



## Rena M Humphrey

March 21, 1926 - September 11, 2024

### The Life of a Praying Woman

On March 21, 1926, Rena Mae Withers, the youngest of twin girls, was born in Jeanerette, Louisiana to the union of the late Arthur and Elizabeth Syrie Withers.

She accepted Christ at an early age and was baptized at the Calvary Baptist Church in Jeanerette under the pastoral leadership of the late Rev. H. A. Hills.

Educated in the Jeanerette, Louisiana public schools, Rena was a graduate of Jeanerette Colored High School. She moved to Galveston as a young woman and began her career at John Sealy Hospital in the Central Service Department.

Galveston held a very special place in Rena's heart. It was there where she met the love of her life, Nathaniel Humphrey. On October 3, 1946, Rena and Nathaniel were united in marriage at the St. Paul Methodist Church in Galveston, Texas by the late Rev. R. H. White. To this union, God blessed the Humphreys with one son, John.

As an extremely active member of St. Paul Methodist Church, Rena served faithfully by working with the Youth Department and Sunday School.

After Nathaniel accepted his call to the ministry, his pastoral service spanned more than four decades and Rena served right by his side as a true "First Lady." Rev. Humphrey and Sis. Rena served congregations in Pittsburg, Honey Grove, and Jefferson, Texas; St. Mary's Methodist Church, Houston; St. Mark's Methodist Church, Houston; McCabe United Methodist Church, Beaumont; St. Paul's United Methodist Church, Port Arthur, Texas; McKinney Memorial United Methodist Church, La Marque; and finally, the Angleton Circuit. In her later years, she united with Greater St. Matthews Baptist Church in Hitchcock under the pastoral leadership of Dr. William L. Randall, Jr.

With the family moving frequently for Pastor Humphrey's ministerial appointments, Rena worked at Some Other Place in Beaumont, Texas; Booker T. Washington Elementary School, Port Arthur, Texas where she was Librarian of the Satellite Library; Galveston County Community Action Counsel Senior Citizens Site in La Marque, Texas; and K-Mart in Texas City, Texas City, where she was known as #44. She also served as Church Secretary and worked with the after-school program for the youth at McKinney Memorial United Methodist Church in La Marque. A true First Lady fashionista, she was a woman who loved colors and was well known for her stylish Sunday suits and hats. She believed in always looking her best in God's House. Rena was faithful to her church, community and anyone that would ask of her service.

She was a member of the Prince Hall Masonic family holding membership in Ramona Chapter #25 Order of Eastern Star - Norris Wright Cuney Grand Chapter and Lakeview Court #262 Heroines of Jericho - GHCHOJTX. Believing in the power of prayer, she and Pastor Humphrey founded the Ecumenical Prayer Partners Prayer Hall of Fame. Many Galveston County citizens and those beyond were inducted into the Hall of Fame between 1989

and 2009.

Rena had an immense passion for children. She taught Sunday School and Vacation Bible School at each church and was known for her legendary Easter and Christmas Programs that not only featured the children of the church, but the entire community. Under her skillful leadership and tenacity, the children of St. Paul in Port Arthur had the honor to appear on television during the Christmas season. She served annually as a Camp Counselor for the United Methodist Youth Camp. The program dearest to Rena's heart was "The Children's Flower Pageant." Rena's indelible compassionate and caring mark on each person she encountered will be deeply missed. She never met a stranger, she loved all children, and she served all mankind. Rena also had a way with words, and it was almost impossible to tell her no when she uttered those words "The Lord hath need of you!"

On September 11, 2024, at 7:30 pm, she heard those exact words, "The Lord hath need of you!" and she peacefully passed from time into eternity after a fruitful life of 98 years. She is preceded in death by her parents, and her Humphrey in-laws.

Those who are left to celebrate her dedicated Christian life are: her son, John N. Humphrey; a bonus daughter and son who were her devoted caregivers until the end, Angela Michelle Callis, Roy Robinson and family; a bonus granddaughter, Elaine L. Rodgers; four great-grandchildren, Lee Jr., Kaleah, Kalee and Kace; and many extended family members and friends.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

SEP 20. 6:00 PM (CT)

Greater St Matthews Baptist Church  
6333 Highway 6  
Hitchcock , TX 77563

## Masonic Family Ritualistic Burial Services

SEP 20. 6:30 PM (CT)

Greater St Matthews Baptist Church  
6333 Highway 6  
Hitchcock , TX 77563

## Memorial Celebration

SEP 20. 7:00 PM (CT)

Greater St Matthews Baptist Church  
6333 Highway 6  
Hitchcock , TX 77563

*Friends may make expressions during this time*

## A Service of Praise & Thanksgiving

SEP 21. 9:00 AM (CT)

Greater St Matthews Baptist Church  
6333 Highway 6  
Hitchcock , TX 77563

## Burial

SEP 21. 11:30 AM (CT)

