Mattie Lee Slappey Thomas, affectionately known as

"Dear", was born in Sumter County, Georgia on August 29, 1934, to the parentage of the late Mr. Stencil Slappey and the late Mrs. Flora Lee Rogers Slappey. At an early age, she joined the Lebanon Baptist Church, where she served faithfully as a member and an usher for over 35 years. She received her education in the public school system of Sumter County, GA. She was employed for more than 40 years at the Plains Convalescent Home. Ms. Mattie was married to the late Mr. William Thomas.

She was the matriarch of the family. She was always there to assist in any way she could, not only for her family, but for everyone she came in contact with.

In addition to her parents and her husband, she is also preceded in death by her daughter, Irma Jean Jackson; a grandson, Donald Gibson and brothers and sisters: Charlie Lewis Slappey, Annie B. Slappey, Bessie Mae Daniels, Mozelle Slappey, Eugene Slappey and Clyde Slappey.

She leaves to cherish her memories: her son, Mr. Charles Slappey, Plains, GA; her daughter, Ms. Deborah Slappey Brown, Atlanta, GA; three brothers: Mr. Marvin (Michelle) Slappey, Waterbury, CT; Mr. Clarence Slappey, Americus, GA and Mr. Artis (Anita) Slappey, Indiantown, FL; a sister, Ms. Jeanette Slappey, Albany, GA; three grandchildren: Douglas Gibson, Plains, GA; Brittany Brown and Malik (Katlin) Brown, Sr., all of Atlanta, GA; five great grandchildren: Deontre Gibson, Malik Brown, Jr., Marley Brown, all of Atlanta, GA; Khadejaj Gibson and Nakeria Gibson, both of Americus, GA; a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives and friends also survive.