

Flower Bearers

Nieces

Pallbearers

Nephews

Acknowledgements

The family of Ricki Odessa Rippy wishes to express their sincere gratitude and appreciation for the many acts of kindness, love, prayers, calls, visits, cards, flowers, food, and other expressions of sympathy shown to them during this time of bereavement.

Your thoughtfulness and support have been a great source of comfort and strength to the family. Please continue to keep us in your prayers as we cherish the precious memories of our loved one.

May God bless each of you for your kindness, love, and support.



NELSON & SONS

Murfreesboro · Shelbyville

(615) 494-5001 · (931) 685-4200

Funeral Directors: Albert, Demetrius & Brandon Nelson

www.nelsonandsons.net

IN LOVING *Memory*



Ricki Odessa
RIPPY

December 6, 1946 - September 12, 2026



CELEBRATING THE LIFE
OF
Ricki Rippy

Ricki Odessa Rippy was born in Shelbyville, TN on December 6, 1946, to the late Alton “Baby Ray” Smith and Mary “Babe” Smith. She was one of six children. Ricki was called home on Saturday, September 12, 2026, surrounded by family.

Ricki was a member of Woodfork Chapel AME Church where she sang in the choir, served as Trustee, and taught Sunday School.

Ricki graduated from Harris High School where she was a member of the basketball team. Ricki went on to attend the University of Dubuque in Iowa, where she earned her bachelor’s degree in social work. She later earned her master’s degree in social work from the University of Tennessee.

Ricki went on to work for the State of Tennessee for 30 years. After retirement, she worked with the First Wheels Program and later at the financial department at Buchanan Beauty College for her sister, Diana Buchanan.

Ricki was a fan of the Tennessee Vols and the Tennessee Titans. She enjoyed fishing, playing cards, board games, and spending time with the family.

She is preceded in death by her mother, Mary “Babe” Smith; father, Alton “Baby Ray” Smith; her sister, Bessie “Squeakie” Hampton; and her brother, Kenneth “Butchie Boy” Smith.

Ricki leaves to cherish her memories, her husband of 58 years, Jessie “JP” Rippy of Wartrace, TN; a devoted son, Jay (Leah) Rippy; devoted daughters, Michelle (Michael) Lewis and Kenya Smith; goddaughter, Kimberly (Keith) Churn; sisters, Diana Buchanan and Deidre “Tinkerbelle” Smith; brother, Jody Smith; eight grandchildren, Brooklyn Rippy, Ayden Rippy, Ethan Rippy, Chance Travis, Mischa Lewis, Mikalani Lewis, Jekiyah Smith, and Shauntaria Wray; two great grandchildren, Kru Bevans and Kamarie Smith; and a host of loving nieces and nephews.



Order of Service

Friday, September 18, 2026
12:00 Noon

PROCESSIONAL

The Family

OPENING PRAYER

Chernita Smith

SCRIPTURE

Kenitra Smith

SONG

Rhonda Rippy

RESOLUTIONS

Bonita Stewart

WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

Family & Friends (3 min)

SONG

Rhonda Rippy

RECESSIONAL

The Family



INTERMENT

Mt. Ararat Cemetery
Shelbyville, Tennessee



FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS