

Acknowledgments

The family of Joyce Marie Duncan Ray extends sincere appreciation for all acts of kindness, love, and support shown during our time of bereavement.

Your prayers, comforting words, phone calls, visits, flowers, and every thoughtful gesture have meant so much to us.

May God bless each of you abundantly.

*Those we love don't go away,
they walk beside us every day.
Unseen, unheard, but always near,
still loved, still missed,
and very dear.*



Sanders Funeral Home
806 E Market St • Smithfield, NC 27577
Phone: (919) 934-8416

Celebrating *the Life of*



Joyce Marie *Duncan Ray*

AUGUST 30, 1957 — JULY 26, 2026



Funeral Service

Wednesday, August 5, 2026
Noon

Sanders Funeral Home Chapel

Reflections

Joyce Marie Duncan Ray, age 68, peacefully departed this life on July 26, 2026.

Born on August 30, 1957, in Clayton, North Carolina, Joyce was the beloved daughter of the late Ola Bell Duncan and Hubert Duncan. She was one of twelve siblings and was raised in a large, loving family where faith, togetherness, and compassion were the foundation of her life.

Joyce later made her home in Fuquay-Varina, North Carolina, where she enjoyed a quiet and peaceful life with her beloved dog, Tank. More than a pet, Tank was her faithful companion, bringing her comfort, joy, and unconditional love throughout the years.

Known for her gentle spirit, kind heart, and unwavering devotion to those she loved, Joyce never met a stranger. She cherished time spent with family and friends and found great joy in encouraging and caring for others. Her warmth, generosity, and beautiful smile left a lasting impression on everyone who had the privilege of knowing her.

Above all, Joyce loved the Lord. She faithfully lived out her Christian faith each day and was a devoted member of Springfield Baptist Church in Raleigh, North Carolina. Her life was a reflection of grace, humility, and steadfast faith.

Joyce was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Richard Ray; her parents, Ola Bell Duncan and Hubert Duncan; her brothers, Willie Duncan and James Hubert Duncan; and her sister, Patricia Duncan.

Joyce leaves to cherish her precious memory her loving siblings: Sandra Perry of Selma, North Carolina; Lizzie Robinson of Baltimore, Maryland; Barbara Jean Duncan of Selma, North Carolina; Marion Duncan of Raleigh, North Carolina; Maxine Duncan of Raleigh, North Carolina; Dorsey Duncan of Goldsboro, North Carolina; Eddie Duncan; and Olean Duncan Hall.

She also leaves a special place in the hearts of her devoted niece, Kindra Duncan, with whom she shared a unique and treasured bond. In addition, she is lovingly remembered by a host of nieces, nephews, extended family members, dear friends, and all whose lives were touched by her love and kindness.

The family extends a special and heartfelt thank you to Dequan Jones for the love, care, and unwavering support he gave Joyce throughout her time of need. His kindness, compassion, and dedication brought her tremendous comfort and meant more than words can express. The family will always be grateful for the difference he made in Joyce's life.

Though our hearts are heavy with sorrow, we find comfort in knowing that Joyce's legacy of love, faith, and kindness will live on in the lives she touched. She will be deeply loved, forever remembered, and greatly missed.

Order of Service

Processional
Clergy and Family

Prayer of Comfort

Reading of Scriptures
Old Testament
New Testament

Acknowledgements and Obituary Reading

Eulogy

Benediction

Mortician's Brief
Sanders Funeral Home

Recessional

