



Della Battles

December 10, 1917 - January 27, 2013

DELLA MATT SMITH BATTLES

HER STORY

On December 10, 1917, in Limestone County of Athens Alabama, God blessed Irene Jones Smith and Earl Smith with a baby girl; the first girl and fifth child of what would become a family with eleven children.

Irene and Earl were sharecroppers, and they included the children with the work to be done, which meant that little Della went to work to be done, which meant that little Della had to go to work at an early age. Della was a workaholic before they came up with the word. She labored on the farm picking cotton, and attended Red Hill School, which was also Mount Nebo Church on the Hill. Down below, there was Shoal Creek, where everyone was baptized.

Della was involved in church all of her life. She got an opportunity to go to the only high school within the city limits, Trinity High School, where she would go to school for a time, then go home to work the fields. After high school, she met George Battles at Nuberia Church, located near Limestone County. They were married and God blessed them with one baby girl, Annie Irene. The couple went about the business of being a family and decided to move into the city limits of Athens, Alabama in the early 1950's. During this time, Della's main concern was finding a way to support Ann through college.

She kept her faith, however, and got a position at Athens College, where she worked with the dieticians. This happened a week after Ann started college at Alabama A&M.

Della continued working, but made a life change – she moved to Nashville, Tennessee where her Aunt lived. She immediately got a job working at Browns Dinner Club, and then as a cashier at the Wharton School Cafeteria. Della began going back to school for courses in Gerontology. This began a twenty-five year career working with the elderly. All the while, Della continued taking care of their daughter Ann and her brother, Uncle Ket. During these twenty-five years, her immediate family grew to include a son-in-law, John, and two grandchildren, Marty and Michele.

By now, Della, known as Ganna (named by her grandson), continued her career with the elderly by settling in as a Group Supervisor at Knowles Home, where she eventually retired at age 65.

In 1988, Ganna moved to Dover, Delaware to care for her first great-grandchild, Jay. Since being in Dover, Ganna has made herself busy! She joined the Modern Maturity Center, began Reassurance Calling to people in need, volunteered at the Hospital Admissions office, was a Missionary Circle member at Calvary Baptist Church, and was a member of the Just Friends Help Group and the Eighty's Club.

Ganna's Advice to Young People:

Have a goal in mind

Be Obedient and Listen to Your Parents

Go to School and Stay in School!

Ganna is survived by a sister, Mary Hamblin, daughter, Ann B. Martin (John), two grandchildren, John C. Martin, Jr. (Ronica) and Delna Michele Rush (LeRoy), five great-grandchildren, LeRoy T. Rush II, Teresa R. Rush, John C.P. Martin III, Joshua R.B Martin, and Courtney Ann Rush, and a host of nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

Tribute Wall

NK

“ From the Kaiser, Stone, and Norman Family. Aunt Della will be missed dearly! She lived a wonderful life. Gonna miss her!

Natassia Kaiser - February 04, 2013 at 12:00 AM

LS

“ To my family, I love you much and wish I could be there to celebrate the life of Aunt Della. Extremely glad and humbled to be a part of the greatest family in the world. Keep your heads up and live the life she represented through Christ Jesus.

Leah Sledge - February 01, 2013 at 12:00 AM

SH

“ To The Family,
Please accept my condolence. My heart goes out to you in your time of sorrow. I hope that you are able to draw comfort from the scriptures during this difficult time. One of my favorite text says, “If an able-bodied man dies can he live again? You will call, and I myself shall answer you. For the work of your hands you will have a yearning.” (Job 14:14, 15).

Sherry - February 01, 2013 at 12:00 AM

GL

“ *To The Family:
For all your years of wisdom
Loving words and gentle eyes
God bless you, special Aunty
I thank God you're mine
An Aunty's hand so tender
An Aunty's prayer so pure
An Aunty's loving heart
Forever will endure
Aunt Della, I LOVE YOU!*

GLEND A J LYNCH - January 31, 2013 at 12:00 AM

KS

“ *Aunt Della, I will never forget you and your beautiful spirit and your loving ways. You were one of a kind and I am blessed to have known you. My condolences to the family and may the peace of God surround you and comfort you.*

Karen Smith - January 31, 2013 at 12:00 AM

JA

“ *Aunt Della, I will miss you!! You always made me feels so welcome!! I will always have you and your family in my prayers.*

Jamila - January 30, 2013 at 12:00 AM

JJ

“ Dear Family and Friends of Della Battles, even though I did not personally know Ms. Battles, reading about her life interested me and made me wish that I had known her. The loss of every human life is significant to me and should be valued by all. The Bible book of Hebrews reminds us that God does not forget all of the love and fine works shown by Ms. Battles (Heb 6:10). It was not God's original purpose that mankind should suffer and die. At creation God was able to say that everything was "very good" (Gen 1:31) Death was introduced through Adam's disobedience (Genesis 2:17). Jesus' sacrifice of his human life on earth again gave us hope of everlasting life and soon death will be no more (Revelation 21:4). Hopefully, faith in these Bible promises will ease the pain from this loss. Because of these promises we have reason to be hopeful and look forward to seeing Ms. Battles again in perfect health under paradise conditions. We are also promised that the pain that we now experience with this loss "will not be called to mind." (Isaiah 65:17) Meanwhile we have the opportunity to follow Jesus' instruction to continue to take in Bible knowledge that leads to everlasting life (John 17:3).

J Johnson - January 29, 2013 at 12:00 AM