



Mathilda White Claiborne

July 1, 2025

Mathilda White Claiborne, a beloved mother, grandmother, and cherished member of her community, passed away peacefully on July 1, 2025, at the age of 98. Born on June 4, 1927, to the late Girod and Fanny Griffin in a life filled with love, resilience, and devotion. She is preceded in death by her sister Amanda Pearson (Jesse Pearson, Sr.) deceased and brother, Girod Griffin, Jr. Mathilda leaves behind a legacy of faith, respect and compassion.

“Teal” as she was called, was preceded in death by her devoted husband, Jerry White, with whom she shared 45 wonderful years of marriage. Together, they built a loving home and raised 10 children, instilling in each of them the values of family, faith, and perseverance. Her children include Jerry White, Jr. (Lorraine), Robert White, Sr. (deceased) (Jane), Mary White Cole, Donald White, Sr., Wilbert White (deceased), Fannye White Strickland (deceased), David White, Sr. (Linda), Carol White Johnson (Aaron), Lynnette White-Colin, and Michelle White-Julien (Gerard, Sr.).

Additionally, Mathilda embraced her role as a grandmother, nurturing her 32 grandchildren, 59 great grandchildren and 12 great, great grandchildren who all cherished her beyond measure. She adored them, never missing any of their milestones.

She was also preceded in death by Allen Claiborne, whom she married in

1992 and was stepmother to Cheryl Claiborne (deceased) and Allen Claiborne, Jr. (deceased)

Mathilda is survived by her aunt, Odelia Carr. She was preceded in death by her niece Linda Morgan and Juanita Pearson; She is survived by nephews Jesse Pearson, Jr., David Pearson and nieces Faye Fleming Pearson, Winnie Pearson, and a host of other cousins, great nieces and nephews.

Mathilda graduated from McDonogh 35 High School and Cohenson School of Nursing. She enjoyed a career as a licensed practical nurse and later worked as a telecommunications professional at BellSouth.

A woman of immense strength and compassion, Mathilda treasured her family above everything else. Her steadfast dedication to her family, and her unwavering faith were hallmarks of her life. She attended the International Church of God. Those who knew her will remember her gentle smile, her kind words and ever encouraging support. She was often described as the nicest person you'll ever meet.

She was a seamstress and a voracious reader; she loved gardening and was an outstanding cook! She prepared amazing meals for every family celebration, which brought warmth to her heart and happiness to the family's appetites. Her family and friends loved to see her dance, which she continued to do until the end.

Family and friends are invited to celebrate Mathilda's life on Tuesday, July 8, 2025, at Rhodes Funeral Home, 3933 Washington Avenue; New Orleans, LA 70125. A viewing will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. with a home going celebration to follow at 9:30 a.m. Interment at Providence Memorial Park Cemetery, 8200 Airline Drive; Metairie, LA 70003. Repast immediately following in the Lake Room at NOLA Skylight, 10001 Read Blvd; Suite 1100, New Orleans, LA 70127. Please visit <https://premiermemories.net/users/MTY1>

[OTA3LU1hdGhpbGRhIEhyaWZmaW4=/home.html](#) to sign the online guestbook, share memories and condolences with the family.

Mathilda's passing marks the end of an era, but her spirit will live on in the hearts of her children, grandchildren and the countless lives she touched.

Arrangements entrusted to D.W. Rhodes Funeral Home, 3933 Washington Ave., New Orleans, LA (504) 822-7162 www.rhodesfuneral.com.

Cemetery Details

Providence Park Cemetery

8200 Airline Dr.
Metairie, LA 70003

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 8. 9:00 AM - 9:30 AM (CT)

Rhodes Funeral Home - Washington Avenue
3933 Washington Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70125
(504) 822-7162
<https://www.rhodesfuneral.com>

Funeral Service

JUL 8. 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Rhodes Funeral Home - Washington Avenue
3933 Washington Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70125
(504) 822-7162
<https://www.rhodesfuneral.com>

Tribute Wall

JP

“ *Im going to miss baking you cakes and other pastries great grandma teal. Love Jazlynn your great granddaughter.* ”