Galveston Memorial Park Cemetery  
7301 Memorial Street  
Hitchcock, TX 77563

# Tribute Wall

SJ

“ *Rena Humphrey is my mother's twin sister. I just found out today {12-03-2024} that my loving Aunt passed on Wednesday, September 11, 2024. John did not have the decency to notify any of us.*



Shirley Jefferson - December 03, 2024 at 01:47 PM

BW

*I grew up with this women of God..She an her sister Rita called me MyBrenda  
It was at Rita's passing I found out it was this twin that gave me that name out of love for me..im sorry I was not able to say goodbye but the last time I saw her she knew me we had a good conversation..with that I'm satisfied. She home withe her loving family now ❤️*

Brrnda Watkins - December 03, 2024 at 03:31 PM

KE

“ *John, to God be the glory for the wonderful life lived by your mother, Mrs. Humphrey. I was always at awe seeing her at church with her beautiful hats and suits, and mostly her beautiful smile. Praying for you and your family. Karen Earl*



Karen Earl - September 21, 2024 at 07:20 AM

LC

“ Our Condolences and Prayers to the Humphrey Family.From Little Rock Baptist Church.Rev.R.L Smith Pastor.Reverend Herbert Long.Asst.Pastor.



Little Rock Baptist Church Texas City - September 20, 2024 at 10:59 PM

GD

“ John my condolences on the passing of your lovely mother. You were a Fantastic son to her. If you ever need help let me know. You've been so good to me for decades helping me put away my Mom and Aunt. Talk about the good memories of your mom. It will really help you get through this period of time. LOL Gwen Dorsey



Gwendolyn Dorsey - September 20, 2024 at 10:19 PM

SM

“ Praying that God will give you strength in the days ahead!

shirley lynette mcdaniel - September 20, 2024 at 09:33 PM

WN

Praying for you John my God have mercy on you for not letting her blood family know of her passing  
SHAME. ON YOU

Werner withers carr her niece - December 03, 2024 at 03:00 PM

AT

“ *Apostle & Lady Richard Taylor lit a candle in memory of Rena M Humphrey*



Apostle & Lady Richard Taylor - September 19, 2024 at 05:07 PM

AT

*John you have our Sincere Condolences and in our Prayers.*

Apostle & Lady Richard Taylor - September 19, 2024 at 05:09 PM

LC

“ *Linda Carroll purchased the Simply Elegant Spat hiphyllum for the family of Rena M Humphrey.*



Linda Carroll - September 18, 2024 at 04:14 PM



“ *Rose Garden Heart was purchased for the family of Rena M Humphrey.*



September 18, 2024 at 02:55 PM

LC

“ Our Condolences and Prayers to the Humphrey Family .We the members of Little Rock Baptist Church of Texas City. Pastor RL Smith. sends our prayers to the Humphrey Family.



Little Rock Baptist Church Texas City - September 18, 2024 at 10:53 AM

OT

“ My Condolences and Prayers to the Humphrey Family. John you are in my prayers. Rest Easy Angel 🙏🙏🙏



Oneal Jefferson Dallas Texas - September 18, 2024 at 10:50 AM

LW

“ From our family to yours, our condolences are in order.. may God bless and keep you now and always..The Winn Family snd Sister Jerlee Owens.



Linda Winn - September 18, 2024 at 01:15 AM

PW

“ Pamela Wyatt-Gilmore lit a candle in memory of Rena M Humphrey



Pamela Wyatt-Gilmore - September 18, 2024 at 12:41 AM

VH

“ Veda Handy lit a candle in memory of Rena M Humphrey



Veda Handy - September 17, 2024 at 07:58 PM

LM

“ Lana Mason purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Rena M Humphrey.



Lana Mason - September 17, 2024 at 06:01 PM

TB

“ Tracey Brooks lit a candle in memory of Rena M Humphrey



Tracey Brooks - September 17, 2024 at 02:46 PM

NS

“ It was a pleasure being in the company of Mother Humphrey. I met her at a young age and she always had kind words as a devoted worker. Bless God for her life of 98 years on this earth. Prayers are with you Big John in this hour. ❤️🙏

Norma Spells - September 17, 2024 at 02:20 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Rena M Humphrey.*



---

September 17, 2024 at 12:41 PM



“ *The Jackson Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Rena M Humphrey.*

---

**The Jackson Family** - September 17, 2024 at 12:41 PM



“ *Eva Patterson lit a candle in memory of Rena M Humphrey*



---

**Eva Patterson** - September 17, 2024 at 12:19 AM



“ *Our condolences and prayers to the Humphrey Family. From Little Rock Baptist Church, Texas City. Rev R L Smith.*



---

**Little Rock Baptist Church** - September 16, 2024 at 09:53 PM

OJ

“ *My condolences and prayers to the  
Humphrey Family. Rest Easy Angel* 🙏🙏🙏  
*from Dallas Texas*



---

**Oneal Jefferson** - September 16, 2024 at 09:51 PM