



## Wilma Jeannette "Jean" Heptinstall Holifield

July 8, 1929 - May 28, 2025

Jean Holifield of Laurel went home to be with her Lord and Savior on Wednesday, May 28, 2025 at the age of 95. Wilma Jeannette (Jean) Heptinstall Holifield, known to everyone as "Jean", was born on July 8, 1929 in Hot Springs, Arkansas. She was educated in public schools in Texas, Alabama, Oklahoma and Mississippi and attended Jones County Junior College in Ellisville. She was married to Walter Major Holifield of Laurel on March 25, 1955. Soon after, she began a thirty-one year career with the City of Laurel, retiring as Tax Assessor. She served on the Mississippi Economic Development Association's first Key Community Committee, securing "Key Community" status for the City of Laurel. Ms. Holifield served as Vice President for the Greater Laurel Centennial Committee in 1982, and chaired the Centennial Cookbook Committee.

She served as President of Women's Ministries of Evangel Temple Assembly of God for more than 23 years, and was honored as "WM of the Year" for Mississippi in 1975. She taught Sunday School for many years at both Evangel Temple, and Kingston Assembly of God in Laurel. She was a Breast Cancer Survivor since 2002, and believed that each person should do their best, as unto the Lord, no matter how small the task.

Ms. Holifield served as a member of the YWCA Board of Directors for six years, and two years as President, and she received the prestigious "DIANA"

Award, Distinguished International Academy of Noble Achievement by the Epsilon Sigma Alpha Club of Laurel. She was a charter member, and served three terms as President of the Jones County Genealogical and Historical Organization, and was Book Committee Chairperson for Volumes One, Two and Three of Echoes From Our Past, Jones County, Mississippi. She was also an avid quilter and winner of 15 Blue Ribbons for her amazing quilts.

Ms. Holifield and her attorney husband, W. Major Holifield, became partners along with her daughter, Debbie Blakeney, and Debbie's husband, Larry Blakeney and his brothers, in a new radio broadcasting company serving the Laurel area in 1985. She became a full-time employee in 1995, and would later serve as business manager, director and Secretary and Treasurer of Blakeney Communications, the parent company of radio stations B95, Rock 104, KZ94-3, 96.5 Alive FM and 97.7 The Groove.

Jean Holifield was preceded in death by her husband, Walter Major Holifield; her parents Sanford Samuel Heptinstall and Wilma Garrison Heptinstall; her brothers, Calvin C. Heptinstall, Harrell Thomas Heptinstall, Sanford Heptinstall and Walter David Heptinstall; and her sisters Jannis Carol Baird, Merle Billingsly and Mattie Lee Bright.

She is survived by her daughter, Deborah Carol Blakeney and her husband, Larry Blakeney of Laurel; and grandchildren Brandon Keith Blakeney of Laurel and Amanda Carol Bieber and her husband Jon Bieber of Laurel.

Funeral services are being held on Saturday, May 31st, at Memory Chapel Funeral Home in Laurel, with visitation at 9:30 AM followed by the service at 11:00 AM, with interment in Hickory Grove Cemetery in Laurel. Pallbearers are Ken Keyes, Robin Jones, Ron Jarvis, Chad Arender, Jimmy Houston and Robert Hill.

To sign the online guestbook, visit [www.memorychapellaurel.com](http://www.memorychapellaurel.com)

# Cemetery Details

## Hickory Grove Cemetery

Intersection of 15th Street and Old Bay  
Springs Rd  
Laurel, MS 39440

# Previous Events

## Visitation

**MAY 31.** 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

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

## Funeral Service

**MAY 31.** 11:00 AM (CT)

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

# Tribute Wall



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Wilma Jeannette "Jean" Heptinstall Holifield.*



May 30, 2025 at 03:50 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Wilma Jeannette "Jean" Heptinstall Holifield.

May 30, 2025 at 03:50 PM



“ *Ms. Jean was such an inspiration to me. I met her 25 years ago and valued her knowledge of genealogy and her friendship. Your family is in our prayers 🙏  
Mike and Susan Blakeney and Family*

Susan Blakeney - May 30, 2025 at 11:43 AM



“ *Susan and Raymond Kelly & family purchased the Magnificent Life Spray for the family of Wilma Jeannette "Jean" Heptinstall Holifield.*



Susan and Raymond Kelly & family - May 30, 2025 at 01:29 AM

PB

“ *Phyllis, Larry & Andy Biever purchased the Rose Remembrance for the family of Wilma Jeannette "Jean" Heptinstall Holifield.*



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**Phyllis, Larry & Andy Biever** - May 29, 2025 at 09:53 PM

DF

“ *Doug & Cynthia West, Erin Delong Family purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Wilma Jeannette "Jean" Heptinstall Holifield.*



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**Doug & Cynthia West, Erin Delong Family** - May 29, 2025 at 08:20 PM

DG

“ *I worked for Holt and Associates and I always loved talking with MS Jean when she came by. She was a hard working person and she loved the Lord.*

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**Debra Green** - May 29, 2025 at 05:41 PM

KM

“ *Ms Holifield was one of my bosses when I finished at JCJC & started working in the City Clerks Office in Laurel. She taught me so many things that I used in other jobs till I retired. She was meticulous about everything which was a good thing in business. Ms Jean will be missed.*

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**Kathy McLaurin** - May 29, 2025 at 10:02 AM