



Ms. Mary Essa Jean Gauthier

January 15, 1939 - June 17, 2019

On Monday, June 17, 2019, Mary Essa Jean Aubespain Gauthier, 80, entered eternal rest peacefully while napping in her favorite chair at her residence in Opelousas.

Jean was born the fourth of six children of Ernest and Augusta Aubespain of Leonville. She attended Holy Ghost Catholic School, graduated from J. S. Clark High School, and received a bachelor's degree in Education from Southern University. A lifelong educator, she taught elementary school in St. Landry Parish for 33 years, including at J.H. Augustus Elementary School (now Southwest Elementary) and Arnaudville Elementary School, where she taught special education.

An active member of Holy Ghost Catholic Church, Jean taught CCD classes for many years. She was a member of the Knights of Peter Claver Ladies Auxiliary, in both Opelousas and Leonville, and a member of the Legion of Mary. She ran a prescription drug assistance program at the church, sold pies for many years at Holy Ghost's Creole Festival, and counted offertory money at the church until she was unable. Her cherished rosary group was a big part of her weekly routine, as was her daily mass attendance when her health allowed it. She was also an active supporter of the Sisters of the Holy Family at Holy Ghost.

Jean is survived by one daughter, Tara V. Gauthier of New Orleans, LA; two sons, Thane B. Gauthier (Tashula) of Evanston, IL and Kyle W. Gauthier of Opelousas; one granddaughter, Essa Jean Gauthier of Evanston, IL; three brothers, the Rev. Fr. Borgia Aubespain, of Lawtell, Nicholas (Betty) Aubespain of Humble, Texas, and Jacob (Fannie) Aubespain of Grambling, LA; one sister-in-law, Jessie Rosette of Houston, TX; and a host of nieces, nephews, family and friends.

Her grandchild and namesake, Essa Jean, will miss the weekly FaceTime video calls with her "LaLa".

Jean was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Clifford E. "Chubby" Gauthier; two sisters, Audrey Mae Defils and Elizabeth Elsie Aubespain; six brothers-in-law, Frank Defils, Otis Hicks Sr., Irvin "Pee Wee" Gauthier, Oscar Gauthier Jr., David Lee Gauthier, and Leon "Bozo" Gauthier; three sisters-in-law, Dorothy Mae Gauthier Hicks, Lou Ella Johnson Gauthier, and Laura Lee Mason Gauthier.

Funeral services will be held at 1:00 PM Saturday, June 22, 2019 at Holy Ghost Catholic Church in Opelousas, LA. Visiting hours will be observed from 9:00 AM to 12:45 PM at Williams Funeral Home. Interment will be in Bellevue Memorial Park.

Share words of comfort with the Gauthier family at www.williamsfuneralhomes.net

Funeral arrangements are entrusted to Williams Funeral Home of Opelousas, 337-942-2037.

Tribute Wall



“ *Ms. Mary Essa Jean Gauthier*

January 28, 2023 at 08:52 AM



“ *I am so saddened to learn of Jean's passing. I taught with her at Arnaudville High, my 1st year of teaching, many yrs ago. She was so friendly, taught me so much, & was so good with students of mine who went to her lab a couple of times a week. I have such good memories of her leaning against my classroom door before school, telling me stories of her own children and of teaching. I don't think it's coincidental that I thought about her earlier today & then came across her obituary while searching for a classmate's. Thank you, dear Jean, for being there to advise me & become a friend who always wore a smile. My heart hurts just knowing I won't ever run into you when I am in Opelousas; but find consolation in knowing that I will run into you again, hopefully, if I make it to Heaven. Hope to teach with you again up there. RIP Jean! ❤️*

Leslie Sylvester - June 28, 2019 at 04:11 PM



“ *Greg Rachal lit a candle in memory of Ms. Mary Essa Jean Gauthier*



Greg Rachal - June 21, 2019 at 11:55 PM

ES

“ *My thoughts and sympathy to the Gauthier family. Jean and I were coworkers and friends at Arnaudville High School. She always had a warm smile, a kind word, a friendly gesture for her students and colleagues. I will always remember her with affection and friendship. May your sweet memories of this remarkable woman be your solace.*

Evelyn Smith - June 21, 2019 at 10:05 PM

LL

“ *Fr Aubespain & family, Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family during lost of your sister. May she be welcome into the loving arms of her Savior Jesus Christ. We know you will treasure the memories you all shared and they will give you comfort.*

