

OBITUARY

Gerri Thomas Ballard

Gerri Thomas Ballard, age 68, passed away peacefully on Thursday, November 9, 2017, at her home in Clinton, Mississippi. She was born May 3, 1949, in Yonkers, New York, to Antone "Tony" and Merle Davis Thomas. She was a 1965 graduate of White Plains High School in White Plains, New York.

She received a Bachelors degree in education from the University of Southern Mississippi followed by a Masters degree from Mississippi College. She married John Paul Ballard on February 23, 1974, in Hattiesburg, Mississippi.

Gerri enjoyed working with children; and, after retiring from teaching, she continued tutoring at the Clinton Library.

She is survived by her two sons, Eric Ballard and Nathaniel (Sarah) Ballard; two grandchildren, Eleanor Ballard and Griffin Ballard, and her mother, Merle Thomas. Gerri was preceded in death by her husband, John Paul Ballard, and father, Antone Ballard. She was laid to rest in Highland Cemetery, Hattiesburg, Mississippi. Memorials may be made in Gerri's name to Northside Baptist Church.

Clinton's Christmas tree lighting set for Nov. 30

Special to *The Clinton Courier*

City Hall and the streets of Olde Towne will again be the venue for Clinton to kick off the holiday season. The city's official Christmas tree lighting will be held at 6 p.m. on Thursday, November 30, in front of City Hall.

The Lovett Elementary Show Choir will perform favorite Christmas tunes,

and Santa will be on hand to greet children and hear their Christmas wishes.

The performance and lighting will be followed by hot cocoa and cookies with Santa himself, but attendees are encouraged not to ruin the surprise for the little ones!

The event is free, and organizers laud it as a great way to get into the Christmas spirit with a celebration appropriate for the entire family.

Raymond Christmas Parade and the Lighting of the Tree "The Gift of Christmas"



Your local Raymond Chamber of Commerce would like to invite you and your family to attend the annual **Raymond Christmas Parade and Lighting of the Tree on the Square** Tuesday, December 5th beginning at 6:00 pm. The parade route will start on Main Street at Raymond Elementary, turn on Port Gibson Street and end at Raymond Elementary on Palestine Street, with the parade line up starting at 4:30 at Raymond Elementary School. Among the parade participants this year will be the Hinds Community College Marching Band and the Hinds Community College High Steppers. The chamber welcomes our local businesses, schools, bands, churches and organizations to participate. If you would like an application and more information, please visit www.RaymondChamber.org or contact the chamber at 601-906-3006, email RaymondChamberofCommerce@gmail.com with questions.

Hope to see you there. It's sure to be a great family experience!

And be sure to join us at the square for the 2nd annual community chili cook off immediately following the parade. We will have a few celebrities judging our chili contest, so you don't want to miss out! All proceeds will benefit Ainsley's Angels of Central Mississippi. Check us out at www.ainsleysangels.org.



www.AinsleysAngels.org

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