

of Danbury, CT; five grandchildren, 3 great grandchildren; two brothers-in-law; four sisters-in-law, and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, extended family and friends. She will be missed by all who knew her.

Cemetery Details

Smith Family Cemetery

Briley Road
Greenville, NC

Previous Events

Viewing

AUG 11. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

St. Mary Missionary Baptist Church
1251 Fleming School Road
Greenville, NC 27834

Celebration of Life Service

AUG 11. 2:00 PM (ET)

St. Mary Missionary Baptist Church
1251 Fleming School Road
Greenville, NC 27834

Tribute Wall



“ *View and Download the Funeral Program*

Congleton Memorial Mortuary - August 12, 2024 at 10:51 AM

JH

“ *Condolences to your family. Mary must have been very special and may all your beautiful memories of good times shared provide you peace of mind and heart now and always.*

Joyce Huertas - August 11, 2024 at 10:31 PM

AT

“ *A beautiful service. My condolences. This is Alice Smith Thompson, uncle moot daughter. Please reach out to me. 267-970-6310. It was really a pleasure to see family* ❤️

Alice Smith Thompson - August 11, 2024 at 03:39 PM

DD

“ *Sheila, & Timothy Jones, Timothy Jr and the entire Payton family. Anthony Dupree and I give our sincerest condolences. We've shared laughs, smiles and great conversations with you and your beautiful mother. We pray that God's grace is with you and your family giving you strength and love knowing that Ms. Mary is resting in his loving arms experiencing and relishing in a love that is both undeniable, indescribable and overwhelmingly beautiful and peaceful.*

Dana and Anthony DuPree

Dana and Anthony DuPree - August 11, 2024 at 01:08 PM

EA

“ My Condolences to the Payton Family. Aunt Mary thank you for being in my life. I love you for all you did in my life and my family's lives, you will be truly missed. God bless the family.



Eric Adams - August 11, 2024 at 08:55 AM

DF

“ To the family we send our Deepest Condolences. “When anxieties overwhelmed me, you [God] comforted and soothed me.”

Donald, Brenda & Moses Franks - August 09, 2024 at 08:35 PM

PB

“ To Billy, Sheila and Ben, I am profoundly sorry at the passing of your mom. There are few if any heartbreaks that eclipse the loss of a mother for in this life we only get one and I have been where you are. I was very fond of Mary and she treated me so very kindly from the start. We shared good conversation and many prayers along the way. I will never forget her and the care she showed me on my journey back to Florida. I know just where your beautiful smiles come from. I will miss her. May she rest in peace in the light of the Lord. Mary and all of you have my prayers and my deepest condolences. Peggi Bouchard.

Peggi Bouchard - August 09, 2024 at 08:26 PM

VJ

“ Sheila, Van & Family, my sincerest condolences. Mrs. Mary was a beautiful woman, always kind & complimenting with words of encouragement. Once in her presence, she always made you feel special. Thank God & thank you all for sharing her with the St. Mary's Church Family.



Vickie Joyner - August 09, 2024 at 04:34 PM

DH

*Deepest condolences to Ms Sheila and her family!
Dakezica Howard*

Dakezica Howard - August 10, 2024 at 12:25 PM

KB

“ To the Payton, Smith & Adams Family, the joy of the Lord will be your strength. Ms. Mary was a true jewel and will be missed. Love and Blessings to you all.

Keisha Y. Barnes - August 09, 2024 at 09:07 AM

GP

“ To Sheila, Jackie, Billy and Ben, my deepest sympathies on the loss of Mom. To all the family and friends, I am very sorry for your loss as well. Mom was a beautiful woman, physically and spiritually and that is what made her so beloved to so many. She was strong, yet gentle, warm, kind-hearted and loving and she held nothing back. Mom never left you guessing about her. She showed you exactly who she was- a God-fearing woman who walked by faith and lived her life as a principled woman of God. Mom was a wonderful wife, mother, sister and friend and so much more to countless people, but to me she was an awesome mother-in-law and a very dear friend and I am truly hurt by her passing. May the "Father of tender mercies and the God of all comfort" hold each of us near to Him and may we find solace in the precious memories that we have made with her through the years. Mom, I love you and you will be sorely missed.



