



## Mrs. Carrie Elizabeth Rowan Barksdale

June 16, 1927 - January 21, 2026

Sis. Carrie Elizabeth Rowan Barksdale, age 98, of Harriman, Tennessee, departed this life on Wednesday, January 21, 2026, in the comfort of her home. She was born on June 16, 1927, to the late Blanche Rowan and the late Charlie Murdock. She was surrounded by her loving daughters, Darlene Johnson and Trellis Barksdale, who were also her caregivers.

Mrs. Barksdale lived a life anchored in faith and guided by love. As the oldest and one of the most faithful members of the Sevier Drive Church of Christ, Harriman, TN, she served tirelessly in countless roles, leaving a spiritual imprint that will be felt for generations. Her vision and obedience to God led her to establish the Ladies Inspiration Day fifty one years ago, an enduring ministry that uplifted women and churches throughout Tennessee and Georgia.

She was preceded in death by her late husband, Marcellus Barksdale; half brother, Charles William Kimbrough; half sister, Dee Stafford; daughter, Eleece Barksdale McCleskey; son, Val Barksdale; daughter, Phadra Barksdale Hanks, son-in-laws Gary McMahan, Tommy McCleskey, and grandson Albert Marcellus Hanks; She leaves to cherish her memories her four loving daughters, Darlene (Charles) Johnson of Oak Ridge, TN, Marcia McMahan of Nashville, TN, Trellis Barksdale of Oak Ridge, TN, Sharrieffa Barksdale of Indianapolis, IN; a host of nieces, nephews, grandchildren, great

grandchildren, great great grandchildren, and cousins. Special cousins Alice Pettus, Oak Ridge, TN, and Ennis Sumrell, Raleigh, NC, and a host of friends.

Mrs. Barksdale was affectionately known by many who knew her as Ms. CarrieLizabeth and Ms. Carrie. She was a pillar of faith, service, and compassion. A devoted wife to the late Marcellus Barksdale of Paris, TN. Mrs. Barksdale was the proud mother of seven children, six daughters and one son, and carried the strength of widowhood with grace and unwavering devotion since 1970.

During her years at Campbell High School in Rockwood, she was engaged in many activities and built lasting friendships that reflected her outgoing and dedicated nature.

Throughout her life, Mrs. Barksdale demonstrated dedication and perseverance in her professional work. Her career included employment at the Federal Bakery Shop, the Tennessee School of Beauty, and the Oak Ridge Racquet Club, as well as meaningful work in private homes in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, where she was valued for her trustworthiness, care, and strong character.

Mrs. Barksdale was blessed to travel both abroad and throughout the United States, enriching her life with meaningful experiences and cultural discovery.

One of her most profound and unforgettable journeys was to Jerusalem, the Holy Land. There, she walked the Via Dolorosa, the sacred path where Jesus carried His cross before His crucifixion. She often shared that this experience deeply touched her heart and spirit, calling it one of the most emotional and sacred moments of her life.

Mrs. Barksdale's dedication did not go unnoticed. She received numerous accolades and awards, just to name a few. In 1997, she was honored at the

Hwy 27 Church of Christ in Summerville, GA, for her commitment and dedication to the Ladies Inspiration Day.

In 1998, she was presented with the Key to the City by the late Harriman City Mayor Harold Wester, an honor symbolizing her remarkable impact on her hometown and the countless lives she touched.

Mrs. Barksdale was honored during the 40th Annual Ladies Inspiration Day at the Sevier Drive Church of Christ in 2015, for her loyalty and selfless service. Tributes poured in from former Governor Bill Haslam, former Harriman City Mayor Chris Mason, and State Senator Ken Yager, recognizing her influence, her writings, and her lifelong commitment to faith and community.

Mrs. Barksdale received other awards, including the Pioneer Christian Award, Chattanooga, TN. This award pays tribute to the most faithful, dedicated, and committed sisters and brothers in Tennessee. The Hard Fighting Soldier Award at the Tennessee State Lectureship in Gatlinburg, TN. In 2017, she received another Key to the City in honor of her 90th birthday from current Harriman City Mayor Wayne Best, Harriman, TN.

