



## Mrs. Nell Smith Rainer

August 11, 1943 - May 13, 2025

Nell Smith Rainer, a beloved mother, grandmother, educator, and faithful servant of Jehovah, passed away peacefully in her hometown of Jackson, Tennessee.

Born on August 11, 1943, to Mary Maxwell and Joe Smith, Nell was raised in Jackson and lived a life deeply rooted in love, humility, and purpose. She attended Lane College, where she was honored as Homecoming Queen — a reflection of the grace, kindness, and quiet strength that defined her throughout her life.

After completing her education, Nell dedicated her professional life to shaping young minds as a Physical Education teacher at Parkview Elementary School. She believed in nurturing the whole child — encouraging confidence, health, and joy in every student she taught. Her legacy as an educator lives on in the lives of those she inspired.

On June 9, 1965, Nell married the love of her life, Essie Rainer Jr., in a heartfelt ceremony at her childhood home on Lincoln Street. Their marriage was one of laughter, faith, and enduring love. Nell often affectionately referred to Essie as “the most handsomest man.” Together, they raised two children, Mia Moniquel Rainer and Marlon Rainer, who were the light of her life.

Later in life, Nell deepened her spiritual journey and became one of Jehovah’s Witnesses, publicly dedicating her life to Jehovah through baptism. She found immense joy, peace, and purpose in her faith, and was deeply loved and respected by her spiritual brothers and sisters. She especially enjoyed the close fellowship of her congregation and was known for organizing small gatherings filled with laughter and love — and her favorite card game, Bid Whist.

Nell also had an eye for fashion and could turn any outfit into a statement. Her favorite place to shop was the Goodwill, where she could spot a hidden gem like no one else. One thing she knew how to do was put an outfit together — and once she did, you couldn’t tell her nothing! She was always dressed from head to toe, confident, stylish, and

unmistakably Nell.

Nell leaves behind her daughter, Mia Moniquel Rainer; seven grandchildren: Mercedes Rainer, Tyler Harper, Justin Clark, Brent Rainer, Alexis Rainer, Alicia Rainer, Aleia Rainer; thirteen great-grandchildren; Makaya Rainer, Mariah Harris, Makenlie Harris, Madisyn Miller, Avery Harper, Noah Harper, Aulani Harper, Harmony Harper, Richie Clark Jr, Alyssa Clark, Siblings: Joe Smith Jr., Percy Jones, Patricia Smith; and a host of other siblings, extended family, and a loving congregation of spiritual family and friends.

“She loved Jehovah with all her heart, and we know she is safely in His memory.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

JUN 7. 2:00 PM (CT)

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

# Tribute Wall

CB

“ *Sending my deepest condolences to the family*



**Corean Beard** - June 03, 2025 at 09:43 PM

LM

“ *Prayers and Condolences to the family*



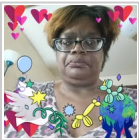
**Latonya Mcknuckles~Finch** - June 03, 2025 at 02:37 PM

BF

“ *She will be truly missed. Beautiful lady inside and out*



**Benita Fuller** - June 03, 2025 at 03:12 AM



“ *Annette Brister lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Nell Smith Rainer*



**Annette Brister** - May 30, 2025 at 12:54 AM

TG

“ *My condolences and prayers for the family, friends, and all who knew Ms. Rainer.*

*~Tamara Gray*



**Tamara Gray** - May 26, 2025 at 08:59 AM



“ *Angela Coleman lit a candle in memory of Nell Rainer*



Angela Coleman - May 24, 2025 at 02:17 PM



“ *Mrs. Rainer always knew how to calm me down and keep me on track and keep me focused. Anyone who has ever come into co tact with Mrs. Rainer er, I know she made a lasting impression. You will be truly missed. Rest in peace.*

❤️



Yolanda (Stinson) Tate - May 24, 2025 at 09:11 AM



“ *Agnes H. Yarborough lit a candle in memory of Nell Rainer*



Agnes H. Yarborough - May 22, 2025 at 10:12 PM



“ *This lady right here was the all time greatest P.E. teacher. Prayers for her family and all that knew her*

Benita Fuller - May 20, 2025 at 08:22 PM



*Nell Smith Rainer was one of the most beautiful ladies that ever lived in Jackson, Tennessee. She was definitely pretty but her beauty came from her core qualities that made her special. I often wondered why she was never elected Miss Lane College. She was the complete package of womanhood. Prayers go out to the family and all Lanites.*

Dr. Leo LaSimba M. Gray, Jr. - May 24, 2025 at 06:52 AM



*Nell Smith Rainer was one the most attractive women to ever walk on the campus of Lane College. She was no question beautiful but her inner qualities made her special. If there were a Lane College Hall of Fame for beauty and poise, Nell would have to be on the First Class. Nell, rest in 🕊️ peace. Leo LaSimba Gray*

Dr. Leo LaSimba M. Gray, Jr. - May 24, 2025 at 07:05 AM

AF

*Neil Smith Rainer "Aunt Neil" you were always poised, polite; and whatever storm you were going through no one knew, (until you decided to confide) because your inward beauty was so profound that it magnified your natural beauty. You can truly rest now.*  
*Mr. & Mrs. Amos and Toni (Shaw) Freeman, Sr*

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**Amos Freeman** - June 03, 2025 at 03:24 AM