She Is Gone

You can shed tears that she is gone
Or you can smile because she has lived

You can close your eyes and pray that she will come back
Or you can open your eyes and see all that she has left

Your heart can be empty because you can't see her
Or you can be full of the love that you shared

You can turn your back on tomorrow and live yesterday
Or you can be happy for tomorrow because of yesterday

You can remember her and only that she is gone
Or you can cherish her memory and let it live on

You can cry and close your mind,
be empty and turn your back
Or you can do what she would want:
smile, open your eyes, love and go on.

Acknowledgements

The family of Carolyn Clay extends their heartfelt gratitude to each of you for the many acts of kindness, love, and compassion shown to us during this difficult time. We would like to extend a special thank you to the doctors and nursing staff of Tift Regional Hospital – Third Floor West, as well as the dedicated staff of Vista Park Health & Rehabilitation and Affinis Hospice Care, for the excellent care, support, and professionalism provided to Carolyn and our family. Your kindness and care will always be remembered and deeply appreciated. May God richly bless each of you is our prayer.

The Clay Family

Final Arrangements Entrusted To:

HARRELL'S FUNERAL HOME
400 E. Cherry Street ~ Douglas, Georgia 31533
Licensed Director/Embalmer, Sidney K. Harrell
Office: (912) 384-2251
www.harrellsfuneralhome.com

Celebration of Life For



Carolyn Clay

February 17, 1943 - September 26, 2026

Saturday, October 3, 2026
11:00 AM

Vickers Rural Cemetery

Highway 158 West
Ambrose, Georgia 31642
Bishop Craig Johnson, Eulogist

Order of Service

Processional.....Ministers & Families

Invocation.....Bishop Craig Johnson

Scripture Reading.....Reverend Stephanie Walton

Solo.....Minister Kentaiwon Carter-Durham

Eulogy.....Bishop Craig Johnson

Acknowledgements.....Harrell's Staff

Committal Services

Benediction



Earth's Final Resting Place

Vickers Rural Cemetery
Highway 158 West
Ambrose, Georgia 31642

Obituary

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: He leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: ~ Psalm 23:2-3

Carolyn Clay was born on February 17, 1943, in Douglas, GA to the late Walter Franklin Clay and Ruby Lee Vaughn Clay. Six siblings preceded her in death: Kathleen Clay, Freddie Lee Clay, Billy Ray Clay, Sr., Jerry Jefferson Clay, Sr., and Linda Faye Clay Phillips.

She attended George Washington Carver Elementary and High School graduating with the class of 1961. After high school she remained in Douglas and worked at South Georgia College supervised by the late Johnnie Lee Roper, TG&Y, Winn Dixie and Walmart where she retired as a cashier after 15 years of employment. She never met a stranger and had many "work-babies" that started as relationships to teach the successfulness of the workplace that spilled over into lifelong relationships. She was a serious activist for change in Douglas during the pivotal years in transformation of the city during segregation.

In her childhood years, she attended Macedonia Baptist Church and willingly attended Sunday School and took an active role in the church choir until she joined Gaines Chapel AME Church in the early 1970s under Rev. D.H. Jackson, where she continued to serve the Lord and the community as the Young People's Department (YPD) leader and an adult choir member for many years. Although she no longer held an office, she remained a member and renewed her commitment a few months ago under the leadership of Rev. Stephanie Walton before she departed this life on September 26, 2026, in hospice long-term care at Vista Park Health & Rehabilitation in Douglas, GA.

She leaves to mourn her two children: Charles Anthony Clay, Sr. and Felicia LaShawn Allen; four grandchildren: Charles Anthony Clay, Jr. (Anika), Kejuan Ontario Clay, Aubrey Carol Lawrence (Daniel), Andre Mose Bee; four great-grandchildren: Austen John Wiggins, Carmen Rue Auraya Lawrence, Nyomi Williams and Blessings Serenity Queen Clay; five brothers: Lonnie Paul Clay, Jimmy K. Clay, Sr. (Nina), George Curry, Sr. (Yolanda), Walter Curry and Timothy Clay; three sisters: Elmira Clay King Griffin (John), Debra Clay Wallace (Herman) and Frankie Wilson; a very special nephew: Ronnie Lee Graham, Sr. (Sophia); lifelong friend/sister, Mrs. Betty Wilson Stewart and a host of other relatives and friends.

CAROLYN CLAY