



Mrs. Helen Warnke Ray

January 6, 1944 - August 16, 2025

It is with deep sorrow that the Ray family announces the death of their beloved mother, Mrs. Helen Warnke Ray, 81.

Mrs. Ray, the widow of James W. "Woody" Ray, Jr., entered into rest on Saturday, August 16, 2025. The Directors of Hancock-Elmore-Hill Funeral Home are caring for the family.

A funeral service to honor her life will be held at 2 o'clock on Wednesday, August 20, 2025, in Faith Baptist Church Cemetery, with The Rev. Kenneth Jones officiating. Guests are invited to pay their respects and view Mrs. Ray in the church one hour prior to the service. The family will receive friends immediately following the service, and other times at the residence, 5142 Jamestown Road, Camden, SC.

Memorials may be made in her honor to the Shriners Hospital for Children, c/o Office of Philanthropy, 2900 N. Rocky Point Drive, Tampa, FL 33607.

Mrs. Ray was born in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. She was one of ten children born to the late Emil and Alamlnta Warnke. As a small child, Mrs. Ray, like the rest of her siblings, was tossed from home to home, through foster care. At the age of eight, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Zeiner brought Mrs. Ray into their home and fostered and raised her as their very own.

At the age of seventeen, Mrs. Ray met and married her late husband of 59 years, Woody Ray. At that time, she moved to South Carolina with him and soon made their home on Jamestown Road in the Ionia section of Lee County, raising three girls. Mrs. Ray, despite being separated as a child from her siblings, was able to keep in touch with one sister, Betty Warnke, brother, Christian Warnke, and step-brother, Earl Zeiner.

Mrs. Ray was an avid dog lover who found peace in caring for and loving her little ones (Poodles). She retired in 2009 as a housekeeper in the daycare of Littleton Street United Methodist Church in Camden, SC, where she had worked for many years.

Mrs. Ray is survived by her daughters, Darlene (Steve) Hawkins of Bishopville, SC, Lynn (Lavern) Grantham of Camden, SC, Mary Smith of Camden, SC, Helena (Jason) Watkins of Bishopville, SC; grandchildren, Erica (Richard) Call of Chapin, SC, Trey (Janene) Grantham of Franklin, NC, Daniel (Mandy) Glenn of Rock Hill, SC, Tori (Kyle) Honeycutt of Lamar, SC; and six great-grandchildren.

In addition to her parents, foster parents, and siblings, she was preceded in death by her husband, James W. "Woody" Ray, Jr.

Serving as pallbearers will be Charles Knight, Ronnie Knight, James Heyward Howell, and Pete Ray.

The Family would like to give a special thanks to the VIA Hospice team for the love, care, and compassion for the past eight months, to Dr. Christa Boss for her loving and caring heart in treating our mother and to Phillip Hudson and the entire staff at Pinedale Residential Center for making our mother feel as a part of a big loving family.

Cemetery Details

Faith Baptist Church Cemetery

35 Phillips Church Rd
Bishopville, SC 29010

Previous Events

Viewing

AUG 20. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Faith Baptist Church
35 Phillips Church Rd
Bishopville, SC 29010

Graveside Service

AUG 20. 2:00 PM (ET)

Faith Baptist Church Cemetery
35 Phillips Church Rd
Bishopville, SC 29010

Tribute Wall



“ *Hancock-Elmore-Hill Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Mrs. Helen Warnke Ray*



Hancock-Elmore-Hill Funeral Home - August 20, 2025 at 06:48 AM

MB

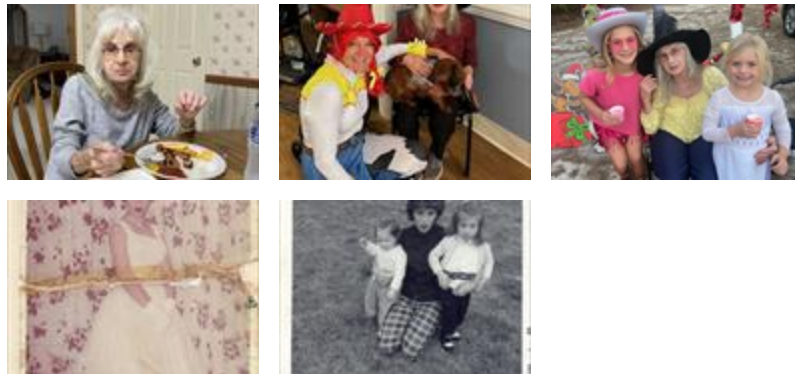
“ *Matt And Betsy Bramlett lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Helen Warnke Ray*



Matt and Betsy Bramlett - August 20, 2025 at 08:14 AM

ME

“ *53 files added to the album Family Photos*



Mel - August 20, 2025 at 07:12 AM

SC

“ Stephanie Cramer lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Helen Warnke Ray



Stephanie Cramer - August 19, 2025 at 09:57 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mrs. Helen Warnke Ray.



August 19, 2025 at 09:44 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Mrs. Helen Warnke Ray.

August 19, 2025 at 09:44 AM

SL

“ Sandra & Scott Love lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Helen Warnke Ray



Sandra & Scott Love - August 19, 2025 at 08:14 AM

AA

“ So sorry for your loss, prayers for comfort,
peace and strength for the days ahead 🙏🙏
🙏



Archie and Kay Amerson - August 18, 2025 at 10:00 PM

BS

“ We are so sorry for the loss of your Mother, grandmother and sister.
Please know you are in our prayers and thoughts. Our deepest
sympathy.

Bryan and Judy Smith - August 18, 2025 at 08:05 PM

CA

“ I am so very sorry for your loss. Praying for
her family.



Cherlyn and Gerald Arrants - August 18, 2025 at 06:42 PM

LA

“ Love Jr and Jeanne Ann purchased the Enchanted
Cottage for the family of Mrs. Helen Warnke
Ray.



Love Jr and Jeanne Ann - August 18, 2025 at 09:01 AM

CH

“ *She was always a beautiful woman. We ate popcorn and watch a movie, even if it was scary she'd make us laugh from her comments.* ”



Cheryl Hatton - August 18, 2025 at 05:54 AM



“ *Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mrs. Helen Warnke Ray.* ”



August 18, 2025 at 05:47 AM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Mrs. Helen Warnke Ray.* ”

August 18, 2025 at 05:47 AM

BF

“ *We send our condolences* ”



Blackman Family - August 17, 2025 at 08:18 PM

LV

“ *Laura Coulter Vaughan lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Helen Warnke Ray*



Laura Coulter Vaughan - August 17, 2025 at 05:55 PM

LS

“ *Lori Smith lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Helen Warnke Ray*



Lori Smith - August 17, 2025 at 05:43 PM