



Mrs. Arella Rena Ellis

June 24, 1948 - March 14, 2025

“I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:” II Timothy 4:7

Arella Rena Ellis (affectionately known as Rena) was born June 24, 1948, in Starkville, Mississippi to Thomas and Ella Ellis, who preceded her in death. She accepted Christ at an early age at Pine Grove M.B. Church. She later transferred her membership to Mt. Olivet M.B. Church.

Rena graduated from B.L. Moor High School in Crawford. After graduating she relocated to Chicago, Illinois, and attended Jones Business College, South Shore Community College, and Lydia Adams Beauty College, where she received her degree in Cosmetology.

In 1968, Rena and Tyrone were joined in holy matrimony in Chicago. In 1972, they moved back to Starkville where they became business owners, opening Wig Island and LaVilla Hair Care Salon. From 1998 to 2005, they owned and managed the Bread of Life Christian Bookstore in downtown Starkville.

Rena loved her family, especially her two children and seven grandchildren. She enjoyed traveling to New York to catch an occasional Broadway play and she loved a good slice of cake or pie on occasion. She also found joy in serving as President of the Oktibbeha County Democratic Women and as a

member of the Oktibbeha County School Board. From 1994 to 2021, Rena served as the First Lady of Running Water Baptist Church in Shuqualak, Mississippi, where, in addition to First Lady duties, she was Chair of Women for Christ Ministries.

On the morning of Friday, March 14, 2025, at 6:30 a.m., the Lord called Rena to her Heavenly Home.

Rena leaves to cherish her memory a loving and devoted husband of 57 years, Tyrone Ellis; a son, Stephen T. Ellis of Starkville; a daughter, Stephanie R. (Rashad) Witherspoon of Starkville; 7 grandchildren - Zoie, Isaiah, Karter, Isley, Isla, Ivy Rose, and I'dris;

7 Sisters: Loddie Clark of Chicago, IL; Nancy Glenn of Atlanta, GA; Era Jean Ellis of Chicago, IL; Essie R. (Lester) Barnes of Milwaukee, WI; Shirley Harris of Atlanta, GA; Evelyn Ellis of Starkville, MS; and Brenda D. Johnson of Starkville, MS;

3 Brothers: Leonard Ellis of Columbus, MS; Willie Clyde (Angie) Ellis of Starkville, MS; and Ivan D. Hudson of Starkville, MS;

5 sisters-in-law and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

Service will live-stream on Facebook Live at
Mt Olivet MB Church

Cemetery Details

Memorial Gardens Park

9036 Oktoc Road
Starkville, MS

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 21. 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM (CT)

Hairston & Hairston Funeral Homes - Starkville
112 Earnest H Jones Jr Dr
Starkville, MS 39759
(662) 323-5854

Funeral Service

MAR 22. 1:00 PM (CT)

Mt. Olivet M.B. Church
1966 Mt Olive Road
Starkville, MS 39759

Bishop James Covington, officiating

Tribute Wall

LJ

“ Lana And Dennis Johnson lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Arella Rena Ellis



Lana and Dennis Johnson - May 05, 2025 at 04:17 PM

BF

“ Bessie Ferguson lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Arella Rena Ellis



Bessie Ferguson - April 04, 2025 at 08:11 PM

BC

“ Bessie Collier lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Arella Rena Ellis



Bessie Collier - March 26, 2025 at 02:05 AM

PW

“ Patricia Wynn lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Arella Rena Ellis



Patricia Wynn - March 24, 2025 at 09:34 PM

AN

“ *Annie Norman sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Arella Rena Ellis*



Annie Norman - March 24, 2025 at 08:30 AM

PR

“ *Condolences to the family and Rena will be missed*



Peggy Rogers - March 22, 2025 at 02:12 PM

BR

“ *Barbara Roberson lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Arella Rena Ellis*



Barbara Roberson - March 22, 2025 at 12:58 PM

TB

“ *Sending love, hugs and prayers to Uncle Tyrone, Stephen and Stephanie. Aunt Rena will be surely missed.*



Terra Barnes-Posey - March 22, 2025 at 10:45 AM

MS

“ *Macie Sanders sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Arella Rena Ellis*



macie Sanders - March 21, 2025 at 08:34 PM

AL

“ *May peace be with your family Annie E Love*

Annie Love - March 21, 2025 at 03:55 PM

GB

“ *May the memories of your loved one bring you comfort and peace during this difficult time*

Gloria Malone Blunt



Gloria M Blunt - March 21, 2025 at 12:31 PM

AM

“ *My deepest condolences to the Ellis Family*

Annie J Malone



Annie J Malone - March 21, 2025 at 12:27 PM

BH

My deepest sympathy and condolences to you and your family ❤️

Barbara Harris - March 21, 2025 at 04:36 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Mrs. Arella Rena Ellis.*



March 21, 2025 at 08:49 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Mrs. Arella Rena Ellis.

