



Mary Louella Clay

Feb. 16, 1947 - Jan. 24, 2025

Mary Louella Clay, age 77, of Lenoir, NC passed away peacefully on Friday, January 24, 2025, at her home after several years of declining health.

Born on February 16, 1947 to the late Esther and Marshall Harwood, she was known for her boundless love for her family, radiant smile, and spunky attitude.

Louella was a cherished wife, mother, grandmother, sister, aunt, and a devoted friend to many. She was married to John Edward Clay, her beloved partner of 38 years, with whom she shared a life filled with joy, laughter, and mutual devotion. Together, they built a life rooted in love and a legacy of compassion and kindness to their kids and grandkids.

Louella found immense joy in her time with John working in the yard, camping, fishing and travelling. Mostly, she loved being a homemaker taking care of her grandchildren.

She is survived by her husband, John Clay of the home; son, Brian Barrier (Michelle) of Morganton; step-sons, Michael Barrier (Elaine) of Morganton and Steve Barrier (Teresa) of Avery County; step-daughters, Mandy Williams (Kurt) and Beth, both of

(Teresa) of Avery County; step-daughters, Mandy Williams (Kurt) and Beth, both of Lenoir; her grandchildren (who were the loves of her life), Ashley Jennings (Alice), Shaelyn Carson, Trevor Barrier, Luke Barrier, Christian Williams, Cameron Williams, India Mull, and Sabrina Clay; great-grandchildren (who will carry forward her legacy of love and kindness), Ronnie and Alex Clay; and a brother, E.J. Harwood.

In addition to her parents, Mary was preceded in death by a son, Tommy Mull; daughter, Lynne Mull; two brothers, Dean and Eugene Harwood; and sister, Lucille Hendrix.

The family will forever cherish the many years we had with Mary.

The family will have a private service at a later date.

Sossoman Funeral Home and Crematory Center is assisting the family with the arrangements.

Tribute Wall



Rest easy Aunt louella no More pain here on this side and all the joy you can stand on the other now. We love and miss you.

—Teresa Hurt

So sorry for your loss. When one is in pain and no resolution in site, it is best that she went to her resting place. Same as I did in November when I lost my Mom. Brian, in the photo shown herein, I can see the resemblance. RIP to your mom.
Elise

—Elise Negrin