In heartfelt recognition of her lifelong service and love for the community, Mrs. Barksdale was designated a GOLDEN TREASURE by Roane County on November 10, 2022, during Roane County Founder's Day. Her life and legacy remain a priceless gift to all she touched.

Following her Golden Treasure honor, she was also awarded an official Proclamation from the Tennessee Senate signed by Lieutenant Governor Randy McNally and State Senator Ken Yager, recognizing her remarkable service and lasting impact in her community.

Mrs. Barksdale extended far beyond the church walls. She served as a counselor for the Tennessee State Youth Conference, nurtured young athletes through the Knoxville Track Club, serving as treasurer, where her daughter Olympian Sharrieffa Barksdale ran track under the leadership of the late Olympian Ralph Boston, sang soprano in the Roane County Choral Society, volunteered at the former Harriman Hospital as a Pink Lady, served as a representative for the March of Dimes, and served as a board member to Keep Roane Beautiful. Mrs. Barksdale worked diligently to uplift and beautify her community. She gave her time, her voice, and her spirit wherever there was a need.

Mrs. Barksdale was known not only for her service, but for her gentle wisdom, encouraging words, warm smile, and steadfast belief in others, especially young people and those who felt discouraged or forgotten. She had a rare gift, the ability to make people feel seen, valued, and inspired.

She lived with purpose, faith, humility, and joy. Her life was a testimony of perseverance, kindness, and unwavering devotion to God, family, and community.

Her legacy will forever live in the hearts of those she loved and served.

Mrs. Barksdale often reminded others,  
“Work for the Lord. The pay may not be great, but the retirement is out of this world.”

And now, she has received her eternal reward.

Visitation will be held at the Harriman High School Gymnasium, 920 N. Roane Street, Harriman, TN 37748, Saturday, January 31, 2026. Receiving of friends 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Funeral Service 1:00 PM. Bro. John R. Taylor, Sr.,

Minister, East Third St., Church of Christ Chattanooga, TN, officiating.

In lieu of flowers donations can be made to the Sevier Drive Church of Christ  
P.O. Box 158 Harriman, TN. 37748.

The Barksdale Family Wishes to thank Hospice

We sincerely thank the Methodist Medical Home Care Hospice Staff, including  
Dr. Margaret Cook and her nursing team, for the excellent and compassionate  
care they provided to our beloved mother, Mrs. Carrie Barksdale.

Thank you for your dedication and support.

Kyker Funeral Home of Harriman is serving the Barksdale Family.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN 31. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Harriman High School Gymnasium  
920 N. Roane Street  
Harriman, TN 37748

## Funeral Service

JAN 31. 1:00 PM (ET)

Harriman High School Gymnasium  
920 N. Roane Street  
Harriman, TN 37748

# Tribute Wall

SM

“ *Sharron McClarty lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Carrie Elizabeth Rowan Barksdale*



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**Sharron McClarty** - February 01 at 11:49 AM

CP

“ *I am one of the grandchildren. I miss my grandmother dearly. She lived a long life and hope to do the same. Her legacy will always have a lark f effect. With love Clise, Sean, Adrian and Mason. Even though we're snowed in, we will carry her within our hearts always.*

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**clise plant** - January 31 at 12:09 PM

LH

“ The Harris family - George, Mary, Cheryl and Lori moved to Knoxville, TN in 1972. Daddy was the minister of the Park City Dr. Church of Christ. Through the 4th Sunday fellowships we met the Barksdale family and they all became footprints on our hearts. Cheryl & Lori became fast & endearing friends with the Barksdale sisters & Val and have remained steadfast sisters throughout this 50+ year friendship. Sis. Carrie Barksdale has been the bedrock of the family, the church at Sevier Dr. and the Roane County community. She welcomed us in her home often, treating us just like one of the girls, not guest. Her faith has been a testament and she has been a solid, active AMBASSADOR for the Lord. I have SO many memories of Sis. Carrie, but my sharpest one was her constant words, “Live and WORK for the Lord. The pay may not be much, but the Retirement plan is OUT OF SIGHT”! I will carry that legacy forever. Sis. Carrie Barksdale, Servant, WELL DONE! Now REST from your Labor!

