



Mrs. Ollie Rita Shaw

December 29, 1927 - November 30, 2023

A Good and Faithful Servant

MRS. OLLIE RITA SHAW

December 29, 1927 – November 30, 2023

Obituary

Mrs. Ollie Rita White Shaw was born December 29, 1927, in Plaisance, Louisiana, to the union of Lorena Jones White and Persley White. Ollie Rita revealed that her mother named her Ollie Ritha, but her school principal said, “There was no such name as Ritha. Your name is Rita.” That’s how she became known as Ollie Rita.

At an early age, Ollie Rita, the third eldest of twelve children, was baptized by the late Rev. Samuel A. Crowder at Mohorn Baptist Church in Plaisance, Louisiana. Ollie Rita’s parents instilled in her and her 11 siblings the importance of education. After graduating from Plaisance Elementary School, Ollie Rita followed in the footsteps of her older sister, Annie Mae, by obtaining a high school diploma from St. Landry Parish Training School in 1947. Annie and Ollie Rita lived with Professor and Mrs. Morrow while enrolled in St. Landry Parish Training School.

With aspirations of becoming a schoolteacher, Ollie Rita attended the legendary Leland College in Baker, Louisiana, and earned her B.A. in Elementary Education in 1951. Upon graduating from Leland College, Ollie Rita was hired as an elementary school teacher in the St. Landry Parish School System. Her first teaching position was at Waxia Elementary School in

Waxia, Louisiana. Ollie Rita taught students for more than 40 years at Lincoln-Morrow High School, Morrow, Louisiana, Leonville Elementary, Leonville, LA, and Northeast Elementary in Opelousas. In addition, she coached the girls' basketball team. As an educator, Ollie Rita was an active J. K. Haynes Foundation member.

While a student at Leland, Ollie Rita met Jeffrey Shaw of New Orleans. After several years of dating, Jeffrey and Ollie Rita were married in July 1954 in Plaisance, LA. Three children were born to this union: Breckney Glenn Shaw, Nolan Ricco Shaw, and Jeanne Darnell Shaw.

Ollie Rita was affiliated with many religious, civic, and fraternal organizations, receiving numerous awards and honors for her service to others. She was an active member of the Order of Eastern Star Prince Hall Affiliation of Louisiana (026 Golden Star) for over 70 years, as well as a member of Elks Lodge #1048, Curry Golden American Legion Auxiliary Post 45, R. B. Jones Assembly #298, Ghadur Court #129 (Women of the Shriners), Alfred D. Brumfield Phyllis Auxiliary, the Retired Teachers Association, and the National Association of University Women (NAUW). Additionally, she served on the United Way Board of Directors for twelve years.

A dedicated church member, Ollie Rita was affiliated with Antioch Baptist Church in Melville since 1957 and a member of Mt. Pilgrim Baptist Church in Opelousas since 1963. She served in the Youth and Mission Departments at the local, district, state, and national levels. She and her husband traveled throughout the United States to attend conferences and conventions.

In addition, she faithfully served as a member of the Pastor Wives Association of St. Landry Parish and the Seventh District Missionary Baptist Association. As the First Lady of Mt. Pilgrim Baptist Church from 1963 – 2011, Ollie Rita worked as a Sunday School teacher, BTU teacher, deaconess, mission leader, director of the young people's department, director of the youth choir for over 40 years, member of the senior choir, and leader of the Young Women Association. Her passion for working with youth continued throughout her

years of working in the church.

Mrs. Shaw enjoyed reading, gardening, traveling, and spending time with her grandchildren. She leaves to cherish her memory one daughter, Jeanne D. Shaw-Reed (Harry Reed), one adopted daughter Sharlene Jones-Bush (Jerry), two sons, Breckney G. Shaw (Toni L. Shaw) and Nolan R. Shaw (Jalyne R. Shaw), one granddaughter Hadassah K. Shaw, six grandsons Breckney Nixon-Shaw, André Shaw, Kiyochi A. Shaw, Aqua C. Shaw (Maria), Seanne Reed and Joseph H. Shaw, seven great grandchildren Malijah Nixon, Imani Nixon, Breckney Nixon, Amari Nixon, Aubrey Shaw, Autumn Shaw and Ava Shaw, one sister Mae Resa Charles (Rufus), and four brothers, Persley White, Jr. (Ruby); Andrew White (Bernadel); Calvin White (Belva); and Marion White (Cynthia), and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, godchildren, friends, and church family members.

Ollie Rita is preceded in death by her parents, Lorena and Persley White; siblings Annie Mae Thomas (Melvin); Freddie White (Estelle); Rosenia (Harry); Joseph White (Bernice); and Joshua White (Lydia).

A celebration of life will be held at 10:00 AM Saturday, December 9, 2023 at Mt. Pilgrim Baptist Church in Opelousas, LA. Visiting hours will be observed from 8:00 AM to 9:45 AM Saturday, December 9, 2023 at Mt. Pilgrim Baptist Church. Interment will be in Bellevue Memorial Park.

