



## Mrs. Rita Calligan Murray

July 15, 1956 - July 24, 2023

Funeral services will be held on Saturday, July 29, 2023, at 11:00 A.M. at Mt. Pilgrim Baptist Church, 621 Narrow Street in Opelousas, LA for Mrs. Rita Gail Calligan Murray, 67, who entered eternal rest on Monday, July 24, 2023, at Opelousas General Health System surrounded by family and loved ones. Interment will be in Serenity Memorial Park. Rev. Chad Ned, Pastor of Mt. Pilgrim Baptist Church will officiate the Celebration of Life.

Rita Gail leaves to cherish her memory and celebrate her legacy, her husband Joel Murray, Sr., children: Joel Murray, Jr. of Opelousas, LA, Twanna Colligan Tyler (Johnathan) of Opelousas, LA and Shallon Sharaye Darjean (Juan) of Cincinatti, OH; sister, Wanda Fay McCullough of Houston, TX; grandchildren: Axel Lewis Tyler, Kionne Shantell Darjean, Taylor Joe Murray, Kristan NeKhole Darjean, Anaya Quanshae Murray, Destiny Zanae Murray, Kylan Joel Auzenne, Jayden DeQuan Murray, Landon Wayne Murray, Eli Carter Murray and a host of other relatives and special friends.

Rita was preceded in death by her parents Leroy Calligan and Robert Lee Perry Calligan, siblings: Joyce Lynn Mayes Comeaux and Clyde Dale Calligan, uncle, Jeff B. Perry and an aunt, Linkie B. Davis; maternal grandparents: Robert and Bertha Perry; paternal grandparents, Leon Calligan and Lena Mae Stephenson; brothers-in-law George McCullogh and Arcade Comeaux.

The family requests visiting hours be observed on Saturday, July 29, 2023, from 8:00 A.M. to 10:45 A.M. at Mt. Pilgrim Baptist Church, 621 Narrow

Street, Opelousas, LA.

Share words of comfort with the family of Rita Murray on her Permanent Life Tribute Page at [www.williamsfuneralhomes.net](http://www.williamsfuneralhomes.net). Be the first to post your most treasured memory of Rita. Show your support by sharing a personal message or story, meaningful photo or video, or record a video message using your webcam. On behalf of the family, we encourage you share your personal experiences and preserve the memory of Rita Calligan Murray, known to many as "Rita Gail" for future generations to come.

Final arrangements entrusted to Williams Funeral Home of Opelousas, 817 E. South Street, 337-942-2037.

# Cemetery Details

## Serenity Memorial Park

7231 Hwy. 31  
Opelousas, LA  
jacquelyn\_a@yahoo.com

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUL 29. 8:00 AM - 10:45 AM (CT)

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

## Celebration of Life

JUL 29. 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM (CT)

Mt. Pilgrim Baptist Church  
Opelousas, LA 70570

# Tribute Wall

WC

“ So sorry for your loss. Sending our deepest heartfelt condolences and prayers to the family.

*Wanda & Larry Caillier*

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**Wanda & Larry Caillier** - August 14, 2023 at 10:52 PM

RR

“ Rosa Rose-Francois lit a candle in memory of Rita Murray



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**Rosa Mae Rose-Francois** - August 02, 2023 at 04:30 PM

SG

“ May peace and comfort be with you and your family at this difficult time.

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**Sheriff Bobby J Guidroz** - July 31, 2023 at 10:55 AM

SM

“ God bless you sweet Re Re! You are now one of Jesus' singing angels! 🙏🙏😊😊

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**Stephanie Mack** - July 29, 2023 at 10:09 PM

LS

“ *Linda Scott lit a candle in memory of Rita Murray*



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**Linda Scott** - July 29, 2023 at 03:00 AM

LS

“ *Cousin, so many fond memories of you & I when we were younger & as we got to many to mention, just know that I love you & I will miss seeing that bright smile & beautiful anointed voice. Take your rest Rita Gail, we'll meet again someday. Love, Linda Vanwright Scott*

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**Linda Scott** - July 29, 2023 at 02:57 AM

LM

“ *Prayers and condolences to the family.*



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**Lori Major** - July 28, 2023 at 11:21 PM

WJ

“ A beautiful person and an incredible voice!  
Praying for your family and friends during this  
tender time. You were our song bird. I loved  
knowing you were about to sing before Rev.  
Shaw preached!!!



Although, it broke me to hear of your passing, I found sweet peace  
and knowing you were welcome by your Mom and God! Sing until  
Heaven get the news...Rita Gail is here!! Rest well my love!!!!  
Love you!!!

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Winnie Jones - July 28, 2023 at 09:26 PM

BL

“ Sending sincere condolences to the family and friends of Rita. You  
will be missed by many. Praying for family's strength

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Beverly Lewis - July 28, 2023 at 10:43 AM

JP

“ To be absent with the body is to be present with the Lord. What a  
glorious place to be. I have so much to say about the sweet Angel  
but it would take forever. I met her with the mass choir and I  
instantly hit it off with her. We had this lil joke between us that when  
we saw one another all we did was laugh. I use to tell her all of the  
time girl never lose that amazing voice because you, Al, Vanessa,  
Delilah & Nicole will sing me straight to heaven. My friend God has  
called you home, a place where there is no more troubles. I know  
when you walked through you were singing your heart out. I will  
miss passing on Market St blowing the horn and you waving with  
that smile. Take your rest my love 🙏🌸❤️

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Jo Ann Pickens - July 28, 2023 at 09:36 AM

MR

“ I will be miss her song she have beautiful voice. I going miss she very nice..God bless family 🙏🙏.

