



Mrs. Rita "Mama Rita" Payne

SEP 10, 1954 - MAY 23, 2025



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Mrs. Rita "Mama Rita" Payne

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Funeral Service for Mrs. Rita "Mama Rita" Payne, 70, of Alexander City, Alabama, will be Wednesday, May 28, 2025 at 2:00 pm at the Chapel of Radney Funeral Home. Pastor Adam Wade will officiate. The family will receive friends on Tuesday, May 27, 2025 from 5:00 pm until 7:00 pm at Radney Funeral Home.

Rita Yates Payne, affectionately known as "Mama Rita" to many, passed away on Friday, May 23, 2025 at Jackson Hospital in Montgomery. Born on September 10, 1954 in Sylacauga, Alabama, she was the daughter of Mr. Artis Yates and Mrs. Christine Tucker Dunham Yates. Mama Rita embodied every positive attribute of what a good southern mama should be. Her life was dedicated to nurturing, raising, and loving with all of her heart, and that heart knew no boundaries when it came to those she gave it to so freely. Rita was a mother to many and a friend to all. If you were hungry, she'd be there with a home cooked meal. If there was a crying baby, her gentle hands would calm them instantly. If you were in trouble, she'd be there ready to protect. Or, if you just needed a friend, she'd be there on the front porch with a fresh cup of coffee. To some, a full house on the holidays can be chaotic, but to her, it was the sign of a welcoming home.

Rita found beauty in others and in life. She loved planting flowers, talking on the phone, and watching the many birds that gathered in her yard. Her heart was split between her love for the mountains and love for the ocean. Either destination was sure to get her packed and ready. Rita loved all of her children and her puppy dogs, but nothing brought more joy than her grandchildren who lovingly knew her as "Nana." Her patience and ability to forgive before you even asked made her a remarkable woman to have in your life. She really was the best wife, mother, nana, friend, and "Mama Rita" that one could ever ask for. Her selfless loving and infectious laughter will be missed, but the light she brought will never go out in the hearts of those she touched.

Rita is survived by her husband, Tracy Payne; daughters, Christal (Bradley) McClellan, Stacey (Jeffrey) Bradford; grandchildren, Anna McClellan, Waylon Bradford; sisters, Gail (Stick)



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McDaniel, Brenda Marshall; brothers, Sidney Yates; and the children that forever knew her as "Mama Rita," Nikki (Grant) Traylor, Erin (Terry) Traylor, Steven Traylor.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Artis & Christine Yates; and sisters, Patricia Ballow & Anita Henderson.

Radney Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Rita "Mama Rita" Payne.



Events


Mrs. Rita "Mama Rita" Payne

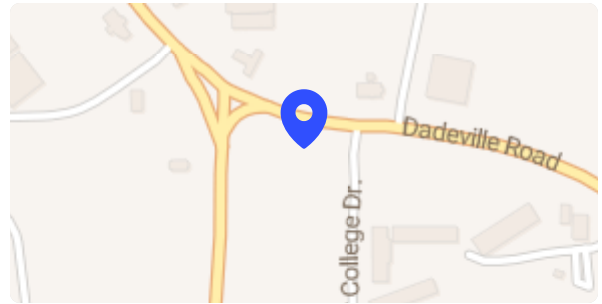
SEP 10, 1954 - MAY 23, 2025

Visitation

 **Tuesday**, May 27, 2025


 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM CT


 **Chapel of Radney Funeral Home**
1326 Dadeville Rd, Alexander City AL 35010



Funeral Service

 **Wednesday**, May 28, 2025

 2:00 PM CT

 **Chapel of Radney Funeral Home**
1326 Dadeville Rd, Alexander City AL 35010





Tribute Wall

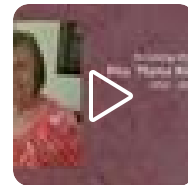
Mrs. Rita "Mama Rita" Payne

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Radney Funeral Home shared a **Video**.

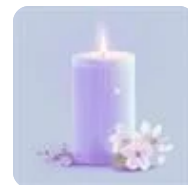
May 27 at 8:37 AM



Patricia Roland lit a candle in honor of Rita.

Patricia Roland lit a candle in memory of Rita Payne

May 29 at 11:03 AM



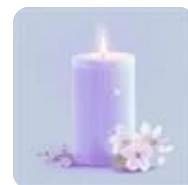
Tallapoosa Hydro- Harris Dam sent a Peaceful White Lilies Basket to the Payne family.

May 27 at 8:22 AM



Melanie Bates lit a candle in honor of Rita.

May 27 at 4:53 AM



Brian & Desarie Mooney sent a Divine Peace Bouquet to the Payne family.

May 26 at 11:26 AM



Pattie Peppers Mclain sent a virtual gift in honor of Rita.

Sending Prayers for This Sweet Loving Family. Rita was a very kind loving person. With an open arm to so many . With a smile that could light the world . She will be missed by so many. Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will comfort this Sweet Loving Family. Love y'all Pattie

May 26 at 1:07 AM





Tribute Wall

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NC

Nancy Crew lit a candle in honor of Rita.

I am so sorry for your loss. Rita was a sweet person to everyone. God give you peace and great memories. Mike and Nancy Crew

May 25 at 1:42 PM



UB

Udora Berry lit a candle in honor of Rita.

May 24 at 2:12 PM



PP

Patsy&Pattie Peppers lit a candle in honor of Rita.

Rita , you were a kind loving woman. Who will be missed by so many. I loved you from a child. What a wonderful Mother you have been to your girls and a loving wife. You go rest HIGH on the Mountain for your work here on earth is done. Sending Prayers for all of the Family. We love y'all so much

May 24 at 11:28 AM





Media

Mrs. Rita "Mama Rita" Payne

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Radney Funeral Home shared a Video.

May 27 at 8:37 AM





Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Rita by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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