March 21, 2025 at 08:49 AM



“ *My deepest condolences to the family. My prayers are with you.*

Lanendra Tate - March 21, 2025 at 01:48 AM



Sincere condolences to Rev. Ellis and family, Sis. Ellis was a lovely woman of God adorned with both outer and inner beauty. 🙏❤️
Claretha H. Johnson

Claretha H. Johnson - March 21, 2025 at 04:25 PM



“ *We are sending our deepest condolences and prayers to the family of MRS. ARELLA RENA ELLIS.*

May God Comfort and strength each of you in the days to come.

Much Prayer,

Rev. Dr. Willie H. and Dr. Letha Johnson



Rev. Dr. Willie H. and Dr. Letha Johnson - March 21, 2025 at 12:59 AM

MC

“ *Maggie Cooks lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Arella Rena Ellis*



Maggie Cooks - March 20, 2025 at 11:13 PM

PD

“ *Our heartfelt sympathy and condolences goes out to the Ellis family we are praying for you!!* 🙏
🙏



Pam and Annie (Nip) Dancer - March 20, 2025 at 10:40 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mrs. Arella Rena Ellis.*



March 20, 2025 at 10:15 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mrs. Arella Rena Ellis.*



March 20, 2025 at 08:46 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Mrs. Arella Rena Ellis.

March 20, 2025 at 08:46 PM



“ Adams Family lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Arella Rena Ellis



Adams family - March 20, 2025 at 03:55 PM



“ Heartfelt sympathy and prayers are with the family.



Dorothy Lanier - March 20, 2025 at 02:43 PM



“ She was a beautiful person . Had the most beautiful smile. Prayers goes out to Tyrone and the family



Vanessa Calmes - March 20, 2025 at 01:08 PM

BK

“ *Brenda Kemp lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Arella Rena Ellis*



Brenda Kemp - March 20, 2025 at 11:23 AM

AN

“ *Annie Norman sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Arella Rena Ellis*



Annie Norman - March 20, 2025 at 10:04 AM

LF

“ *Lance Nichols And Family lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Arella Rena Ellis*



Lance Nichols and Family - March 20, 2025 at 09:54 AM

GR

“ *Glenda Roberts sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Arella Rena Ellis*



Glenda roberts - March 20, 2025 at 08:15 AM

JW

“ *Our Deepest Sympathy. We are praying you all Strength. Doing this difficult time... John /Lula Watson*



John/Lula Watson - March 20, 2025 at 08:10 AM

TM

“ *The One Voice Family (S. Mock) purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Mrs. Arella Rena Ellis.*



The One Voice Family (S. Mock) - March 20, 2025 at 07:26 AM

RJ

“ *Rita Jones sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Arella Rena Ellis*



Rita Jones - March 20, 2025 at 05:59 AM

C&

“ *Callie Bibbs &Family's sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Arella Rena Ellis*



Callie Bibbs &Family's - March 20, 2025 at 03:27 AM

DJ

“ *Dora Jackson lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Arella Rena Ellis*



Dora Jackson - March 20, 2025 at 02:53 AM

CW

“ *Our thoughts, prayers and condolences are sent to the Ellis family.*



Charles & Frances Wilson - March 20, 2025 at 01:10 AM

MC

“ *Sending prayers and condolences to Pastor Tyrone Ellis and family.' Sister Rena was a jewel of a lovely lady. May the Lord give you peace and encourage your hearts 🙏❤️*

Pastor Tommy L Cox & Mrs Yvonne B Cox & Family 🙏🙏🙏

Mrs Yvonne Bardwell Cox - March 20, 2025 at 01:06 AM

EC

“ *Elder And Sister Fredrick Connors lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Arella Rena Ellis*



Elder and Sister Fredrick Connors - March 20, 2025 at 12:34 AM

WB

“ Wanda Bell lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Arella Rena Ellis