Mary Simmons Roberts - July 27, 2023 at 09:37 PM

SB

“ Sandra B. purchased the Peaceful White Lilies B asket for the family of Mrs. Rita Calligan Murray.



Sandra B. - July 27, 2023 at 10:49 AM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mrs. Rita Calligan Murray.



July 27, 2023 at 10:37 AM

MM

“ Mark&Ommanda Major lit a candle in memory of Rita Murray



Mark&Ommanda Major - July 26, 2023 at 07:01 PM

WR

My sincere condolences to the family 🙏

Wanda Reed - July 28, 2023 at 03:42 PM

GR

*MY beautiful classmate gone but will never be forgotten take you rest in heaven now*

**genevieve rideaux** - July 29, 2023 at 02:47 PM

AB

“ *Audrey Batiste lit a candle in memory of Rita Murray*



**Audrey Batiste** - July 26, 2023 at 04:09 PM

CW

“ *Cathy Washington lit a candle in memory of Rita Murray*



**Cathy Deville Washington** - July 26, 2023 at 02:00 PM

BE

“ *Barbara Evans lit a candle in memory of Rita Murray*



**Barbara Evans** - July 26, 2023 at 01:59 PM

SP

“ *Shala Pickney sent a virtual gift in memory of Rita Murray*



Shala Rene Pickney - July 26, 2023 at 01:42 PM

SR

“ *Lord I know we all are not here to stay but my girl Rita I am going to miss you that sweet smile and that awesome anointed voice Looking to see if you will show up for rehearsals or when I see you at any church events or where ever my question is are you singing 😊 To the family may the peace of God be with you all 🙏 my favorite song she use to sing 'He's That Kind Of Friend'*



Sarah Forsythe Robinson - July 26, 2023 at 12:22 PM

EH

*I met Rita in Houston at her brother in law and sister church and and came in as a beautiful song bird. She sang There's a Leak in this old building and I still hear her singing. Sending comfort to the family from Houston Texas 🙏🙏🙏*

Elaine Harrell - July 29, 2023 at 02:04 PM

RS

“ *my condolences*

Rosette Scott - July 26, 2023 at 10:37 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mrs. Rita Calligan Murray.*



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July 26, 2023 at 09:53 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Mrs. Rita Colligan Murray.

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July 26, 2023 at 09:53 AM



“ *Where to begin. Growing up at Mt. Pilgrim and at Jr. and Sr. High school with Rita was a riot... Lots of fun time. Church, oh my how that child/girl/woman can sing. I can listen to that voice over and over again, and she has an infectious laugh, hearing her laugh made you laugh. Rest well songbird ❤️*

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**Adrian Hall** - July 25, 2023 at 09:21 PM



“ *Sending love and comfort to my soror Shallon Darjean, prayers for you and your family*

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**Kellie Jones** - July 25, 2023 at 05:33 PM

VC

“ Vickie Comeaux lit a candle in memory of Rita Murray



Vickie Comeaux - July 25, 2023 at 05:18 PM

NM

“ My sissy I luv you past the moon. God has his plans an we have ours, an God's plan will always prevail. So many memories but I'm glad God allow me in your life and you in mine. Rest well till tomorrow comes

Nancy Mayon - July 25, 2023 at 05:14 PM

CJ

“ Please accept my sincere condolences.  
Charles Jagneaux



Charles Jagneaux - July 25, 2023 at 05:12 PM

TF

“ The Family sent a virtual gift in memory of Rita Murray



The Arceneaux Family - July 25, 2023 at 04:44 PM

EW

“ *Emma West lit a candle in memory of Rita Murray*



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**Emma West** - July 25, 2023 at 04:24 PM

SA

“ *Sona Anderson lit a candle in memory of Rita Murray*



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**Sona Anderson** - July 25, 2023 at 03:39 PM

JC

“ *Sing on Rita. God has called an angelic voice in his Heavenly Choir. I was privilege to have sung with my dear friend and Teresina on several occasions. And my God she knew how to hold on to a musical note and when to let it go. Your beautiful voice will be miss, but not forgotten. T Prince and I had to pullup a song you did at her father-in-law's service. (Shine On Me). Our good memories we made will live on with us until God calls us home. Later my friend, Just save a seat for us. Love Always. Joseph Charles & Teresina Prince.*

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**Joseph Charles** - July 25, 2023 at 03:25 PM

MF

“ *Mr.& Ronald Zachery & Family sent a virtual gift in memory of Rita Murray*



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**Mr.& Mrs. Ronald Zachery & Family** - July 25, 2023 at 02:42 PM

VC

“ *Rita you are going to be miss.my class mate my friend iam going to miss that singing I hope you sing loud enough for me to hear.*



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**viola chenier(molly)** - July 25, 2023 at 02:05 PM

HW

“ *Helen Winbush lit a candle in memory of Rita Murray*



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**Helen Smith Winbush** - July 25, 2023 at 01:58 PM

PF

“ *Rita, the girl with the inspirational voice, is how I will forever remember you. You inspired my music as I played for you . Rest in Peace Rita.*  
*Phyllis*

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**Phyllis Fisher** - July 25, 2023 at 01:57 PM

PC

“ Pamela Clemons lit a candle in memory of Rita Murray



Pamela Clemons - July 25, 2023 at 01:42 PM

TL

“ Trent Lewis sent a virtual gift in memory of Rita Murray



Trent Lewis - July 25, 2023 at 01:31 PM

BS

“ Made some great memories with Mrs. Rita at the Clerk’s Office. She will be missed tremendously! My thoughts and prayers go out to the family and close friends.



Byron Stelly - July 25, 2023 at 01:25 PM