



*Celebration  
of Life*

**MC TIGUE**  
*Denise Elaine*

*Sunrise: August 25, 1951 - Sunset: January 18, 2026*



**January 25, 2026 | 2:00 pm**

**Mt. Calvary Missionary Baptist Church  
27 Girtman Street. | Hazlehurst, GA 31539**

**Reverend Christian King, Pastor  
Elder Eddie Harmon, Presiding**

# Obituary

**Blessed are the pure in heart,  
for they shall see God.” – Matthew 5:8**

**Mrs. Deneise Elaine McRae, age 74, of Hazlehurst, Georgia, entered eternal rest on Saturday, January 18, 2026. She was born on August 25, 1951, in Hazlehurst, Georgia, to the late Mr. Lennis Johnson and Mrs. Margaret Johnson.**

**Mrs. McRae received her early education in the Hazlehurst school system and was a proud graduate of Hazlehurst High School. She continued her studies at Savannah State College, earning a degree in Education and answering a lifelong calling to teach.**

**For more than 36 years, Mrs. McRae served as an elementary school educator in Blackshear and Alamo, Georgia. Teaching was more than her profession—it was her ministry. She poured patience, love, and encouragement into every student, shaping countless young lives.**

**Beyond the classroom, Mrs. McRae was deeply engaged in her community. She served through civic and social organizations, including Women on the Move, and was a devoted member of Mt. Calvary Missionary Baptist Church, where she worshiped faithfully and supported the work of the church.**

**Known for her creativity and attention to detail, Mrs. McRae was a highly sought-after wedding coordinator. With grace, humor, and a loving firmness, she coordinated weddings throughout Hazlehurst and surrounding counties. No ceremony began until “Ms. Deneise” said it was time.**

**She was united in holy matrimony to Mr. William McRae, and from this union were born two children, Ms. Margaret McRae and Mr. George McRae. She was also a loving godmother to Mr. Phillip Ricks and Mr. Tyler Johnson and was blessed by the guidance of her godmother, Ms. Dorothy Harleston.**

**She leaves to cherish her memory three beloved grandchildren—Jayden King, Kahliyah Williams, and Khamari Anderson—who brought her immense joy.**

**Mrs. McRae was one of seven siblings and was preceded in death by Mr. Lennis Johnson, Mr. Jackie Johnson, and Mr. Donell Dorster. She leaves to cherish her memory her brothers: Mr. Melvin Johnson (Mrs. Bobbie Johnson) of Blackshear, Georgia; Mr. Dywane Johnson, her twin brother, of Hazlehurst, Georgia; and Mr. Jim Johnson of Hazlehurst, Georgia; along with her sisters-in-love, Mrs. Bobbie Johnson and Mrs. Shirley Johnson.**

**Through marriage, Mrs. McRae embraced her husband’s family as her own. She was preceded in death by Mr. Kenneth McRae, Ms. Irene McRae, Ms. Muriel McRae, Ms. Barbie Jean McRae, and Ms. Alice Thomas. She leaves to cherish her memory her brothers- and sisters-in-love: Ms. Joyce McRae (Mr. Sammie Lee) of Lumber City, Georgia; Ms. Ernestine James (Mr. Ernest) of Alamo, Georgia; Mr. Bill McRae of Lumber City, Georgia; and her stepdaughter, Ms. Marion Black.**

**Raised by her grandmother, Mrs. Elizabeth Sanders, and supported by her aunt, Mrs. Catherine Ricks, Mrs. McRae shared close bonds with her cousins, including Mr. Wallace Sanders and Mrs. Cletis Ricks, both preceding her in death, and Ms. Gwendolyn Ricks and Ms. Patricia Sanders.**

**She also leaves to cherish her memory two nieces, Ms. Louise Johnson and Ms. Yolanda Walker, and three nephews, Mr. Randall Johnson, Mr. Ryan Johnson, and Mr. Brian Johnson, along with special cousins, former students, colleagues, church family, and friends.**

**Mrs. Deneise Elaine McRae lived a life of faith, service, creativity, and love. Her legacy endures in the many lives she touched and the community she served with devotion and grace.**





## *Honorary Pallbearers*

Buddy Johnson

Keith Johnson

Kenny Dove

Albert Rumph

Curtis Golden

Lee Tyson

William Burley



## *Active Pallbearers*

Nephews and Cousins

## *Flower Attendants*

Nieces and Cousins

## *Internment*

Northview Cemetery

Hazlehurst, GA

## *Repast*

Mt. Calvary Missionary

Baptist Church

Hazlehurst, GA

## *Acknowledgements*

Our family extends our deepest gratitude for your unwavering support, kindness, and prayers during this difficult time. Your expressions of love have brought us strength and comfort, and we are truly blessed to have such caring family and friends. We offer special appreciation to the compassionate staff of Georgia Hospice of Jesup, HCA Florida Memorial Hospital, and Jeff Davis Hospital. Your dedication and care will forever be cherished in our hearts. Thank you all, and may God bless you for walking with us on this journey of remembrance and love.

~The family of Deneise McRae



Final arrangements and obituary design entrusted to

Thornton's Funeral Home

26 N. Miller St., Hazlehurst, GA 31539

[www.thorntonsfuneralhome.com](http://www.thorntonsfuneralhome.com)