



Mrs. Rebecca B. Jones

May 12, 1944 - February 6, 2026

Rebecca Bailey Lewis Jones, affectionately known as “Becky,” passed away peacefully on Friday, February 6, 2026, in Fort Smith, Arkansas, surrounded by her loving family. She was born on May 12, 1944, in Forrest City, Arkansas, to Vera Marie Peoples Bailey and Sylvester Cleter Bailey, who preceded her in death. Becky was the fifth of six children and dearly loved her sisters and brother.

At an early age, she accepted Christ and united with Historic First Baptist Church in Forrest City, where she remained a faithful lifelong member. She served in numerous capacities, including Sunday School Teacher, Vacation Bible School Chairman, Church Treasurer, and Financial Secretary. Becky attended Lincoln High School, where she excelled academically and formed lifelong friendships. She later attended Arkansas AM&N College, now the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, majoring in Early Childhood Education. While in college, she played basketball and was proudly known as one of the “Bailey Girls.” During that time, she met Edward Lewis, Jr., and the two were married on June 19, 1966, in Forrest City. Their twenty-nine-year union was blessed with three daughters: Velen, Renita, and Crystal.

Rebecca taught third and fourth grades in the Forrest City School District for more than 30 years. Her commitment to education and community service extended beyond the classroom. She was a member of the Semper Fidelis

Charmettes Club, served as a Girl Scouts leader, acted as a Room Mother, and was always willing to assist others. On December 31, 2000, she married Thomas Jones. They enjoyed traveling and spending time with family until his passing on September 19, 2006.

In retirement, Becky remained active and engaged. She took piano lessons, participated in step and water aerobics, and traveled extensively to visit family and friends across the country. She enjoyed spending time at the Forrest City Senior Center, where she served as President, led bingo games, and played Bean Bag Baseball. She fondly recalled trips to Branson, Missouri, Canada, and other destinations. Becky cherished family vacations and celebrated her 75th birthday in New York City. She also traveled to Mexico, Italy, The Vatican, Greece, Turkey, and Jamaica. In her quiet moments, she enjoyed playing Sudoku and Word Cookies and watching Monk and Columbo marathons.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her brother, Clifton Bailey; her sister, Oneida Bailey Wilson; her husbands, Edward Lewis, Jr., and Thomas Jones; her granddaughter, Breyanna A. Lewis; and dear friends, Arlene Williams Mobley and Mary Norman Allen.

She leaves to cherish her memory her daughters, Velena Marie Lewis McRae (the late Jesse C. McRae, III), Renita Darlene Lewis Simmons, and Crystal Yvette Lewis Lougin (Torrey Lougin); six grandchildren, Jordan C. McRae, Britney A. Lewis, Trent A. McRae, Cameron J. Harris, Nadia R. Lougin, and Paige R. Simmons; one great-grandchild, Kairo A. Harris; five bonus grandchildren, Mariam Ukbazghi, Christopher Conover, Tori Lougin, Richard Rowland, and Kaelanni Walters; three sisters, Charlene Bailey Dickson (Willie Ray), Jean Bailey Woods (the late Norman Woods), and Jeanetta Bailey Hamiter (Theo); three sisters-in-love, Mable Tart, Dennice Ebberhart, and Theresa Virden; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

Funeral services for Mrs. Rebecca Lewis Jones, 81, of Forrest City, will be held Monday at Historic First Baptist Church, with Pastor Frank Mull, III delivering the eulogy. Burial will follow at Casteel Cemetery. Visitation will be held Sunday from 4:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. at Miles Mortuary of Forrest City, which is in charge of arrangements.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to 1. Rebecca Bailey Lewis Jones Education Scholarship - <https://pay.jvmcraefoundation.com/EducationScholarship>, 2. Forrest City Senior Center - Donors and Partnerships | East Arkansas Area Agency on Aging, and/or 3. Donald W. Reynolds Cancer House, Fort Smith, AR - Home - Reynolds Cancer Support House

Cemetery Details

Casteel Cemetery

Highway 70 West & CR 221
Forrest City, AR 72335

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB **15**. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

Miles J. Kimble Mortuary & Cremation
1900 South Washington Street
Forrest City, AR 72335
(870) 633-1914
mjkimble@yahoo.com
<http://www.mjkmortuaryandcremation.com>

Service

FEB **16**. 11:00 AM (CT)

Historic First Baptist Church
306 E. Cross St.
Forrest City , AR 72335

The family will line up at 741 West Sharpe Street, Forrest City, AR 72335 on the day of the service. Everyone is expected to be ready to leave by 10:30AM.

Repast

FEB 16. 1:00 PM (CT)

Salem Missionary Baptist Church Life Center
109 Haven Street
Forrest City , AR 72335

Tribute Wall



“ *Miles J. Kimble Mortuary & Cremation created a Webcast in memory of Mrs. Rebecca B. Jones*



Miles J. Kimble Mortuary & Cremation - February 16 at 12:00 PM

KW

“ *Love you Grandma Becky , thank you for your love .*



Kaelanni Walters - February 16 at 09:55 PM

MS

“ *Thinking of you during this difficult time," "With deepest sympathy,""Please know that you are in our prayers and thoughts during this time. Horace & Mary Jackson*

Mary Snowden - February 16 at 08:23 AM

LH

“ *Lovie À. Hardrick sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Rebecca B. Jones*



Lovie À. Hardrick - February 16 at 02:20 AM

SR

“ *Shekita Carter Rogers lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Rebecca B. Jones*



