



Mary Ellon Blackledge Little

July 17, 1931 - November 11, 2025

Mary Ellon Blackledge Little, age 94, of Laurel, MS, passed away peacefully at her home on November 11, 2025, after a lengthy battle with Alzheimer's disease.

Mary was born on July 17, 1931, to James Madison and Onie Blackledge of the Rustin Community. She worked for many years at Smith's Sunbeam Bakery, where she made many friends among coworkers and customers. She loved decorating for Christmas with lots of yard characters and lights.

After her retirement, she and her husband, Gayle Little, traveled across the United States enjoying the sights and sounds of this great nation. Her favorite places were the Smoky Mountains and Dollywood.

Mary was preceded in death by her parents, James Madison and Onie Blackledge; brother, Dale Blackledge; husband, Gayle Little; daughters, Wanda Parish and June Shedd; and grandson, Tommy Hill, Jr.

She is survived by her son, Gary Graham and wife, Joy; daughter, Peggy Hill; sister, Faye Nelson and husband, Larry; numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren; along with a special friend and adopted granddaughter, Catie Cook.

Family visitation begins at 12:30 p.m. on Monday, November 17, 2025, with friends visitation beginning at 1:00 p.m. at Memory Chapel Funeral Home (3100 Audubon Dr., Laurel, MS 39440). At 2:30 p.m., the funeral procession will travel to Fairview Baptist Church Cemetery (39 Fairview Church Rd., Laurel, MS 39443), where there will be a brief graveside service.

Pallbearers will be James Hill, Richard Parish, Anthony Parish, Jeffery Parish, Nathan Brownlee, and Ben Graham.

A special thanks to Gentiva Hospice for providing care and comfort, to Lucy Brady for her loving care and companionship over the last four years to Mary and her family, and to her son-in-law Jr. Shedd, who for many years offered his time to help Mary and provide meals from time to time.

To view and sign the online guest book, visit www.memorychapel Laurel.com.

Cemetery Details

Fairview Cemetery

Fairview Church Road
Laurel, MS 39443

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 17. 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM (CT)

Memory Chapel Funeral Home
3100 Audubon Drive
P. O. Box 674
Laurel, MS 39440
(601) 428-5235
memorychapel@comcast.net
<https://www.memorychapel-laurel.com/>

Graveside Service

NOV 17. 3:00 PM (CT)

Fairview Cemetery
Fairview Church Road
Laurel, MS 39443

Tribute Wall

DH

“ *My Aunt was one of the sweetest blessings of my life. I spent so much of my childhood in her home, growing up right alongside my cousins, who felt more like brothers and sisters to me. She welcomed me with the same love she gave her own children - steady, warm and unconditional.*

Oh how I will miss her beautiful laugh and sweet smile. It was the kind of laugh that filled a room soft and joyful, and it always made you feel right at home.

I will miss her terribly but I thank God for the precious memories she leaves in my heart and the love she poured into all of us.

Rest in Peace Aunt Mary Ellon. We will meet again!!

Love, Diane

Diane Hartley - November 15, 2025 at 11:41 PM

BS

“ *Bienville Orthopaedic Specialists purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Mary Ellon Blackledge Little.*



Bienville Orthopaedic Specialists - November 14, 2025 at 03:53 PM

MW

“ *What a wonderful grandmother. Remembering all of our camping and travel times. It was great spending time with her during my summers as a kid. She provided a loving environment and many happy memories. I know my mom is rejoicing in hugging her mom again. You are loved so much and will be dearly missed.*

Michelle Parish Walters

Michelle Walters - November 13, 2025 at 02:13 PM