



Mrs. Bernice Kelly Burney

March 1, 1947 - November 26, 2020

Mrs. Bernice Kelly Burney, 73, of Peoria, IL departed this earthly life at 12:13 pm on November 26, 2020 surrounded by her loved ones and her special care-givers; Shawntell Kelly, Brooklyn Kelly, Shatona Kelly, Shanea Booker, Ariana Harris and Seberrie Cooper.

Bernice was born on March 1, 1947 in a small town called York, Alabama to Annie Mae Person and Nathaniel Drummond. A strong, mighty and petite woman, the youngest girl born out of 11 children was Bernice Burney. She was reared by the late Rev. George and Annie Mae (Pearson) Lobdell. She accepted Christ at an early age and was raised in the church at Pleasant Grove Baptist Church. She married the love of her life, Willie “BeBop” James Burney on January 25, 2007. He preceded her in death on March 25, 2018.

In her earthly life she loved to cook and garden. Her occupation was with her nephew Robert Johnson, Sr., at the Fairfield Field Inn and Suites by Marriott as a breakfast bar host and at Door to Door as a Dispatcher. Her places of employment were always close to her heart because of the service she gave to the many many people she spoke to everyday.

As we reflect on her life, she married Marvin Kelly and to that union her oldest child was born, Prophetess Bernita Kelly of Peoria, Illinois. She later she married Willie “BeBop” James Burney and to their union her youngest daughter was born Shawntell Kelly also of Peoria, Illinois. She was always

surrounded by her special children; Jatou Watkins, Diane Bond, Nikki Booker, Willie James Booker and Steffan Funches. She was so blessed from her offspring! She also leaves to cherish her memory; 19 grandchildren; 47 great grandchildren; her brothers and sisters Zola (the late Clyde McCleod), Herman Lee Johnson both of Peoria Illinois, James Buddy (Shirley) Johnson of Cleveland, Ohio, Arthur Lee Drummond of York, Alabama, Johnnie Lee (Jackie) Drummond of Cuba, Alabama, Geraldine McCoy of Livingston, Alabama, Annie Lee Drummond, Delores Drummond and Jessie Mae (Willie) Robinson all of York Alabama; 2 Godchildren, Pat Clark-Irby and Melissa Ross; three special friends, Alisa Stinson, Joyce Ponce and Sandra Johnson; and a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends. She is preceded in death by 8 loving siblings of whom she truly loved and will now be joined with them. Also preceding her in death are 2 daughters, Karen Booker and Angie Bovan; 2 grandchildren, Jamika Booker and Bryson Kelly; 1 great grandchild, DeShawn Clark.

A private funeral service will be held at 11 am on Saturday, December 5, 2020 at Victory Christian Church with a visitation at 10 am. The Host Pastor is Rev. Charles "Chuck" Brown. Rev. Spencer Gibson will be the eulogist and officiant. Bernice will be laid to rest with her husband Willie at Camp Butler National Cemetery on Monday, December 7, 2020.

Simons Mortuary is entrusted with arrangements. Online condolences may be made at [SimonsMortuary.com](https://www.SimonsMortuary.com).

The funeral service will be live streamed on Simons Mortuary's Website or Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/Simons-Mortuary-232095303487150> promptly AT THE TIME OF THE SERVICE.

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, social distancing and attendance limits will be observed.

In accordance with the Illinois Department of Public Health, Funerals are limited to 10 family members of the decedents, not including the staff.

To be consistent with recommendations from the National Funeral Directors

Association (NFDA), funeral home directors have been instructed and should follow CDC guidelines on gatherings, including those directly related to funerals, visitations, or graveside services.

*In an effort to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, we ask that everyone in attendance: wear a face mask and refrain from hugging, kissing and shaking hands (as hard as it is to see someone you care about and not touch them).

*It is our responsibility as a Funeral Directors, to do everything we can to advise families in order to honor our beloved Families and to keep everyone as safe as possible. The chapel can socially distance and seat no more than 10 or less people. All others will be able to flow through prior to beginning of the service.

Thanks in advance for your cooperation!

Cemetery Details

Camp Butler National Cemetery

5063 Camp Butler Road, RR1
Springfield, IL 62707

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 5. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Victory Christian Church
1003 E. Moneta St.
Peoria Heights, IL 61616

Funeral Service

DEC 5. 11:00 AM (CT)

Victory Christian Church
1003 E. Moneta St.
Peoria Heights, IL 61616

Burial

DEC 7 (CT)

Camp Butler National Cemetery
5063 Camp Butler Road, RR1
Springfield, IL 62707

Tribute Wall



“ *Simons Mortuary created a Tribute Video in memory of Mrs. Bernice Kelly Burney*



Simons Mortuary - January 12, 2021 at 01:10 PM



“ *Simons Mortuary created a Tribute Video in memory of Mrs. Bernice Kelly Burney*