Shekita Carter Rogers - February 16 at 12:24 AM

CC

“ *My prayers and condolences go out to the entire family.*



Calandra Chatters-Henderson - February 15 at 02:23 AM

SH

“ *Mrs. Rebecca Lewis Jones was my teacher, even after so many years she still remember my name and family after all these years. Rest on Mrs.Lewis-Jones. One of your students from the past.*



Stella Hill-Winfrey - February 14 at 05:09 PM

RB

“ *Ruby Bradley lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Rebecca B. Jones*



Ruby Bradley - February 13 at 08:45 AM

LH

“ *Lovie À. Hardrick sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Rebecca B. Jones*



Lovie À. Hardrick - February 12 at 11:55 PM

LL

“ *My condolences to the family of Rebecca Lewis Jones. God will comfort you.*



Lillie Lane - February 12 at 09:58 AM

CG

“ *Prayers and love to the family. Becky was not just my sister-in-law, she was my friend. She will be surely missed. Comfort and strength to the family.*

Civie Green - February 12 at 06:35 AM

ST

“ Mrs. Rebecca B. Lewis Jones family and friends, Heartfelt condolences to you. May the Peace of our Loving Savior be with you and give you comfort, at this most difficult time.



Shirley Williams Thorn - February 12 at 12:40 AM

TC

“ Tamika C. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mrs. Rebecca B. Jones.

Tamika C. - February 11 at 08:49 PM

JB

“ Jacquelyne Jackson Benson lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Rebecca B. Jones



Jacquelyne Jackson Benson - February 11 at 08:57 AM

MM

“ Sending out condolences and prayers to the family.



Mr. & Mrs. Bobby (Jacine) Mason - February 10 at 08:00 PM

AW

“ Beautiful lady inside and out she will be missed

Annie Wade - February 09 at 08:28 PM

HH

My ride or die sister in love for 70 plus years I will truly miss you

Henerine Hunter - February 10 at 01:40 PM

LH

“ Lovie A Hardrick sent a virtual gift in memory of
Mrs. Rebecca B. Jones



Lovie A Hardrick - February 09 at 06:01 PM

DF

“ Dorothy Clayborn Faulkner lit a candle in
memory of Mrs. Rebecca B. Jones



Dorothy Clayborn Faulkner - February 09 at 12:00 PM

AY

“ My prayers are with you and the family. May
God comfort you in this time of grief.



Alicia and Donald Yancy - February 09 at 08:31 AM

CK

“ Sincerest Condolences to the entire family 🙏

Carlotta "Clanton" King - February 08 at 05:45 PM

BM

“ My condolences to the Bailey, Lewis, and Jones family. Mrs. Lewis as I called her was my one of my teachers in elementary school and also my church member at First Baptist Church. Was a very nice Lady and teacher. She will be missed by family and friends.

*Betty Maxey
Helen Witherspoon
Rochester NY*

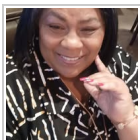
Betty Maxey - February 08 at 08:24 AM

PW

“ Sending my prayers to the family of Mrs. Rebecca and for the First Baptist Church Family. 🙏



Peggy Robinson Wright - February 08 at 06:49 AM



“ To the family. Praying for comfort, healing and peace. ❤️❤️



Ollie Bailey - February 08 at 12:28 AM

KL

“ Katherine Lyons lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Rebecca B. Jones



Katherine Lyons - February 07 at 10:17 PM

RB

“ Praying for you Velena and your family



Raquel Brown - February 07 at 10:08 PM

DM

“ A word of comfort and of hope, that in your deepest sorrow, you will find new strength and peace of mind and courage for tomorrow.” Please know that you are in our prayers.



Sending condolences to the family of Rebecca Bailey Lewis Joneson behalf of The Lincoln High School - Maroon & Gold National Alumni Association, Inc. (MGNAAI), Forrest City, Arkansas. Rebecca was a member of the Lincoln High School Class of 1962.”

*Delores Farr Morelon
President, MGNAAI*

Delores Morelon - MGNAAI - February 07 at 09:24 PM

LJ

“ *Linda Green Johnson lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Rebecca B. Jones*



Linda Green Johnson - February 07 at 09:16 PM

TG

“ *My sincere condolences to the family.*



Tameka Gregory - February 07 at 09:14 PM

FM

“ *Florence Metcalf Mayfield lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Rebecca B. Jones*



Florence Metcalf Mayfield - February 07 at 09:13 PM

PG

“ *Patricia Winfrey Gregory lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Rebecca B. Jones*



Patricia Winfrey Gregory - February 07 at 08:32 PM

PW

“ *Peggy R Wright lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Rebecca B. Jones*



Peggy R Wright - February 07 at 08:15 PM

CP

“ *Carolyn Palmer lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Rebecca B. Jones*



Carolyn Palmer - February 07 at 08:12 PM

DJ

“ *Dorothy Johnson lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Rebecca B. Jones*



Dorothy Johnson - February 07 at 07:21 PM

SR

“ *Shekita Carter Rogers lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Rebecca B. Jones*



Shekita Carter Rogers - February 07 at 07:18 PM

DM

What a good friend to have. I have missed seeing her. We taught together for a long time. Loved her!!! She will be missed.

Delma "Butch" Murray - February 08 at 02:01 AM

LJ

My sincere condolences to the McRae and Jones Families. May your wonderful memories sustain you during this time.

Lorraine Griffin Johnson

Lorraine Griffin Johnson - February 10 at 08:05 AM

SD

Velena and family, you are in my thoughts and prayers at this sad time in your loss. Cherish the precious memories you, family and friends shared with her.

SueVeria Dickens - February 14 at 09:09 PM