



JULIA MAE BLACKWELL BONHAM

June 15, 2025

Julia Mae Blackwell Bonham of Hueytown passed away on June 15, 2025, after a long and abundant life. She was born July 5, 1926, to R.G. Blackwell and Elizabeth Lynn Blackwell. After graduating from Minor High School, she married Hugh Morris Bonham and began the family that was the center of her life.

Committed to her four children's education and activities, Julia often served as a room mother, drove many carpools, and attended a multitude of musical performances and sporting events. She taught children's Sunday School for over four decades, and Vacation Bible School until age 95 at Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church.

Widowed early with the loss of Hugh in 1988, Julia demonstrated resilience, embracing opportunities to serve through her church and finding unexpected joys through travel. She walked many laps around the PRBC Family Life Center track – and kept an accurate count of the number of miles each week.

Later, she enjoyed being in the "Golden Heirs" musicals in her 80s and 90s, always diligent about memorizing her lines and being on time for rehearsal.

In addition to Hugh, Julia was preceded in death by son Kenneth Hugh Bonham and son-in-law Marshall W. Smith. She is survived by daughters Sheila Smith, Sharon Green (Robert), and Tammy Bailey (David) as well as daughter-in-law Susan Lee Bonham. Grandmother to 12 and great-grandmother to 16, Julia delighted in being the matriarch of a large family after growing up as an only child.

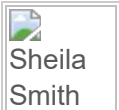
The family will receive visitors at Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church, Hueytown, Alabama on Monday, June 23 from 10:00-11:00 AM followed by a funeral service. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Children's Ministry at Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church.

Tribute Wall

DD

“ Dear Sheila, I remember how sweet and kind your mother was, and how welcome she made us feel when we visited her home many years ago. My mother thought very highly of her. I'm so sorry for your loss, but know that someday you will be reunited in heaven.
Debbie Bledsoe Degnan

Deborah Degnan - June 27, 2025 at 12:47 AM



Sheila Smith

Thank you so much, Debbie. Mother admired your mother and her immense talent! Those were special years. ❤️

Sheila Smith - July 28, 2025 at 10:45 PM

DL

“ Mrs. Bonham was sweet and classy lady. God bless Shelia and family in this time of sorrow. I will always remember you and your family.
Don Lacy

Don Lacy - June 22, 2025 at 08:09 PM

SS

Thank you for your kind words, Don. We cherish our memories from our old neighborhood! ❤️

Sheila Smith - June 30, 2025 at 10:36 AM

JA

“ *My heartfelt condolences to her family who Julia must have been so proud of. It's obvious she was a lovely woman and committed to living a gentle but powerful life. Rest in Peace, Julia.*

Joy Altman, daughter of Helen Burton.

Joy Altman - June 21, 2025 at 06:05 AM

SS

Thank you, Joy! Mother was so happy she could share memories of our connected families the day we all met! ❤️

Sheila Smith - June 30, 2025 at 10:39 AM

DC

“ *Our heart felt condolences to the extended Bonham family in the loss of your Mother and Grandmother. Her strength and resilience serve as evidence of the fierce love for her family, friends and church. She looked so lovely in her purple dress at the wedding of Heather and Matthew in 2008. I'm certain she would enjoy seeing all of the purple on display during your gathering. May God's presence be of comfort during these days of a long good-bye. With much love, Donita and Larry Cooper.*

Donita Cooper - June 20, 2025 at 03:11 PM

SS

Thank you, sweet memories from 2008, indeed! ❤️

Sheila Smith - June 30, 2025 at 10:34 AM