



Rita Gray Lyons

March 15, 2023

Rita Gray Lyons, departed this life on Wednesday, March 15, 2023, at 6:05 a.m. at Ferncrest Manor Living Center. Rita was a dedicated educator for 38 years whose service impacted many lives. She was born in New Orleans, on February 19, 1930 to the late Frank Gray, Sr. and Marie Jasmin Gibson, and is survived by two loving daughters, Voncile Lyons (Cranston Ross) of New Orleans, LA and Shyra Lyons Bazile (Ryan) of Lithia Springs, GA, and two grandchildren Bayley Monica Simmons and Marcus Adam McCarvy; brother Frank Gray Jr. of New Orleans, sister Sherri Gray Smith of Denham Springs, LA; sister-in-law Audrey Lyons of Schriever, LA. and is survived by a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives, and friends.

Rita was preceded in death by her husband of 50 years, Washington Lyons, her parents, four brothers: Robert, Cleveland, Joseph, and Johnny Gray, and one sister Betsy Lynn Gray Gibson.

The family members would like to extend their gratitude for all the wonderful support, prayers, and care from relatives, friends, and co-workers during our loved one's illness. The family also extends thanks to Traditions Health Hospice Services, especially nurses Karen Burrell and Rachel Whitney, and caretaker Aricia Farlough for their kind, attentive, and thorough care given to Rita.

Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend a Mass of Christian

Burial at St. Raymond-St. Leo Catholic Church, 2916 Paris Ave. New Orleans, LA 70119 on Monday, March 27, 2023, at 11:00 a.m. Father Stanley K. Ihuoma, SSJ, Officiant. Visitation will be from 9:00 a.m. until 10:15 a.m. The members of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. New Orleans Alumnae Chapter will perform the Omega Omega Ceremony following visitation. Interment: St. Louis No. 3 Cemetery, 3421 Esplanade Ave., New Orleans, LA 70119. Arrangements entrusted to D.W. Rhodes Funeral Home, 3933 Washington Ave. New Orleans, LA 70125. Please visit www.rhodesfuneral.com to sign the online guestbook.

Cemetery Details

St. Louis #3 Cemetery

3421 Esplanade Ave
New Orleans, LA 70119

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 27. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Leo/St. Raymond Catholic Church
2916 Paris Ave
New Orleans, LA

Funeral

MAR 27. 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Leo/St Raymond Catholic Church
2916 Paris Ave
New Orleans, LA 70119
(504) 945-8750

Tribute Wall

BW

“*Voncil your parents must have been kind and caring people because that is how I remember you when we worked at Metropolitan. You made your parents proud and they are resting in eternal peace together. Honor their legacy by living your best life.*
Barbara Watkins

barbara watkins - March 28, 2023 at 09:15 PM

JB

“*May the beautiful light of knowledge Mrs. Lyons (my 3rd grade teacher)passed on to many forever shine. As a teacher she was committed to excellence in education. She taught young girls and young boys how to be young ladies and gentlemen as well.*

*Voncile and Shyra, your mom will be missed but will forever be in the hearts and minds of her students.
You have my deepest condolences.*

*Love and Respect
Joakima White Blanc*

Joakima White Blanc - March 26, 2023 at 10:59 AM

DT

“*Voncille, Shyra... please remember... Earth has no sorrow that Heaven cannot cure... let your memories remind you that she may not be present, but you will feel her presence....we will remember her sense of humor, her laughter, and many club activities we shared!... love, Jessie Christophe and family*

Dionne C Times - March 25, 2023 at 08:05 PM

DT

“ I will always cherish the memories of Ms Rita coming over to my mother's house for Ladies of the Cameo club meeting and bringing Voncille with her to be with me while they all socialized together. It is a very pleasant memory that I will always hold dear to my heart and she will always be remembered

Dionne C Times - March 25, 2023 at 07:55 PM

PE

“ Mrs Lyons, You came into my life when you taught me in third grade at St. Joan of Arc School. I remember you as a firm, but excellent teacher. From the moment I met you, I knew that I wanted to be a teacher just like you. I did and taught for 43 years just as I remember you were. I retired three years ago but I always attribute my love and style of teaching to you. My family grew to love you as you taught my brother and younger sister also in third and fifth grades. I was saddened when I heard of your passing and only wish that I could attend your home going. May you enjoy the peace and glory you find with our Heavenly Father and look for parents for me! Amen 🙏
Phyllis Jackson Evans

Phyllis Jackson Evans - March 25, 2023 at 01:31 PM

BS

“ I remember Mrs. Lyons as a teacher at St. Leo the Great School (during the late '60's / early '70's). Mrs. Lyons was not one of my teachers, but she was kind enough to pick me up from the bus stop in Gentilly and drive me to school in the mornings on her way to St. Leo. She was a soft-spoken gentle lady, and Voncile and Shyra, I offer my sympathy to your entire family for your loss.

Betty Reis Small, St. Leo Class of 1973

Betty Reis Small - March 25, 2023 at 12:42 PM