



## Mrs. Neva Graves West

April 18, 1933 - May 21, 2014

Neva Graves West, 81, died May 21, 2014. Neva was born April 18, 1933, to Richard and Ruby Graves in Crocketts Bluff, Arkansas. She lived on the family farm, attended Crocketts Bluff one room school, St. Charles Elementary, and graduated from DeWitt High School in 1951.

After graduation, she lived and worked in Helena, moved to Conway, and graduated from Arkansas State Teacher's College in 1964 with a BSE in Elementary Education. She returned to Crocketts Bluff and began teaching second grade at Southside Elementary in DeWitt until her retirement in 1984. Her teaching career was very special, filled with great memories and life long friends. She always loved seeing and visiting with former students and co-workers.

On January 30, 1982, Neva married the love of her life, Chester F. West and moved to St. Charles. In January 1996, they returned to Crocketts Bluff. Neva was a member of the Arkansas Education Association and Kappa Kappa Iota of DeWitt. She loved and supported her community by serving on the Crocketts Bluff Volunteer Fire Department Board and Crocketts Bluff Community Center serving the Annual July 4th Celebration as Door Prize Chairman.

Neva proudly served as a DeWitt Senior Center Council member. She attended daily and took great pride in representing the center. She thought of everyone as her friends and enjoyed what the center offered area senior citizens.

Neva grew up in the Crocketts Bluff Missionary Baptist Church serving as pianist every time the doors opened in 1946 until her fall in February. Her entire life revolved around music: singing duets in church with her sister while growing up, their 1970s gospel group, and singing solo's. She also enjoyed watching and listening to gospel programs and loved playing the piano for services, programs or any church activity.

Some never knew Neva didn't have children of her own. She considered all her nephews & nieces and great nieces & nephews as her own. In her eyes, they were all very special and she loved them dearly...

She is preceded in death by her husband Chester F. West, parents Richard and Ruby Graves, sister Mary Jo Graves, two brothers Duke (Lillian) Graves and Gene (Elnora) Graves and niece Debbie (Wayne) McSwain.

She is survived by her sister Willene (Dean) West of DeLand, Florida and nephews and nieces Kenneth (Diana) Graves, Dennis (Emma) Graves of Fayetteville, Connie (Larry) McCallie, Suellen (Steve) Henry of Little Rock, Patricia Graves of Forrest City, and Nancy (Bob) Morgan.

Great nieces and nephews are Bethany (Tim) Atkinson of White Hall, Britt Graves of Little Rock, Brianne (Jason) Herron of Fayetteville, Brandon Hawkins of Harrison, Clay (Abra) Morgan of Fayetteville, Chance Morgan, and Jamie McSwain.

Great, great nieces and nephews are Kinley Atkinson, Holland Herron, Pierce and Parker Hawkins.

Funeral services were 10:00 a.m. Friday at Crocketts Bluff Missionary Baptist Church with burial in DeWitt Cemetery by Essex Funeral Home. Memorials may be made to Crocketts Bluff Missionary Baptist Church, P.O. Box 549, DeWitt, AR 72042 or DeWitt Senior Center, P.O. Box 448, DeWitt, AR 72042. [essexfuneralhome.com](http://essexfuneralhome.com)

# Tribute Wall

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“ *I attended many church services with Neva and heard her sing many times. She was a very gifted lady and always had a beautiful smile for everyone she met. She is surely singing with the angels today.*

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**Peggy Carlin Grantham** - April 27, 2018 at 01:31 PM

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“ *To the Graves family,*

*I am very sorry for the loss of Neva. She was a very sweet lady.  
God Bless Each of You.*

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**Ray Gilbert** - April 27, 2018 at 01:31 PM