

VERNIA MAE SMITH



Mother Vernia Mae Melton Smith, entered into eternal rest on Monday, November 26. She was born on June 12, 1925 in Lessie, Florida to the late Alexander and Missouri Rebecca Melton. She attended the local schools of the Brickyard community.

At a young age, Vernia Mae accepted Christ. She later joined the Second Baptist Church of Callahan under the pastoral ship of the late Rev. D. J. Jones. Vernia Mae was a faithful member and participated in many church functions. She had a special affection for her former Pastor, Rev. Dr. Marion A. Wise, current Pastor, Rev. Dr. Malachi Clowers and her Second Baptist Church family.

“Ma Mae” had a close and loving relationship with her late sister Missouri Melton’s children, Joanne Kelly, James Way, Ronnie Way (deceased), Barbara Ann Mitchell, Larry Mitchell and Reginald Mitchell (deceased).

For over 50 years, she was employed by the Scheppe family as a housekeeper. Her employment with the family started in 1955 when Payton Scheppe was only eight years old. She had a special bond with him and in 1975 would become the housekeeper for he and his bride Carol and their family.

Verna Mae was preceded in death by her parents Alexander and Missouri R. Melton; husband Dan Smith; siblings Charity, Joseph, Allen, Alonzo, Susie, Clarence, Ernest, Alexander, Clinton and Missouri; and special friend Viola Henry.

She leaves to cherish all of her memories, dedicated and beloved son, Archie (Beatrice) Mitchell; adopted daughter Chelitta Grace; siblings Juanita Jones and Ivory (Dedra) Melton, Sr.; godsons Shamo Green and Shamo Green, Jr.; grandchildren Tony, Charles and Nakalia Mitchell; devoted great-niece and caregiver Maxine Simmons; favorite niece Barbara Ann Mitchell; special friends Eldredge Simmons, Cathryn Simmons and Robert (Ruby) Walker; adopted family Payton and Carol Scheppe, Leise Scheppe (children-Jack and Duff), Carson and Scott (children-Mackie and Henry) Hobby and William Scheppe; and a host of other relatives and friends.

The family received friends Friday, November 30 at the Northside Chapel of Sarah L. Carter’s Funeral Home in Jacksonville.

Her celebration of life service was held Saturday, December 1 at the Second Baptist Church in Callahan. Burial followed at Callahan Community Cemetery.

Sarah L. Carter’s Funeral Home Northside served the family.