



Mrs. Ada Verneil Poe Reed

January 21, 1934 - August 31, 2024

Ada Verneil Poe-Reed, affectionately known as Verneil, Neil, or Sis, was born on January 21, 1934, in Pinson, TN, Madison County. She departed this life on August 31, 2024. Verneil was the eldest of eight daughters born to Van Poe and Jennie McHaney-Poe-Ross.

Growing up in a rural community during the 1930s, she began her formal education in a one-room schoolhouse. Despite the challenges, her thirst for knowledge remained undeterred. As she advanced in her studies, she also helped educate younger children.

Verneil graduated from the Historic Merry High School in Jackson, TN, the city's only secondary school for Black youth at the time. She was an active member of the band and drama club, renowned for her one-woman acts. Her classmates fondly recalled assemblies where Verneil shone as the lead actress in drama club productions.

Verneil was steadfast in her faith, baptized into Christ at a young age by the late Minister Marshall Keeble at Oak Grove Church of Christ in Henderson, TN. She later moved her membership to the Hunt and Cumberland Church of Christ, which eventually became the East Jackson Church of Christ in Jackson, TN. Verneil remained a faithful member until her passing. She served as a Sunday School teacher for the Young Ladies class, a Wednesday

night Bible class teacher, and initiated the Friday night Ladies Class. Verneil was also integral in planning food-related events at the church. She will be deeply missed by the East Jackson Church of Christ community.

In August 1949, Verneil met the love of her life, Minor "Simon" Reed, while working at a small café. They quickly discovered they had much in common, including the same birthday, a love of sports, and the gift of gab. Their mutual admiration soon blossomed into plans for a future together. They were united in holy matrimony on January 20, 1951, and remained happily married until Minor's passing. Verneil often said, "No man on earth could replace her Simon," and no one ever did.

Verneil was a dedicated homemaker but soon realized that additional income was necessary to support her family. Throughout her career, she worked for various companies and, after over 30 years of service, retired from American Olean Tile Company, where she was one of the first Black women hired. Verneil was a true entrepreneur.

The jewel of her accomplishments was Royal Reed's, a business she and Minor started while both were employed full-time. Royal Reed's operated from the late 1970s until 2019 and was renowned throughout West Tennessee for its delicious meals, set-ups, and service. It was recognized as one of the best restaurants in Jackson, TN, serving Governors, Representatives, Mayors, Dignitaries, and the wonderful people of the Jackson community. Verneil ensured that everyone who entered their doors felt welcome. Many sought to discover the secret ingredients to her signature dishes, but the special ingredient was always LOVE.

Verneil is preceded in death by her husband of 51 years, Minor Reed; her parents, Van Poe and Jennie McHaney Poe-Ross; and her sisters, Edna Carolyn Poe-Beaman and Ouida Jennette Poe-Bond-Mensah.

She leaves to cherish her memory her children: Errol Beaunita Reed-Bowles (Roger), Minor Edward Reed (Cyd), Walter Anthony Reed (Debra), Angela Parthenia Reed-Jeffery (John), all of Jackson, TN, and Frank Kennedy Reed of Houston, TX. She is also survived by her sisters: Bobbie Charlene Poe-Guess (Emmett) and Corean Poe-Steele, both of Jackson, TN; Lucy Faye Poe-Strong (Bill) of Drummonds, TN; Drue Helen Poe-Cole-Burton of Los Angeles, CA; and Thornald Marie Poe-Guess of Fayetteville, NC. Additionally, she leaves behind thirteen grandchildren, twenty great-grandchildren, and a host of nephews, nieces, cousins, extended family, and friends.

Cemetery Details

Parkway Memorial Gardens

2839 Paul Coffman Drive
Jackson, TN 38301

Previous Events

Viewing

SEP 6. 12:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

Stephenson-Shaw Funeral Home, Inc.
807 N. Hays Avenue
Jackson, TN 38301
(731) 427-7411
info@stephenson-shaw.com
<https://www.stephenson-shaw.com>

Family Hour

SEP 7. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

East Jackson Church of Christ
1461 East Chester Street
Jackson, TN 38301

Celebration of Life

SEP 7. 12:00 PM (CT)

East Jackson Church of Christ
1461 East Chester Street
Jackson, TN 38301

Tribute Wall



“ *Stephenson-Shaw Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Mrs. Ada Verneil Poe Reed*



Stephenson-Shaw Funeral Home, Inc - September 06, 2024 at 09:43 AM

LD

“ *A Beautiful Christian Lady, who will be missed. Condolences to the family. Praying for peace and comfort at this difficult time.* ❤️



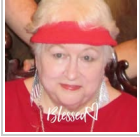
Larry and Mary Davis - September 07, 2024 at 11:20 AM

PF

“ *Phyllis Dyson & family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Mrs. Ada Verneil Poe Reed.*



Phyllis Dyson & family - September 06, 2024 at 08:43 PM



“ We spent many pleasant mealtimes at Royal Reed's, and were not only impressed by the delicious food, but also the warm greetings and cheerful attitude of everyone working there. We knew from observing the members of her family there that she was a wonderful mother. We felt kinship with that Christian family. Sympathy to the family of this lovely lady.