Wanda Bell - March 19, 2025 at 11:57 PM

LS

“ Lynn Staples lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Arella Rena Ellis



Lynn Staples - March 19, 2025 at 11:55 PM

PD

“ Rena Ellis was a beautiful lady both inside and outside. May she rest in eternal peace with her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Patti Drapala - March 19, 2025 at 10:06 PM

TW

“ TONYA L WILSON lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Arella Rena Ellis



TONYA L WILSON - March 19, 2025 at 10:02 PM

BJ

“ You all have my deepest sympathy and prayers



Bonita Q Jordan - March 19, 2025 at 09:45 PM

MM

“ Monroe Miller lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Arella Rena Ellis



Monroe Miller - March 19, 2025 at 09:43 PM

JM

“ Jerdine Shelton Malone lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Arella Rena Ellis



Jerdine Shelton Malone - March 19, 2025 at 09:34 PM

EW

“ Ella Watson lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Arella Rena Ellis



Ella Watson - March 19, 2025 at 07:46 PM

CJ

“ Clara B. Jones sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Arella Rena Ellis



Clara B. Jones - March 19, 2025 at 07:37 PM



“ Lorene Osby lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Arella Rena Ellis



Lorene Osby - March 19, 2025 at 07:22 PM

QM

“ Queen Malone sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Arella Rena Ellis



Queen Malone - March 19, 2025 at 10:52 AM

DF

“ Delois Farmer lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Arella Rena Ellis



Delois Farmer - March 19, 2025 at 10:08 AM

DS

“ Dr. Willie Earl & Carrie Thomas, Sr. sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Arella Rena Ellis



Dr. Willie Earl & Carrie Thomas, Sr. - March 19, 2025 at 09:15 AM

WO

“ Walter And Lois O'Neal sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Arella Rena Ellis



Walter and Lois O'Neal - March 19, 2025 at 09:13 AM

HG

“ Helen Glenn lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Arella Rena Ellis



Helen Glenn - March 19, 2025 at 12:22 AM

EM

“ Emma Ellis Mays lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Arella Rena Ellis



Emma Ellis Mays - March 18, 2025 at 08:10 PM

RW

“ Regina Wilson lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Arella Rena Ellis



Regina Wilson - March 18, 2025 at 07:08 PM

ST

“ Santina Tate lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Arella Rena Ellis



Santina Tate - March 18, 2025 at 07:08 PM

WC

“ Walter And Gloria Conley lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Arella Rena Ellis



Walter and Gloria Conley - March 18, 2025 at 05:21 PM

AB

“ Sending my heartfelt condolences to the entire family!



Ann Bishop-Harris - March 18, 2025 at 05:02 PM

AB

“ *My condolences praying God will give the family strength during this difficult time.*



Amanda Brooks - March 18, 2025 at 04:51 PM

SW

“ *Susie Wynn lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Arella Rena Ellis*



Susie Wynn - March 18, 2025 at 03:34 PM

DF

“ *Doris C Garmon & Family sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Arella Rena Ellis*



Doris C Garmon & family - March 18, 2025 at 01:30 PM

CT

“ *Clifton & Catherine Tate sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Arella Rena Ellis*



Clifton & Catherine Tate - March 18, 2025 at 12:58 PM

TJ

“ To our dearest friends: Pastor Ty, Steven, Stef & grands, we were heartbroken to hear of Rena's transition. Rena will always be in our ♥♥ hearts. We're praying peace for the family. Rev. Thomas Jr., Helen & Tiffany. Psalm 23

Thomas & Helen Gladney Jr. - March 18, 2025 at 12:24 PM

RC

“ My Sincere Sympathy to the family. May you find comfort in her memories 🙏.



Rhonda J. Conner - March 18, 2025 at 11:50 AM

BH

“ BARBARA WILLIAMS HILL sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Arella Rena Ellis



BARBARA WILLIAMS HILL - March 18, 2025 at 10:25 AM

HS

“ Henry&Annie Sherman lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Arella Rena Ellis



Henry&Annie sherman - March 18, 2025 at 09:45 AM

RL

“ *Renee Lanier lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Arella Rena Ellis*



Renee Lanier - March 18, 2025 at 08:02 AM

CR

“ *Cynthia Robinson sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Arella Rena Ellis*



Cynthia Robinson - March 17, 2025 at 11:46 PM