Jazlynn Phoenix-Moore - July 10, 2025 at 10:17 AM

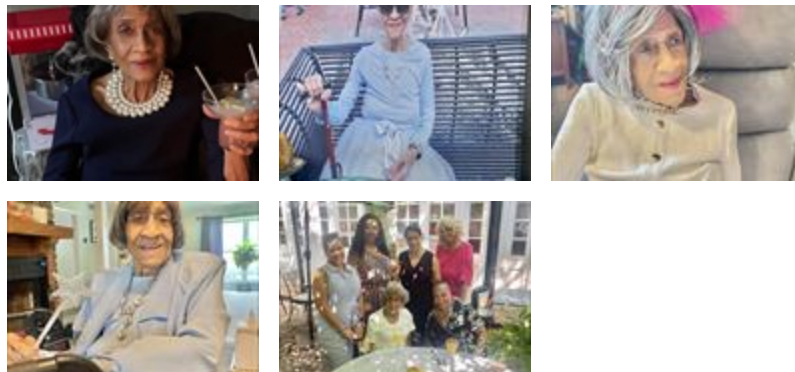
SG

“ *Dear Ms. Teal, I will miss you tremendously. There are no words express how much I will miss you, but I have hope to see you again all the wonderful conversations we had all the beautiful times we had when I was not feeling good. You would always perk me up when I was there to perk you up. I remember so much wonderful things we talked about. I'm sure you are up there with your sunshine, Mr. Jerry, Dale and Robert God bless you missing you always Shalimar David and Rufus.* 🙏🎵👠💕💄🦋 ”

Shalimar Green - July 09, 2025 at 04:47 AM

SJ

“ *10 files added to the tribute wall* ”



Shalimar Jones - July 09, 2025 at 04:42 AM

PG

“ Prioleaus (Atlanta, GA) purchased the Beautiful i
n Blue for the family of Mathilda White Claiborne.



Prioleaus (Atlanta, GA) - July 07, 2025 at 06:37 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Mathilda White Claiborne.

July 07, 2025 at 01:39 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the
family of Mathilda White Claiborne.



July 07, 2025 at 01:39 PM

CJ

“ Corey & Travis Jordan planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mathilda White Claiborne.

Corey & Travis Jordan - July 07, 2025 at 12:05 PM

CJ

“ Corey & Travis Jordan purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Mathilda White Claiborne.



Corey & Travis Jordan - July 07, 2025 at 12:05 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mathilda White Claiborne.



July 07, 2025 at 11:27 AM

RP

“ Grandmother you will be missed deeply. We love you and will forever hold you in our hearts.
Love ❤️
Robin, Tashaun, Nevaeh, Jazlynn and Katelynn



Robin Phoenix-Moore - July 06, 2025 at 10:39 PM

DC

“ Our family is deeply sorry that Ms. Claiborne has transitioned. She was a very classy, kind, and sweet lady. We were very glad to have had the pleasure of attending church with her for many year. The White family have our Deepest Sympathy. Deborah Crump and Family.

Deborah Crump - July 06, 2025 at 07:02 PM

PN

“ Grandmother made everyone feel loved and like the most important person in the world, when she spoke to them. I just see her smiling when she called me Pammie! 💕💕💕

Pamela Nourvle - July 05, 2025 at 02:19 PM

MF

“ Marguerite White & family purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Mathilda White Claiborne.



Marguerite White & family - July 04, 2025 at 09:27 PM

BA

“ Awe, how excellent! Well done! To this blessed family, I am beside you in your grief. I would not bid you to cease your weeping, tears bring relief. Cherish your memories and stay strong in your beliefs.

Beverly Albert-Higgins and family.

Beverly Albert-Higgins - July 04, 2025 at 09:27 PM

DF

“ Donald and Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mathilda White Claiborne.

Donald and Family - July 04, 2025 at 01:04 PM

DF

“ Donald and Family purchased the Fiery Lily and Rose for the family of Mathilda White Claiborne.



Donald and Family - July 04, 2025 at 01:04 PM

DW

“ Donnie W. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mathilda White Claiborne.

Donnie W. - July 04, 2025 at 11:46 AM

LW

“ Lynnette W. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mathilda White Claiborne.

Lynnette W. - July 04, 2025 at 03:32 AM