Gwen Payton - August 09, 2024 at 07:54 AM

SL

To sheila and Family sorry to hear of your loss. The Lord knew what he was doing when he called her home and he won't put no more on you and you can bear. May God continue to bless you and your family.

sandra. langley - August 09, 2024 at 07:10 PM

DC

To the Smith and Payton families' members, to know that in these times which we will all go through, are times to share our fondest memories to let it be known to all that in the lifetime of the deceased, great times has been acknowledged for all who knew Mary, shall never forget that she was a loving and giving person. I grew up basically with the family and, attended school alongside all of the Smith's siblings. Great times were shared then and, ev3n later on in years passed. Mary, will be missed by many to know she has taken her wings and have taken flight to be weary anymore.

DAVID CLEMONS - August 10, 2024 at 12:26 PM

EL

Condolences to all of our family on the great loss like missing an entire cornerstone of love. We reflect on all the positivity and joy that Aunt Mary brought into our lives. How truly lucky we were to have her. Aunt Mary helped to mold us just by the loving figure that she was. By the Holy Father's hands he will never make another like her on this earth. We love you so much Aunt Mary forever and eternally. You are filled with light that outshines all of heaven. God Bless

Eric, Lisa - August 11, 2024 at 12:03 PM

MK

“ *Mimi Kuehn lit a candle in memory of Ms. Mary Payton*



Mimi Kuehn - August 09, 2024 at 07:45 AM

AT

Sheila, Billie & Ben, I am sorry for your Loss. U have my deepest condolences. I will always remember Sister. May God give u strength in this difficult time.



*(Cousin Alice Smith Thompson)
Uncle Moot Daughter*

Alice Smith Thompson - August 09, 2024 at 08:34 PM

MK

“ *Our sincerest condolences to the family. Please know you are in our prayers. Love, Mimi and Greg Kuehn*

Mimi Kuehn - August 09, 2024 at 07:45 AM

LR

“ *Sincere condolences on cousin Mary's passing. I always enjoyed our interesting, fun, loving, talks at the Family Reunion. Now she and Dave Jr are together again. Blessings and Peace. Lillie Robbins*

Lillie Robbins - August 08, 2024 at 01:17 PM

JE

“ *On behalf of the OEMBA Middle District Union, Usher's Union we share our sincere condolences with the family of Sister Mary Payton. A sincere and dedicated Usher serving the Lord with a big smile. May the family find rest and comfort in days to come. This angel has served faithfully and her reward is great. Our prayers are with the family, may she rest in peace.*



Jill Ebron - August 08, 2024 at 12:49 PM

RM

“ Hello,

To the Smith Payton & Jones family's I want to send my deepest condolences to everyone.

(Mary Smith Payton).

Family & Friends

It was late when we met.

But, We did meet. Yes, we made most of it. About 35 years. The most caring & given person I've ever met.



Ms. Mary would call me, And say what you doing. I haven't hear from you. She kept me check & engaged. The most gorgeous smile.

I love checking up on her.

She's the little angel thats been called home.

As a kid growing up, In a single parent house hold.

Life was good, But you missed the ancestors guides.

Auntie Mary connected the dots. That was our special bond. Just one miracle from Mary Payton for me. God sent, from heaven. 🙏



she's that Angel.



Her work ethics was unbelievable. Nursing, Hair Styles on weekends.

Working in her garden.

I wonder where,

I got it from, It all made sense months later.

I be here all day

I'm closing.

Hold this family together.

They going need the well wishes & Flowers.

It'll bring peace to know,

Ms. Mary Smith Payton

Made different & impact on earth 🌍.

