



Neller Jean Byers

August 4, 1937 - April 11, 2019

Obituary

Neller Jean Byers was born August 4, 1937 in Solgohachia, Arkansas, she was the youngest child born to the union of Pinkney and Little (Cooper) Brown Hemphill. She was preceded in death by her parents; step-father Oliver Hemphill; three brothers: Curtis, Issac (IJ), Harold (HD) five sisters; Opal, Lola, Erma Lee, Hazel and Ruby. She received her education in the Conway, County Arkansas School System, graduating in 1955 from Conway County Training School in Menifee, Arkansas. She was quiet and small in stature but when she hit the basketball court, she was one of the best.

Neller joined in holy matrimony in 1956 to the love of her life, Jonas Byers and this union was blessed with three loving and devoted daughters.

The Byers family relocated to Kansas City, Missouri in 1965, where she was a homemaker. She loved spending time with her family, whether it was at the dinner table enjoying delicious meals or traveling the states. "Jean" as she was affectionately known by most, has traveled all 50 states as well as abroad. Family dinners after church on Sunday at the Byers home became a tradition that is still carried out to this day, for over 30 years.

She was well known for her cooking and giving good advice. As stated earlier, she had a quiet spirit but when she spoke people listened and if you didn't

want to hear the truth she wasn't the person to ask because she was going to tell you the truth, not what you wanted to hear. Neller Jean confessed and accepted Christ at an early age at Pilgrim Baptist Church in Solgohachia, Arkansas, where she remained a member until relocating to Kansas City, Missouri. She then joined Palestine Missionary Baptist Church of Jesus Christ under the leadership of the late Reverend Earl Abel and now Reverend James Watkins. She was a faithful member and enjoyed her Sunday school class, where she served as secretary until her health failed. She received an award for "Mother of the Year" on Mother's Day in 1996, although she only had three biological children, she was a mother of many because of the way she carried herself. Neller Jean was often approached by family and church members expressing how they look up to her as a role model. Neller Jean also enjoyed gardening, if you passed her home in the spring or summer months you would most likely find her in the yard doing something. Strangers and neighbors would often stop and comment on her yard and plants. Jean was well known by many as the hat lady, if you were blessed with her presence outside of her home you were going to see a hat on her head. With that being said, today we tip our hats to you, Neller Jean Byers.

She is survived by her very loving and devoted husband of 62 years, Jonas Byers; three daughters Debroah (Ronald) Lewis, Sherry Byers and Vivian (Curtis) Goldman, two grandchildren; Curtis III and Courtney Goldman, a step daughter Shayla Goldman, a play daughter, Doris Lee, four sisters in law; Georgia Brown, Viola Garlington, Rosie Holloway and Doris Byers, two brothers in law; Scipio (Barbara) Byers and Henry Rainey, a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives and friends.

Funeral services will be held at 11:00 A.M. on Friday, April 19, 2019 at Palestine Missionary Baptist Church of Jesus Christ. Visitation 9:00 A.M. Interment Twelve Gates Memorial Gardens.

To send flowers
to the family or plant a tree
in memory of Neller Jean Byers, please visit our floral store.

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Tribute Wall

RM

“ Sherry, Deborah, Elaine & Mr Byers I have so many memories of your mom and feel lucky to have known her as a child. I remember how she loved to watch the soap operas while doing the laundry and I was fascinated that she still had the “old” spinner washing machine! And I will never forget that if you walked in your house you should plan on slipping on her shiny floors! May you all hold her memories close to your hearts.

Rita Taaffe McFarland - April 23, 2019 at 07:43 PM

KD

“ To The Byers Family: My deepest condolences for the loss ! Your Mother was Beautiful inside and out! A Godly Women who was fiercely and wonderful made! May she rest Well! Prayers for your family. Karen Dorsey

Karen Dorsey - April 19, 2019 at 10:29 PM

NJ

“ Elaine and Deb, (and to your dad and Sherri) my most heartfelt condolences at the loss of your mom. I only knew her for a short time, but she made the greatest impression on me when she and your dad opened their home and gave me a place to stay during a very difficult time of my life. My prayers are with you all.

Nina Johnson - April 19, 2019 at 12:09 PM

ES

“ *A Beautiful in Blue was sent on April 18, 2019 Uncle Jonas and family, my deepest sympathies and heartfelt love at this difficult time.*

Love, Laurinda Rainey (Renda)

Expression of Sympathy - April 18, 2019 at 07:56 PM

CV

“ *To: The Jonas Byers Families! Sending my sincere condolences to All, I will miss my cousin Jean I loved being in her company she had this amazing humor & those hats that set her off with class & style... will miss her dearly! Family Im praying for your strength 🙏 To God Be The Glory!!!*

Carolyn Marshall veasley - April 18, 2019 at 05:34 PM

CV

“ *To: the Byers family! Sending my sincere condolences to all family. I will miss Jean my cousin she was always had a sense of humor & I just loved her company and those hats was her signature always wore them with class & style... I love you cousin & will miss you dearly... family I pray for your strength! To God Be The Glory...*

Carolyn Marshall veasley - April 18, 2019 at 05:17 PM

CV

“ *A candle was lit in remembrance*

Carolyn Marshall veasley - April 18, 2019 at 05:06 PM

ES

“ *A MONET'S GARDEN TABLE BASKET was ordered on April 18, 2019*

Expression of Sympathy - April 18, 2019 at 04:22 PM