Mrs. Essie Minter Ray, age 74 of Deer Park, passed away at her home on Wednesday, April 21, 2010. Mrs. Ray was born in Leon County on October 27, 1935. Essie grew up in Houston County and graduated from Glover High School. Even though she lived most of her adult life in the Houston area, she always stayed a country girl in deed and at heart.

Survivors include her daughter Donna Ray Gardner and husband John, of Clear Lake; sons Wayne Coleman Ray and wife Tara, of Magnolia and Truitt Allen Ray, of Austin; grandchildren Lindsey and David Shoffitt, Amber, Brittany and Trevor Ray, Adam and Coral Gardner; great-grandchildren Ackley and Chelsi Shoffitt; sister Bonnie Payne, of Crockett; brother Ferrell Minter and his wife Ann, of Latexo; numerous nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Preceded in death by her loving husband of 48 years, Truitt Coleman Ray of Pennington; brother L.E. Minter, Jr.; parents L.E. Minter, Sr. and Mae Richardson Minter; grandparents John Minter and Lillie Belle Newberry Minter and Dee Richardson and Rosia Bennett Richardson.

Funeral Services for Mrs. Essie Minter Ray were held Sunday, April 25, 2010 at 2:00 p.m. in the New Energy Church. Interment followed in the New Energy Cemetery.

Callaway-Allie Funeral Home