*God Blessing 🙏
Ronald(Rollo)Moore*

Ronald Moore - August 08, 2024 at 07:52 AM

WS

My dear first cousin, I always remember her as a loving and kind cousin. Shelia you and your family have my deepest condolences, and May God wrap his loving around you all.

William and Linda Shaw - August 08, 2024 at 11:13 PM

VP

Aunt Gin send love and prayers to the family, Sorry i couldn't be with you, May the love of God be with you and cover you with his Peace, Aunt Gin & Earl Percy

Virginia Percy - August 10, 2024 at 06:16 PM

ZB

“ *Sincere Condolences to the entire Smith and Payton family on the passing of your most Beautiful, Sweet Honorable Love, Keep The Faith 🙏*



Zachary Bunns - August 07, 2024 at 10:22 PM

VV

“ *Sending healing prayers and comfort during your time of sorrow. Mrs. Payton was a loving and kind person. She will be missed. My deepest to you and your family.*



Vivian Vines - August 07, 2024 at 06:58 PM



“ I’m so sorry to hear about the passing of aunt Mary. I’m glad I got the chance to meet, chat with and always hear wonderful stories about her❤️ Sending healing prayers and comforting hugs to the family.❤️

Kellie Iasiello - August 07, 2024 at 09:50 AM



“ My Condolences to the family of Mary Smith Payton. 🙏



Carrie Harrison (Sue) - August 07, 2024 at 08:49 AM



“ May Jesus Christ Continues To Comfort And Strengthen The Family



Evangelist Gwen Hudson - August 06, 2024 at 09:43 AM



“ Pastor Milton & Delorse Staton Family lit a candle in memory of Ms. Mary Payton



Pastor Milton & Delorse Staton Family - August 06, 2024 at 12:10 AM

JN

“ My auntie, my twin, I am one niece that heart is broken to pieces because I am missing that beautiful smile and that laugh. To my cousins, Sheila, Billy, and Ben, stay strong because she was one beautiful lady with a heart of gold. Heaven has gained one more beautiful flower. Love Jackie!!

Jackie Nicholson - August 05, 2024 at 03:45 PM

JJ



Jacqueline Jimenez-Moore - August 07, 2024 at 08:09 PM

LC

On behalf of Wesley (Moot) Smith and family of Philadelphia, Pa. I am sending our deepest condolences and sympathy to the family.

Sister, as she was affectionally known was beloved by all. She was one of the surviving family members that maintained contact with our family over the years. I missed our phone calls during the last few years as did my Dad. It was always a joy to hear her voice and laughter as we talked about current events and family.

*Sending love, peace and blessing to the entire family.
May the memory and love of your beloved strengthen and sustain you during this heartfelt and difficult time.*

Peace and the Lord be with you.

Lois Smith Calhoun for Wesley Smith and Family

Lois Smith Calhoun - August 09, 2024 at 09:50 PM

MW

My Dearest Cousins, I am sending you "Great Love for You All" along with Our Many Happy Coughing/Crying Kind of Laughter Shared by My Siblings & I also Our Father Wesley aka MOOT/Wife Laura in Phila. PA. The only sad tears noticeable was during the Many Losses. Our father Moot born also in Tarboro NC, made Greenville his Home & was Dedicated to sharing with us as Family the "Wonderful Experience of Farm Life"...I can't say enough about growing up in Such Closeness of Love From the HEART. And, Missing, who we called Sister (Mary) which by the way is the same first name of My Twin Sister & I (Mary Ann/Mary Alice. P.S. - The Spirit will Never Leave. BELIEVE THERE IS A GOD. Who finds Joy in Getting Us as Family Through It ALL.R.I.P. My Cousin...And Sincerely to the Family. Give back to Mary as she Gave to So Many...Strength & Courage.

Mary Walton - August 11, 2024 at 11:08 AM

CS

“ *Congleton Funeral Home and Staff wishes to express our sincere condolences on the passing of your love one. We light this candle in their memory.*



Congleton Funeral Home and Staff - August 05, 2024 at 10:51 AM