



Ms. Mary Ellen Ray

November 14, 1936 - April 12, 2026

Mary Ellen Ray, age 89, of Gaylesville, Alabama, passed away peacefully on April 12, 2026,

surrounded by her loving family and friends.

Ellen was born on November 14, 1936, in Summerville, Georgia, to Maudie Watson and Howard

Nicholson. She grew up in Cherokee County, Alabama, where she built a life centered around

family. Throughout her years, she was known for her loving heart and unwavering dedication to those she loved.

She attended Rhinehart School and later worked at Best Manufacturing. Ellen devoted much of

her life to being a homemaker, pouring her time and energy into caring for her family, which was

her greatest joy and proudest accomplishment.

Ellen is survived by her children: Larry (Janet) Ray, Susan Davis, Donna (Mark) Bradford, Steve

(Sheri) Ray, and Doug (Rebecca) Ray; and her sister, Evelyn Jennings. She also leaves behind

a legacy of 10 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Paul Ray; her mother, Maudie Watson; her

father, Howard Nicholson; her sisters, Patricia Verdin, Charlotte Hegwood, and Dorothy Hilyer; her brothers, Leroy Nicholson and Steven Howard Nicholson; her grandson, Brad Ray; and her son-in-law, Ronny Davis.

Ellen truly loved her family and was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, and sister, among many other titles. She came from a musical family and was gifted in playing the guitar and singing. She loved softball and was known to be quite talented on the field. She also found great joy in working in her yard, taking pride in her flowers and the beauty she created around her home. She was of the Baptist faith.

Visitation will be held on Wednesday, April 15, 2026, from 1:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. at Perry

Funeral Home Chapel, with funeral services following at 3:00 p.m. Rev. Stanley Koonce will

officiate. Burial will take place at Moseley Cemetery in Jamestown, Alabama.

Pallbearers will be Larry Paul Ray, Chris Ray, Tyler Bradford, Austin Mason, Jase Mason, and

Jamie Mason. Honorary Pallbearers will be Wayne Stancil, Shawn Kilgro, Zachary Shaw, and Coleman Ray.

Ellen will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved her.

“Well done, good and faithful servant... Enter into the joy of your Lord.” – Matthew 25:23

Perry Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

www.perryfuneral.net

Cemetery Details

Moseley Cemetery

Previous Events

Receive Friends

APR 15. 1:00 PM (CT)

Perry Funeral Home, Inc.
1611 East Bypass
Centre, AL 35960
(256) 927-3222
perryfh37@gmail.com

Funeral Service

APR 15. 3:00 PM (CT)

Perry Funeral Home Chapel
1611 E Bypass
Centre, AL 35960
skmrodgers@tds.net

Tribute Wall



“ Teresa Morgan Lankford lit a candle in memory of Mary Ellen Ray



Teresa Morgan Lankford - April 16 at 10:41 AM



“ 50 files added to the album Life Tributes



Perry Funeral Home Inc. - April 14 at 03:59 PM



“ Larry, Dewayne and Casey Hurley purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Ms. Mary Ellen Ray.



Larry, Dewayne and Casey Hurley - April 14 at 03:57 PM

KH

“ Ellen and I were co-workers at Best Mfg Co in the 1980s. I can never forget this sweet lady as she played a big part in sending me one of the greatest blessings of my life. Many prayers for the family.

Karen Howard - April 14 at 11:44 AM



“ The Endless Sky Spray was purchased for the family of Ms. Mary Ellen Ray.



April 13 at 09:44 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Ms. Mary Ellen Ray.

April 13 at 09:44 PM

MM

“ There are so many memories of Aunt Ellen and Uncle Paul and all the cousins. We grew up visiting on the weekends and playing with each other at Aunt Gussie’s house, watching the grown ups play Rook and laugh and talk . It was so much fun.
Aunt Ellen was so athletic, she was shortstop for our softball team, the Mustangs, not much got past her and we were unbeatable (most of the time).
I remember she and Larry singing together with some other friends. Mother (Vera) loved to hear them as did many of our friends.
That was over 50 years ago and time has flown. She will be missed and my heart breaks for my cousins and their families.
God bless you all,
Your cousin Martha.

Martha Bentley Matthews - April 13 at 08:58 PM

JC

“ So sorry for your loss, prayers for the family.



Joanne "Dot" Cavin - April 13 at 06:18 PM