*Sisters Darlene, Trellis, Sharrieffa, Marcia and extended family, we love you and lift you at this time and in the days ahead.*

*Always Loved & remembered, The Harris family! ❤️*

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**Lori Harris Hammond** - January 31 at 04:45 AM

GM

“ Sister Barksdale was a mainstay of the Sevier Drive Church of Christ in Harriman, TN. My memories of her and and family date back to the late 1950s when 6 of the east Tennessee Black churches of Christ conducted a monthly fellowship meetings on the 4th Sunday. She later became the mother in law of my late brother, Tommy Joe McCleskey, Sr. She continued communications with Tommy Joe up to his passing away in 2023.



May our God of comfort and peace grant comfort and peace to the Barksdale family as we grieve to loss of our sister but celebrate the life she lived.

George and Mary McCleskey

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George McCleskey - January 29 at 09:40 PM

FJ

“ From nieces Helen Joyce & Joyce purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Mrs. Carrie Elizabeth Rowan Barksdale.



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From nieces Helen Joyce & Joyce - January 29 at 03:02 PM

FJ

“ From nieces Helen Joyce & Joyce planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mrs. Carrie Elizabeth Rowan Barksdale.

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From nieces Helen Joyce & Joyce - January 29 at 03:02 PM

MB

“ Praying for the Family for comfort & strength. So sorry for your loss. Sis. Barksdale was a great inspiration to alot of Sisters throughout the Sisterhood. She will truly be missed. 💔



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**Maxie Benton** - January 28 at 08:03 PM

LC

“ Love, East Third Street Church of Christ purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Mrs. Carrie Elizabeth Rowan Barksdale.



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**Love, East Third Street Church of Christ** - January 28 at 12:45 PM

HT

“ I will always remember Aunt Carrie. I remember each summer we spent with my dad, Uncle Marcellus brother, and mom traveling to Harriman from Chattanooga to spend our summer vacation with them. Aunt Carrie always made sure our summer vacation with her family was filled with fun and love. As late as 2017, she supported us by attending the homegoing of her great nephew, Darren, in Chattanooga. We will always remember Aunt Carrie with a loving heart. Helen Joyce of Detroit and nieces and nephews from Detroit, Chattanooga, Atlanta, Gulfport, Nashville, and Orlando.

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**Helen Thomas** - January 28 at 11:14 AM

SB

“ *Ms. Barksdale aka Grannynanny always made me feel like one of her grandchildren whenever I was around. She will be missed.*  
*Sharica*



Sharica Brackens - January 28 at 07:33 AM

L(

“ *What a remarkable lady! Love to the Barksdale family and all who loved her. Lana (Heath)*



Lana (Heath) - January 28 at 07:05 AM

SH

“ *Shelbytuck lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Carrie Elizabeth Rowan Barksdale*



Shelbytuck - January 28 at 02:38 AM

LM

“ *Lisa McQuaige purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Mrs. Carrie Elizabeth Rowan Barksdale.*



Lisa McQuaige - January 27 at 10:26 PM

SB

“Mrs. Johnson and Ms. Trellis, I am so sorry to learn of the passing of your dear mom. Her obituary is a testament to her resilience and strength in the face of the community. She was a great woman of faith. You both are in my thoughts and prayers.

*Stacy Donald Bennett*

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**Stacy Donald Bennett** - January 27 at 09:40 PM

DW

*I am sorry to hear of the passing of Sister Barksdale. She was a faithful Christian who really loved the Lord. God Bless the Barksdale family. "Let not your hearts be troubled." Dennis Wolfe*

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**Dennis Wolfe** - January 28 at 12:52 PM

TH

*Our deepest condolences, thoughts, prayers, and love are with Sister Darlene, her sisters, and the entire extended family from all of us on the Sister Connect Outreach Prayer Line.*

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**TJ Haygood** - January 29 at 11:30 AM

WC

*Sister Darlene  
Our sympathy, thoughts, and prayers are with you and your family at this time for the loss of your Mom.*

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**Willie and Virgie Crawley** - January 29 at 09:25 PM