Loretta and Lenneth Ozenne - Lafayette, - June 21, 2019 at 08:29 PM



“ *My Prayers and wishes of condolence. She was ALWAYS such a wonderfully loving person to me.
God bless you all.
Donovan Hudson*

Donovan Hudson - June 21, 2019 at 04:51 PM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Ms. Mary Essa Jean Gauthier.*



June 21, 2019 at 04:51 PM

JR

“ I am very sad to hear of the passing of Jean Gauthier, as I knew her when I worked with her at J. H. Augustus on my very first job in 1966.
My sympathy and prayers will be with the family during this difficult time.
Juanita Richard



Juanita Richard - June 21, 2019 at 04:25 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Ms. Mary Essa Jean Gauthier.



June 21, 2019 at 01:13 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Ms. Mary Essa Jean Gauthier.



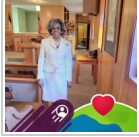
June 21, 2019 at 11:46 AM



“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Ms. Mary Essa Jean Gauthier.



June 21, 2019 at 08:08 AM



“ *Georgian Harris Stevens lit a candle in memory of Ms. Mary Essa Jean Gauthier*



Georgian Harris Stevens - June 21, 2019 at 07:07 AM



“ *Mary Lynn G. Ventress lit a candle in memory of Ms. Mary Essa Jean Gauthier*



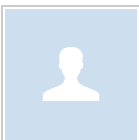
Mary Lynn G. Ventress - June 21, 2019 at 02:33 AM



“ *Condolences and prayers to the family of Mrs. Aubespin. May she R.I.P.*



Mary Lynn G. Ventress - June 21, 2019 at 02:31 AM



“ *Dawn of Remembrance Basket was purchased for the family of Ms. Mary Essa Jean Gauthier.*



June 21, 2019 at 01:17 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Ms. Mary Essa Jean Gauthier.



June 21, 2019 at 12:20 AM



“ Kyle you and your family have our condolences. May the Lord keep you/family n prayers. Joyce/Teenie/Curley Milburn

Joyce Milburn - June 20, 2019 at 06:41 PM



“ Johnnie B Simmons lit a candle in memory of Ms. Mary Essa Jean Gauthier



Johnnie B Simmons - June 20, 2019 at 06:15 PM



“ Prayers and Empathy going out for Entire Families

Johnnie B Simmons - June 20, 2019 at 06:15 PM



“ Butch and Marsa Alsandor purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Ms. Mary Essa Jean Gauthier.



Butch and Marsa Alsandor - June 20, 2019 at 05:40 PM



“ *Enduring Grace was purchased for the family of Ms. Mary Essa Jean Gauthier.*



June 20, 2019 at 05:08 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Ms. Mary Essa Jean Gauthier.*



June 20, 2019 at 05:00 PM



“ *Ommanda Babineaux lit a candle in memory of Ms. Mary Essa Jean Gauthier*



Ommanda Babineaux - June 20, 2019 at 09:49 AM



“ *Our Deepest Sympathy and Prayers goes out to the Family!! So sorry for your loss!! R.I.P. Mrs. Gauthier*

Rita Pickens & Family - June 19, 2019 at 11:35 PM

AB

“ *My prayers and condolences are offered to the family, friends, and colleagues. May she rest in peace.* ”



Andrea Brisco - June 19, 2019 at 10:45 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Ms. Mary Essa Jean Gauthier.* ”



June 19, 2019 at 07:40 PM



“ *Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Ms. Mary Essa Jean Gauthier.* ”



June 19, 2019 at 07:02 PM

AW

“ *Our deepest sympathies to the family. You are in our thoughts and prayers.* ”
Russell and Artherine Gradnigo White



Artherine White - June 19, 2019 at 05:26 PM

RM

“ *Rosalie Meullion lit a candle in memory of Ms. Mary Essa Jean Gauthier*



Rosalie Meullion - June 19, 2019 at 05:16 PM

BG

“ *MY DEEPEST PRAYERS AND CONDOLENCES TO HER FAMILY. SHE WAS AN AWESOME TEACHER. SHE WAS ALWAYS KIND..*



BRENDA GREEN - June 19, 2019 at 03:45 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Ms. Mary Essa Jean Gauthier.*



June 19, 2019 at 03:33 PM