



Carlene M. Clayton

December 12, 1949 - August 21, 2018

Carlene Marilyn Butler Clayton, 68, found peace and rest in the arms of our Lord Tuesday, August 21, 2018 after a ten month battle with pancreatic cancer. Her timing was impeccable. She held on to see everyone through their first day of school just like she had in previous years. This being the first year in 44 years not to be present on the first day of school as an employee of Rusk ISD. She was devoted to her family, friends, faculty, and students until her last day. Her legacy of tenacity, perseverance and determination will have a lasting impact on all she touched.

Mrs. Clayton was the greatest of advocates for children and public education. She was known throughout the community for her warmth and compassion. She began her career in the classroom in Tyler ISD. With her love for her hometown and her passion for students and future Eagle graduates, she devoted her life to educating and loving many generations of Rusk students. Mrs. Clayton was a junior high school teacher who taught Language Arts at Rusk Junior High and went on to become an assistant principal and principal of Rusk Junior High. She retired in May as the principal at Rusk Intermediate School, where she served the past 12 years. With 44 years in the district, Rusk ISD was her home away from home. She spent many years teaching the youth at First Baptist Church Rusk and much of her time throughout the years sponsoring cheerleading, UIL, GT and other school clubs. Her endless efforts to always help others and her passion for caring for families has spread throughout the community and is why she is so loved and respected by all.

Mrs. Clayton applied the same love and dedication she brought to her job to her family. She married her high school sweetheart, Bob Clayton. She was a loving mother to her son, Bart and wife, Sarah Clayton and her daughter, Ashley and husband Todd Oliver, an amazingly loving grandmother “KeKe” to her four precious grandchildren, Taryn and Trayce Clayton, and Ainsley and Clayton Oliver. She was an adored friend and leader to the RUSK ISD staff and school community. She was also a tireless activist in the community and a mighty voice for its children and families. She was so many wonderful words wrapped up into one beautiful person inside and out.

In her final days she especially cherished the blossoming friendships she has formed with other cancer warriors and survivors. In celebration of her life and her passion for caring for others, help us continue her work in supporting the future generations by raising awareness not just for pancreatic cancer, but all cancers. She was a firm believer that God has carried her through this to be witness to others. It was her mission on Earth to give a strong witness of her faith, share with others the scriptures of healing and the power of the Armour of God.

Mrs. Clayton is also survived by her sister, Nancy and Husband Steve Lee. Brother in law, Chuck Clayton, and Wife Brenda Clayton. Cousins, who were like sisters, Judy Watson and Jan Brown, and their spouses John Paul Watson and Claudia Brown, her “Forever Friends”, Joyce Whisenhunt, Rosemary Breedlove, Sharla Corley and Doris Stamey.

A funeral service is scheduled for 2:00 p.m., Friday, August 24, 2018 at the Rusk High School Coliseum with Bro. Heath Peloquin and Bro. Mick Guess officiating. Burial will follow at Cedar Hill Cemetery. Visitation will be from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., Thursday, August 23, 2018 at the First Baptist Church in Rusk. As a lifelong Rusk Eagle, she was dedicated to loving and educating students and we invite you to wear Eagle colors to honor her memory.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the Carlene M. Clayton Memorial Scholarship Fund at Cherokee County Teachers Federal Credit Union, <http://www.ccteachers.com>.

Tribute Wall



“ Wallace-Thompson Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Carlene M. Clayton



Wallace-Thompson Funeral Home - August 23, 2018 at 01:10 PM



“ Carlene M. Clayton

October 04, 2023 at 11:30 AM



“ So many of Mrs Clayton's students never took the time to seek her out and let them know how much her love meant to them growing up. I being one of them. She never seemed to have a bad day always a smile, kind word and even a hug when she had to correct you (trust me I got a lot of those hugs) Rest peacefully knowing you made a huge difference in children's lives even if they never showed it or got the opportunity to tell you

Wendy Rogers House - August 27, 2018 at 09:47 AM

LK

“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.~~MATTHEW 5:16
I have so many memories of the few years I worked for Mrs. Clayton, but one thing stands out above all of the memories, and that's her unconditional love for ANYONE she crossed paths with. She was moved with a heart of compassion like Jesus, and had the hands and feet of Jesus, always serving. I never heard her take credit for a single thing she did, she always gave the glory to God through Jesus Christ! Mrs. Clayton was a remarkable Christian woman, and I am so very blessed to have known her! My love and prayers for her family.