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

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

The family of Mrs. Ollie Rita Shaw requests services be webcast click the following link <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/7570562636?pwd=YStoLzIMRVJJTDgwa0VMMSGpvYjdwZz09&omn=75942924088> to start or join a scheduled Zoom meeting

Cemetery Details

Bellevue Memorial Park

4833 Hwy 182 S.
Opelousas, LA 70570
<https://www.bellevuememorialparkcemetery.com/>

Previous Events

Webcast (Zoom)

DEC 9. 9:00 AM - 11:30 AM (CT)

Mt. Pilgrim Baptist Church
621 Narrow Street
Opelousas, LA 70570

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/7570562636?pwd=YStoLzIMRVJJTDgwa0VMMSGpvYjdwZz09&omn=75942924088>
to start or join a scheduled Zoom meeting

Celebration of Life

DEC 9. 10:00 AM (CT)

Mt. Pilgrim Baptist Church
621 Narrow Street
Opelousas, LA 70570

Tribute Wall

PJ

“ There’s no doubt in my mind that her children, grandchildren, relatives, friends, and those who experienced her in one of her many roles will miss her deeply yet have precious memories etched within their hearts to treasure in moments of sadness. As a female who was privileged to observe her throughout almost each day of my life growing up as the neighbor who lived next door, I learned what agape love truly meant as I watched her remain consistent in her character, care of others, gentleness of communication, and ability to give of herself freely and with joy in all seasons. With faith and confidence, I can say God has received his a virtuous daughter unto himself. Stand strong in unity of faith as a family to honor the legacy of such a great woman.

Sent with love,
Penny Jackson Johnson

Penny Jackson Johnson - December 09, 2023 at 09:42 AM

DW

Dear Godly Family of Mrs. Ollie Rita Shaw,

I totally agree with Mrs. Johnson. This will be one of the greatest tests of your time. But you will pass this test as well. You already know. Mrs. Shaw lived victoriously over this entire world. So, you will too. Victory and Godliness is clocked within your DNA. Being her children, grand children and great grands you will do what Mrs. Shaw has and even greater things. I encourage you to "Remember who you are, the seeds of Mrs. Ollie Ritha (intentionally spelled this way) Shaw, a rare gem who has shown you all the way." She was an excellent example of Godliness. She groomed and fashioned you all into God's People with all of God's wisdom, strength, purpose as well as Godly protection. You will succeed in all your endeavors. You cannot fail. "REMEMBER WHO YOU ARE!"

The Gore Road Community

Deffanie B Webber - January 15, 2024 at 09:45 AM

SW

“ Praying for the family. Her gentleness and warm presence will be missed by us all.
Sandy Washington



Sandy Washington - December 09, 2023 at 09:18 AM



“ Our prayers are with the family. We loved Mother Shaw. May her sweet soul rest in peace. With deepest sympathy - the Dureus family, Cedar Hill, Texas

Beverly Caro Duréus - December 08, 2023 at 01:40 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mrs. Ollie Rita Shaw.



December 07, 2023 at 02:52 PM

MB

“ My thoughts and prayers go out to the Shaw Family. RIP Wonderful Lady.
Marilyn Boutte.

Marilyn Boutte - December 07, 2023 at 02:41 PM

DF

“ Dorothy Franklin lit a candle in memory of Ollie Shaw



Dorothy Franklin - December 06, 2023 at 04:48 PM

SP

“ Shala Pickney sent a virtual gift in memory of Ollie Shaw



Shala Rene Pickney - December 06, 2023 at 03:41 PM

CJ

“ Please accept my sincere condolences.
Charles Jagneaux



Charles Jagneaux - December 06, 2023 at 09:30 AM

FS

“ Frederick Singleton lit a candle in memory of Ollie Shaw



Frederick Singleton - December 06, 2023 at 09:13 AM

CR

“ *Celina Richard lit a candle in memory of Ollie Shaw*



Celina Richard - December 05, 2023 at 11:15 PM

CR

“ *The members of National Association of University Women St Landry Branch extends their deepest sympathy to the family of Sister Ollie Rita Shaw.*

Celina Richard - December 05, 2023 at 11:14 PM

TL

“ *Trent Lewis lit a candle in memory of Ollie Shaw*



Trent Lewis - December 05, 2023 at 08:21 PM

PC

“ *Pamela Clemons lit a candle in memory of Ollie Shaw*



Pamela Clemons - December 05, 2023 at 07:56 PM

BL

“ To a great woman who took me and my children on as her own. Even though we were cousins I always felt like I was Breckney, Ricky and Jeanne older sister. I will miss you so much my darling



Beverly Lewis - December 05, 2023 at 05:06 PM

PF

“ RIP Ms Shaw. Thank you for your faithfulness as a great church leader. I hope and pray I can continue spreading your teachings that you have shared with me throughout the years as my Sunday School, BTU, Choir Director, 7th District leader and so much more... Your impact on my life has contributed a lot to my success. Sympathy to the Family. Love yall.

Phyllis Fisher - December 05, 2023 at 04:52 PM



“ Ronald Milburn lit a candle in memory of Ollie Shaw



Ronald Milburn - December 05, 2023 at 04:19 PM

EM

“ Blessings upon the family in your time of bereavement. Also thanking God for allowing our lifes to cross paths. 🙏

Emile J Martin - December 05, 2023 at 01:16 PM

EB

Rip. She touched the lives of many of us in the Morrow & surrounding communities. My personal condolence to the family & friends.

Estee Bazile - December 05, 2023 at 08:08 PM