



## Zella Mae Clay

May 4, 1943 - December 23, 2023

Zella Mae (Greene) Clay, 80, of Clayton, passed peacefully from this life in the early morning hours of Saturday, December 23, 2023, while surrounded by those who loved her most. She was born on May 4, 1943, in Stone Creek, VA, to the late Junior and Wilma Jean (Howard) Greene.

A coal miner's daughter and born into a challenging life, Zella was tasked with duties of playing the role of the matriarch to her 8 younger siblings at an early age. She attended St. Charles High School before moving to Indiana to find a better life where she met the love of her life, Robert "Butch" Clay while working at Biff's in Mooresville. The pair were married on December 4, 1961, and remained married for just shy of 50 years before his passing on August 10, 2010.

While her children were in school, Zella spent 20 plus years as a crossing guard for Poston Elementary School where she was known and loved by all the kids. Continuing to follow what she was born to do and a hard worker, she worked a day job while taking night classes, furthering her education, and becoming a Certified Nursing Assistant. This success led her to work for several nursing homes in the area: first Kennedy Living Center for 10 years, Plainfield Health Care for 5 years, before deservingly retiring from the Worthington House.

A mother of five at an early age, the family spent their summers tent camping on Lemon Lake. Zella was a talented seamstress making curtains, mending clothes, as well as sewing her daughter's dresses for baton and cheerleading. She possessed a green thumb and thoroughly enjoyed harvesting the fruits of her labor, then canning her wares. A master in the kitchen, she was a great cook and passed on her recipes (macaroni and cheese) to her great grandchildren. Her kitchen was always open, and no one ever left hungry.

Although she was stubborn as a mule at times, Zella was very loving and giving. She managed to overcome any and all obstacles life threw at her, and she inevitably made the best of them. Instilled with the ability to take care of people, she deeply loved her family. She will be forever missed but will remain in the hearts of those she held dear.

Zella leaves behind her children, Lisa Frentz of Camby, Theresa Cook (Rick) of Monrovia, Jackie (Tim) Dougherty of Lexington, MO, Missy Thacker (Bruce) of Mooresville, and Robbie Clay (Angie) of Martinsville; siblings, Carl Greene (Patty) of Rockville, Delbert Greene (Shannon) of Monrovia, Mitchell Greene (Sherry) of Monrovia, Herman Greene of Liberty, KY, Billy Joe Greene (Dottie) of Spencer, Ray Greene of Carlisle, IN, Annette Campbell (Jimmy) of Troy, OH, and Donna Russell of Mt. Meridian; along with 22 grandchildren and 21 great grandchildren.

Visitation will be held from 4 to 7pm, on Tuesday, January 2, 2024, at Light Memorial & Funeral Chapel in Monrovia. A Celebration of Life Service will begin at 12pm, on Wednesday, January 3, 2024, at the funeral home, with additional calling held an hour prior. Pastor Tim Dougherty will officiate services and burial will follow in Mt. Pleasant Cemetery, Hall. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made by mail to the American Cancer Society, PO Box 22718, Oklahoma City, OK 73123-1718, or online by clicking <https://www.cancer.org/>. To upload a picture on Zella's tribute wall, share a favorite story, send

the family an online condolence, sign the online guest registry, or light a candle in her memory, please visit [www.lightmemorial.com](http://www.lightmemorial.com).

# Cemetery Details

## Mt Pleasant Cemetery, Hall

5409 W. Hurt Road  
Monrovia, IN 46157

# Previous Events

## Visitation

**JAN 2.** 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Light Memorial & Funeral Chapel  
585 East Main Street  
Monrovia, IN 46157  
(317) 996-2101  
<https://www.lightmemorial.com>

## Additional Visitation

**JAN 3.** 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Light Memorial & Funeral Chapel  
585 East Main Street  
Monrovia, IN 46157  
(317) 996-2101  
<https://www.lightmemorial.com>

## **Celebration of Life Service**

---

**JAN 3. 12:00 PM (ET)**

Light Memorial & Funeral Chapel  
585 East Main Street  
Monrovia, IN 46157  
(317) 996-2101  
<https://www.lightmemorial.com>

# Tribute Wall

AW

“ I'm so sorry to hear about Zella. I had an appointment with her this morning not knowing of her passing. I was worried so I checked with her neighbors to see if she was okay. That's when they informed me. I just want to say to her family members that I was really looking forward to meeting her as we had great conversation over the phone and she put a smile on my face whenever I spoke with her. Such a sweet, sweet woman. May God bless your family.

*Sincerely,*

*Andrew*

---

**Andrew Wray** - January 08, 2024 at 01:16 PM

SG

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



---

**Shandel greene** - December 28, 2023 at 11:55 PM



“ 4 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



---

**Light Memorial & Funeral Chapel - December 28, 2023 at 07:04 PM**



“ 67 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



---

**Light Memorial & Funeral Chapel - December 28, 2023 at 04:15 PM**

CA

“ Zella was her name but to me it was Sis. She was two years older than me and the oldest of 9. I am so proud to be her brother and I love her so much. Being the oldest comes with alot of responsibilities and she had to grow up fast and sacrificed alot for all of us.

Dad worked in the coal mines and mom worked at home and we all helped. Sis started out at five years old standing on a stool next to mom, helping her cook on a woodstove making biscuits, washing, dishes and helping Dad in the garden.

She worked hard as we all did and as our family grew so did the responsibilities. Zella loved school, but her help was needed at home with the younger children and eventually she gave up school. She was always there for us growing up, if we needed a hug a friend or just encouragement she was there. We may not of had much but we never went without. I love all my family and I am so grateful for Zella.

I will miss my Sister but knowing she is now reunited with her husband and our Mom and Dad in heaven, makes it more bearable, till we meet again.

I Love you Sis and thank you for loving us.

Your brother Carl



---

Carl - December 27, 2023 at 12:22 PM

TJ

“ Tim and Jackie planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Zella Mae Clay.

---

Tim and Jackie - December 27, 2023 at 11:23 AM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Zella Mae Clay.*



---

December 27, 2023 at 11:23 AM



“ *Am amazing woman and awesome Memaw to my son Colten,will always remember her kindness and help with raising Colten a deed that will never be forgotten,will miss you Memaw,and thank you for all you've done!! Love ,Pete and Angie*

---

**peter mc nab** - December 26, 2023 at 06:17 PM