Lynnette King - August 24, 2018 at 01:16 PM

WJ

“Waylon And Chrissy Jones lit a candle in memory of Carlene M. Clayton



Waylon and Chrissy Jones - August 23, 2018 at 05:05 PM



“ 307 files added to the album *LifeTributes*



Wallace-Thompson Funeral Home - August 23, 2018 at 11:53 AM



“ *Lila Murray lit a candle in memory of Carlene M. Clayton*



Lila Murray - August 23, 2018 at 10:36 AM



“ *Tina Kinney lit a candle in memory of Carlene M. Clayton*



Tina Kinney - August 22, 2018 at 06:50 PM

FF

“ *Falon Bain and Family, purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Carlene M. Clayton.*



Falon Bain and Family, - August 22, 2018 at 06:00 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Carlene M. Clayton.*



August 22, 2018 at 05:53 PM



“ *Simply Happy Kalanchoe Plant was purchased for the family of Carlene M. Clayton.*




August 22, 2018 at 05:30 PM

JK

“ *Ms. Clayton is the ultimate example of the timeless traits of Faith, Hope, Charity, Kindness, and Love. So rare are all of these in one individual.*



Jim Keckeisen - August 22, 2018 at 04:21 PM

 Elizabeth Houston

“ Elizabeth Houston lit a candle in memory of Carlene M. Clayton




Elizabeth Houston - August 22, 2018 at 02:27 PM

 Carolyn Ford

“ Carolyn Ford lit a candle in memory of Carlene M. Clayton



Carolyn Ford - August 22, 2018 at 01:56 PM

 Starlette Ebanez

“ Starlette Ebanez lit a candle in memory of Carlene M. Clayton



Starlette Ebanez - August 22, 2018 at 01:10 PM

 DP

“ Darlene Pruett lit a candle in memory of Carlene M. Clayton



Darlene Pruett - August 22, 2018 at 11:30 AM



“ *Tanya Hight lit a candle in memory of Carlene M. Clayton*



Tanya Hight - August 22, 2018 at 10:36 AM

RH

“ *Rita Cotton Hanson lit a candle in memory of Carlene M. Clayton*



Rita Cotton Hanson - August 22, 2018 at 09:24 AM

RH

Prayers for the family.

Rita Cotton Hanson - August 22, 2018 at 09:24 AM

AO

“ *Anita Ocker lit a candle in memory of Carlene M. Clayton*



Anita Ocker - August 22, 2018 at 09:21 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Carlene M. Clayton.*



August 22, 2018 at 08:57 AM



“ *Patricia Larson lit a candle in memory of Carlene M. Clayton*



Patricia Larson - August 22, 2018 at 01:59 AM



“ *Thank you, Mrs. Clayton, for being a Godly woman and pouring your heart into the children and families of our community. ♡*

Jenny Peters and Family - August 21, 2018 at 10:59 PM



“ *Carlene you was one of the greatest Principals for children. They all loved you & you was a part of their team. GOD seen that you needed to rest & he picked his best Angel. Prayers to all the family & to your extended children (school children). We all loved you.*

patsy hughes - August 21, 2018 at 10:19 PM

KA

“ I remember teaching across the hall from Carlene in the 2-story Jr. High. Years later my children got to experience her sweet smile. She will be missed terribly.

Kathy - August 21, 2018 at 10:10 PM


Heather
Burk

“ From the time I was in 4th grade, this lady made a huge difference in my life. Then she was my children's principal. She was a wonderful mentor & an inspiration to everyone that met her. As kids we always wanted to be like her. I'm praying for her family

Heather Burk - August 21, 2018 at 09:49 PM

CA

“ Rusk has lost a very warm hearted and beautiful woman of God,She loved you no matter what and did whatever she could to help out ,Mrs.Clayton you will truly be missed by many but God called you home to rest...We love you and will truly miss you



Cangelya - August 21, 2018 at 09:40 PM

TC

“ Such a wonderful woman of God. She dedicated her life to teaching and molding children. She will be greatly missed. Prayers for peace for your family.



Tana Crockett - August 21, 2018 at 09:30 PM

LF

“ *Leslie Hassell And Family lit a candle in memory of Carlene M. Clayton*



Leslie Hassell and Family - August 21, 2018 at 09:19 PM

LF

Leslie Hassell and Family sending "Baskets of Prayers and Hugs" to the family

Leslie Hassell and Family - August 21, 2018 at 09:21 PM

JW

“ *Mrs. Clayton was a wonderful lady who touched the lives of many children! Sending our prayers to her family and the faculty of RISD.*



Jennifer Prater Williams - August 21, 2018 at 09:07 PM

NL

“ *Such A Wonderful Lady!!! I've known her for many years!! Even had the opportunity to work with her!!! She will be missed!!! Sending prayers to the family!!!*



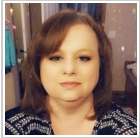
Nikita Landrum - August 21, 2018 at 08:46 PM

BH

“ Mrs. Clayton was a very sweet women I loved her when I was in school and still do and I am praying everyday for her family and friends ❤️
❤️



Bailey hinds - August 21, 2018 at 08:38 PM



“ She was one of the sweetest ladies ever. She will be missed so much. She had such a sweet smile that would brighten your day.

Amanda Gray - August 21, 2018 at 08:38 PM

CB

“ Christen Booth lit a candle in memory of Carlene M. Clayton



Christen Booth - August 21, 2018 at 08:24 PM

CB

Love Mrs. Clayton and her family. She was such a wonderful teacher, mentor, and most of all a God fearing woman. May God bless her and her family and friends during this time. Heaven has gained an amazing woman! We'll miss you Mrs. Clayton!!!

Christen Booth - August 21, 2018 at 08:26 PM

LL

“ *Carlene will be deeply missed by many. She has been such a Blessing to so many people. She touched many lives with her love and kindness for others. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family.*
Billy & Lori Lankford



Lori Lankford - August 21, 2018 at 08:01 PM