



Mrs. Christene Clayton Sparks

May 24, 1940 - July 15, 2020

STATESBORO, Georgia

Mrs. Christene Clayton Sparks, age 80, died Wednesday July 15, 2020 at Memorial Health University Medical Center in Savannah. Her death was the result of the complication of injuries received from a fall.

The Bulloch County native was Salutatorian of the 1958 graduating class of Portal High School. She also attended Georgia Southern College.

She and her husband initially lived in Bulloch County but they also lived in Athens, GA; Gainesville, FLA; and Clemson, SC while he was attending graduate school. They returned to Bulloch County in 1969 and have resided in Statesboro since that time.

Shortly after returning to Statesboro, Mrs. Sparks accepted a position as Assignments Coordinator in the Housing Office at Ga. Southern College. She worked at the Housing Office until her retirement from Ga. Southern University in 2000.

Mrs. Sparks was a dedicated and loving wife, mother and grandmother, who enjoyed spending time with her family whom she loved dearly. Any event involving family was thoroughly enjoyed and there were many such events - birthdays, reunions, Easter, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and the more visits from family members the better she liked it. She was well known for her delicious cooking and everyone always sought out her dishes. Mrs. Sparks loved her annual beach trip with as many of her children and grandchildren as could attend. For many years the family annually spent a week at an oceanfront rental at various beaches in Florida, South Carolina, and Georgia. She thoroughly enjoyed sitting on the balcony while taking in the views, sounds, and smells of the ocean.

She and her husband traveled extensively over the years in the United States, Canada, Mexico and overseas to many countries in Europe, The Middle East, North Africa, Asia, and South America. On quite a few of their trips, they were accompanied by other members of their family. Sometimes as many as eight other family members traveled with

them. Having other family members accompany them on trips made the trips even more special to Mrs. Sparks.

Mrs. Sparks loved working with flowers. She had a large flower garden, many hanging baskets, and numerous potted plants. She grew many varieties of flowers and plants and enjoyed taking care of them.

Mrs. Sparks was a longtime Ga. Southern Eagle football fan. She and her husband held season tickets from the time Erk Russell brought football back to Ga. Southern in 1981. They attended home games and traveled to many away games over the years - including playoff and national championship games.

Mrs. Sparks not only loved her family, she loved her church and her church family. One of the overseas trips she took was a tour to the Holy Land which visited Israel, Jordan, and Egypt. This was a very special experience for her and the family members who traveled with her. She was active in church all of her life and attended a number of churches as her family moved. In recent years she was a member of Friendship Baptist Church.

Mrs. Sparks was preceded in death by parents John Carlton Clayton and Ethel Howell Clayton; siblings Jacqueline (Jackie) Clayton Lowery, Bobby Ralph Clayton, Johnny Wayne Clayton, Ronnie Delayne Clayton, and infant Debra Ethel Clayton; grandparents Joseph Kisler Clayton and Bessie Parker Clayton (Jenkins County); Charlie Jefferson Howell and Amanda Mixon Howell (Bulloch County).

Mrs. Sparks is survived by her husband of 61 years Dr. Arthur Sparks of Statesboro, GA; daughter: Vicki Carter (Robert) of Albany, GA; sons: Brian Sparks (Lori) of Glastonbury, CT; Les Sparks of Statesboro, GA; grandchildren: Dr. Blaire Carter Suttler (Jeff) of Marietta, GA; Lydia Carter Wickenhoefer (Toby) of Round O, SC; Luke Sparks of North Kingstown, RI; Diana Sparks of Colchester, CT; and Rachel Sparks of Glastonbury, CT; sisters: Carlene Clayton Akins of Portal GA and Shirley Clayton Beasley (Bob) of Fayetteville, GA; and many nieces and nephews.

A private graveside service and burial will be at the Brooklet City Cemetery Friday at 12:30pm with Pastor Tony Pagliarullo officiating. For those desiring to join the service via live stream, may do so by joining the group "Joiner-Anderson Live Stream" at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/jafhlive>.

Family and friends that would like to attend the service may do so and remain in their cars in the designated parking area.

Pallbearers will be Brian Sparks, Les Sparks, Robert Carter, Toby Wickenhoefer, Jeff Suttler and Rachel Sparks.