Mary Christie - September 06, 2024 at 05:53 PM

BO

“ Billy and Gloria Ozment planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mrs. Ada Verneil Poe Reed.

Billy and Gloria Ozment - September 06, 2024 at 08:03 AM

BO

“ Billy and Gloria Ozment purchased the Crystal Cross Bouquet for the family of Mrs. Ada Verneil Poe Reed.



Billy and Gloria Ozment - September 06, 2024 at 08:03 AM

CJ

“ Carlton Jordan purchased the Simply Elegant Sp
athiphyllum for the family of Mrs. Ada Verneil Poe
Reed.



Carlton Jordan - September 05, 2024 at 10:20 PM

MR

“ Marion Rogers-McCurry lit a candle in
memory of Ada Reed



Marion Rogers-McCurry - September 04, 2024 at 03:16 PM

DB

“ Dr. Bryant Brazeal and Dr. Ian Barretf planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in
honor of Mrs. Ada Verneil Poe Reed.

Dr. Bryant Brazeal and Dr. Ian Barretf - September 04, 2024 at 03:07 PM

DB

“ Dr. Bryant Brazeal and Dr. Ian Barretf purchased
the Serene Retreat for the family of Mrs. Ada
Verneil Poe Reed.



Dr. Bryant Brazeal and Dr. Ian Barretf - September 04, 2024 at
03:07 PM

EG

“ *Elnor Gray lit a candle in memory of Ada Reed*



Elnor Gray - September 04, 2024 at 12:19 PM

LJ

“ *My Prayers and Condolences to the Family... so sorry for your loss*



Loretta Jones-Long - September 04, 2024 at 12:17 PM

RC

“ *My Deepest Condolences to the Reed family in your time of sorrow. I Was blessed to have known her through her daughter and son in law. John and Angela Jeffrey's. Truly sorry for your loss. Love Ruthy Campbell*



Ruthy A Campbell - September 03, 2024 at 11:32 PM

EG

“ Sister Verneil Reed was my 1st Sunday School teacher during all my teenage years at Middleton and Payne Street Church of Christ- East Jackson Street Church of Christ.

She taught me to love God and love His Word.

Sister Verneil Reed had a deep, sincere, committed heart for God and a love for people.

She exhibited all the important qualities of a great Sunday School teacher – not because she had to, but because that’s who she was. And it forever changed my life for good.

My thoughts and prayers are with the family



Elner Gray - September 03, 2024 at 03:14 PM

VJ

“ Velma Johnson lit a candle in memory of Ada Reed



Velma Johnson - September 03, 2024 at 08:05 AM

EJ

“ We All Cherish My Memories of Sis Reed, Beautiful Sister Inside and Out, RIH❤️

Prayers and Condolences to the Reed Family 🙏❤️🙏 Love Eddie W Gray, Jr and Famy

Eddie W Gray Jr - September 02, 2024 at 05:30 PM

AB

“ This was a lady who raised a fine family and worked very hard all her life and never complained. She will be missed, but heaven was waiting for her.

anne Burke - September 02, 2024 at 10:48 AM

LJ

“ Loretta Jones-Long lit a candle in memory of Ada Reed



Loretta Jones-Long - September 01, 2024 at 10:03 PM

PK

“ Sister Reed will be greatly missed. She was sweet, kind, gentle, generous with her wisdom and a compassionate person. She always had a smile and a kind word for anyone that came into her presence. I always felt comfortable being around her because she was a genuinely caring person. To the Reed Family you have my deepest sympathies!



Patricia Kirk - September 01, 2024 at 06:49 PM



“ You were such the sweetest person on the planet. It was always good to be encouraged by you. You are going to be sorely missed but always loved.

Danny Mann - August 31, 2024 at 11:15 PM

MF

“ *Mary Frye lit a candle in memory of Ada Reed*



Mary Frye - August 31, 2024 at 05:41 PM

CT

“ *Catherine Taylor lit a candle in memory of
Ada Reed*



Catherine Taylor - August 31, 2024 at 12:58 PM