Simons Mortuary - December 04, 2020 at 03:51 PM

TC

✚ *We the CARR FAMILY (From Taft Homes)..send our Condolences to the FAMILY,,, You All Are in our Prayers 🙏💕*

Terri Carr - December 07, 2020 at 11:57 AM



“ *Mrs. Bernice Kelly Burney*

January 29, 2023 at 06:10 AM



“ *Mrs. Bernice Kelly Burney*

January 29, 2023 at 03:12 AM



“ *1 file added to the album Burial at Camp Butler National Cemetery*



Simons Mortuary - January 12, 2021 at 01:20 PM



“ *My sincere condolences to the family and friends Mrs. Bernice Kelley Burney. May God be with you all in your time of need. Bernice was a beautiful woman. R.I.P. Mrs. Bernice Kelly Burney* 🕊️



Brenda J. Idreez - December 08, 2020 at 12:48 AM



“ *My heart and prayers go out to family and friends in Jesus name rip in peace May the grace of our Lord and savior Jesus Christ be with you all amen*



Dorotha Williams - December 07, 2020 at 12:41 AM

LM

“ I remember when I came to visit you and u had a surprise for me . U colored your hair blue for me ILOVE U SO MUCH ❤️❤️❤️

Lawrence moore - December 06, 2020 at 06:03 PM

CL

“ I Love U auntie!!! RIP!!!



Carolyn Lobdell - December 05, 2020 at 09:05 PM

YW

“ MY DEEPEST SYMPATHIES GO OUT TO THE FAMILY. MAY MY HEARTFELT CONDOLENCES BRING THE FAMILY COMFORT, WITH PEACE & MAY MY PRAYERS EASE THE PAIN FOR THE FAMILY 💔😭❤️



Youlonda Williams-Sazone - December 04, 2020 at 04:38 PM

 Lillian Blake

“ I never saw Aunt Niecy WITHOUT a smile on her face! Her favorite nickname for me was Legs Diamond. I ALWAYS felt special in her presence. She will, undoubtedly, be missed by all her knew and loved her. Rest in Paradise, auntie....



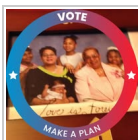
Lillian Blake - December 04, 2020 at 04:06 PM

MB

“ *I'm gone miss Aunt Niecy*



Marion Bovan - December 04, 2020 at 09:54 AM



“ *May your memories sustain you during this difficult time. Praying for the families.*



Evelyn Tate-Clayton - December 03, 2020 at 09:23 PM

RL

“ *Renessa Watkins So Sorry For You Loss sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Bernice Kelly Burney*



Renessa Watkins So sorry for you loss - December 03, 2020 at 06:41 PM

KW

Bernice was so beautiful when I met her in the 70s in the Taft homes were she leaves always welcomed you then the same when our paths crossed again in 2009. She talked of children and grandchildren special lady RIP

Kathy Wyatt-Vinson - December 04, 2020 at 11:54 AM

BR

“ We will miss you grams !



Brooklynn - December 03, 2020 at 12:56 PM

KC

“ Kathy Collins sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Bernice Kelly Burney



Kathy Collins - December 03, 2020 at 11:34 AM

MR

“ Mattie Risby sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Bernice Kelly Burney



Mattie Risby - December 03, 2020 at 10:30 AM

MP

“ Nancy Pittman lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Bernice Kelly Burney



Nancy Pittman - December 02, 2020 at 09:24 PM

LH

“ *Linda Harris lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Bernice Kelly Burney*



Linda Harris - December 02, 2020 at 04:07 PM

JB

“ *Joanie Brown sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Bernice Kelly Burney*



Joanie Brown - December 02, 2020 at 09:46 AM

AT

“ *Angela Causey Thompson lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Bernice Kelly Burney*



Angela Causey Thompson - December 02, 2020 at 09:05 AM

VP

“ *To Nicey's Family - I'm so sorry to learn of her passing. Her earthly suffering is over. She is now in the land of no more. Her style & smile will be missed. May God bless & comfort you as you contend with your loss.*



Vickie Patterson-King - December 02, 2020 at 05:54 AM

KT

“ *My heart feels for you all i pray you all well KEVIN*

kevin M terrell - December 02, 2020 at 01:10 AM

JW

“ *R.I.H Mrs Niecy, you were a staple of the taft back in the day. You are unforgettable with that signature gold tooth and your authoritative tone of voice. My condolences Bennetta and Shawntell my God give you all the strength to carry on. You are all in my prayers.*



Jennifer W - December 01, 2020 at 11:43 PM

MR

My sincere condolences for your beloved, may she RIH 🙏🙏🙏

Madeline Randle - December 02, 2020 at 08:06 PM

VJ

“ *Sorry for your loss Kelly Family.*

Niece was soft spoken and gentle as a lamb. She would help anyone who she knew and saw their need.

Niece will be missed immensely.

She is in heaven with Bebop!



Venus M Jones-Douglas - December 01, 2020 at 10:04 PM