



Ms. Ernestine Beard

September 22, 1935 - January 31, 2026

Ernestine Beard left this earthly world for her heavenly home on January 31, 2026. She was born in Haywood County, TN, on September 22, 1935, to Richard and Juanita Nichelson.

There, she completed her formal education, graduating from Carver High School in Brownsville, TN, and then earned her B.S. in Education from Lane College in Jackson, TN. During that tenure, she joined Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Incorporated.

She later married and welcomed her only child, her daughter, Zackie Anita Beard, who preceded her in death. She confessed her faith in Christ at an early age with Cane Creek Missionary Baptist Church. She later relocated and became a member of Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church in Jackson, TN, where she contributed in multiple capacities.

Cherished for the indelible mark she left as an educator in the Haywood County School system for 38 plus years, she received numerous awards for her singular knack at progressing Special Education students to the approved state testing standards. She is best remembered for her infectious laughter and smile, and for the warmth she always emanated.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Richard and Juanita Nichelson; her daughter, Zackie Anita Beard; her brothers, Lloyd Nichelson and James Edward Nicholson; and her sister, Dorothy Sherrell.

Ernestine is survived by her loving Nieces, Nephews, Cousins, Friends, and Sister-In-Law.

Cemetery Details

Highland Memorial Gardens

3360 Highway45 North
Jackson, TN 38305

Previous Events

Family Hour

FEB 8. 12:00 PM - 1:00 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>

Celebration of Life

FEB 8. 1:00 PM (CT)

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Tribute Wall



“ *Stephenson-Shaw Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Ms. Ernestine Beard*



Stephenson-Shaw Funeral Home, Inc - February 08 at 01:50 PM

SW

“ *My deepest sympathies to the family and friends of Mrs Earnestine Beard. I have great memories of being in her classroom at Sunny Hill. She was a great person and pushed us to be our best. Mrs Beard cared deeply for us. My Love to the Nicholson family!*

Sharon Shaw Waller - February 08 at 08:59 AM

RC

“ *I remember her from when I was younger, she always had a beautiful smile. Sincere condolences to the family.*



Ruth Clark-Byars - February 03 at 09:48 PM

DF

“ I remember Mrs Beard from my elementary days and family. Such a very sweet woman of God. I am the oldest granddaughter of Ivory Faye and Booker Dickerson (Ivory Faye is Sally Pearl Nicholson’s sister). I also remember Mr Lloyd singing in a Gospel Group.
Praying for Family, love y’all!

Debra Dickerdon n Family - January 31 at 05:38 PM



She was my 4th grade teacher @Eastside Elementary school
Brownsville Tn, Oh what a mighty sweet lady my condolences to the family 🙏

Glenn Swift - February 08 at 05:18 PM

DJ

“ Strength Lord



Diannitta Jones - January 31 at 04:50 PM