The family requests that in lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to the

Benevolence Fund, Friendship Baptist Church, 4025 Friendship Baptist Church Road, Statesboro, Ga. 30458; The Open Hearts Community Mission, 201 Martin Luther King Jr Dr, Statesboro, GA 30458; or to Food Bank Inc., 400 Donnie Simmons Way, Statesboro, GA 30458.

Friends may sign the online register book at www.joineranderson.com.

Joiner-Anderson Funeral Home & Crematory of Statesboro is in charge of the arrangements.

Cemetery

Brooklet City Cemetery

West Lee Street

Brooklet, GA, 30415

Comments



“ I saw a lot of miss chris when I was working at the Georgia theater her children and I were good friends to Dr Arthur Vicki Brian and Les you all are in my prayers love all of you Bill Smith

William Smith - July 22 at 04:57 AM



“ Vaneé Tillman Blanchette

Vaneé Tillman Blanchette - July 20 at 10:05 PM



“ Ina Ruth Smith lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Christene Clayton Sparks



Ina Ruth Smith - July 17 at 10:58 AM



“ The Rittenhouse Family purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Mrs. Christene Clayton Sparks.



The Rittenhouse Family - July 17 at 09:35 AM



“ Arthur--Lonnie and I are so sorry to hear about Chris leaving us. I love the picture you chose for her. This is just how I remember her. She was always so very kind to me and I loved the times we visited your home (her cooking was just phenomenal). I know you and your children and grand children will miss her so much. We are sending our prayers that God will comfort you and let you look forward to seeing her again. Blessings to you and the children. We love you.

Lila & Lonnie Roberts

Lila Roberts - July 17 at 01:18 AM



“ Dear Sparks Family, We are extremely saddened to lose Christene from our midst but comforted by the knowledge that she is with her Heavenly Father and other family members who have gone before her. Chris always had a smile ready when she saw you and you knew her interest in what was happening in your life was genuine. We truly enjoyed seeing her at church gatherings and at family reunions. We will miss her. Please accept our condolences. Jean Howell Parker and Bob Parker

Jean Parker - July 16 at 09:32 PM



“ I first met Chris nearly 30 years ago to the day. I first moved to Statesboro in July of 1990 when my apartment was available because I was going to start teaching at Georgia Southern University in Fall 1990. When I met her, I was with her husband and we were in the back parking lot behind Math/Physics (where the newer part of the building is). She had made boiled peanuts. Being raised up north, I never had a boiled peanut before but thought they were delicious. She told me that she wasn't all that interested in my opinion but rather that of Arthur's. Many, many years later we reflected on that conversation and she laughed that she wasn't all the surprised to respond that way to a youngster arriving at work for the first time. It is a great memory. She was a wonderful wife, mom, grandma, aunt, friend. I love boiled peanuts and whenever I make them I think a little positive thought about her introducing them to me. She was a super lady and will be missed in so many ways by so many people. Respectfully, Jim

Jim Braselton - July 16 at 04:20 PM



“ The Sparks were my Moma and Daddy's neighbors for many years and were always there to help when needed. They were also there when we lost our parents. Moma and Daddy considered them very dear friends. God bless you and so sorry for your loss.



Patricia Butler - July 16 at 04:14 PM



“ Sending love and prayers to all of the Sparks. Dr. Sparks was my department head in the math department at Georgia Southern for many years. God bless all of you. So so sorry.

Joy Darley - July 16 at 09:41 PM



“ Aunt Chris you will always be an amazing person. I know you will watch over us all until we can be together again. What a joyous day that will be. Uncle Arthur, Vicki, Brian and Les know that our hearts and prayers are with you. We love you all.



Kim Sample - July 16 at 03:48 PM



“ I always enjoyed seeing Mr. Arthur and Mrs. Chris at church! This beautiful, sweet lady will be greatly missed.

Lori Spence - July 16 at 03:28 PM



“ Mr. Arthur and kids, I am so sorry to hear about Ms. Chris. My thoughts and prayers are with all of you at this difficult time. I have so many pleasant memories as a child growing up next to Nannie and playing with all of you! I sure hate that this situation that we are faced with prevents us from being able to pay our respects. Please know that y'all have always been and always will be special to me. Much love coming your way! Teresa McElveen

Teresa McElveen - July 16 at 03:24 PM



“ I am so sorry for your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with the entire family.

Eluzabeth Riker - July 16 at 08:57 PM