



## Ms. Bernice LaVerne Hayes

November 22, 1946 - March 10, 2018

Bernice LaVerne Hayes, 71, of Peoria, IL passed away at 1 am on Saturday, March 10, 2018 at OSF St. Francis Medical Center.

Bernice was born on November 22, 1946 in Goose Creek, South Carolina to Evelyn Graham and Leroy Barnett, Sr. She was raised by her mother and step-father, Evelyn and Rufus Grant, Sr. She married Harold Hayes, Sr., on August 14, 1965 and to their union seven children were born.

Bernice retired from the Rosmini House in West Peoria, after many years of culinary service to the Catholic Diocese of Peoria, IL. Bernice was an active and faithful member of Mt. Zion M. B. Church for over 60 years. She served on the deaconess board, usher board, culinary committee and senior choir. She was also a champion of educating the children in the Peoria community by being very active with the United Usher board's annual scholarship raising committee. While in her youth, she loved to bowl and was on a local bowling league. Bernice was very family oriented. She loved her children. When they were young, she would not miss a student parent conference or any event involving them. She loved her grandchildren; loving up on them as much as she possibly could. When the weather permitted, you could find Bernice on her porch sipping on a glass of sweet tea.

Bernice leaves to cherish her most precious memory her loving and devoted children, Sandra Williams of Houston, TX, Harold "Pooh" Hayes, Jr., of Peoria, Curtis Hayes of Aurora, CO, Sharon Hayes of Peoria, Heather Hayes of Calumet City, IL, Shameka Hayes and Markis Hayes both of Peoria; three

brothers, Jessie (Sharon) Grant of North Charleston, SC, Rufus (Eleanor) Grant, Jr., of Florida and Jerald (Elnora) Grant of Seattle, WA; four sisters, Alma (Johnny) Cobb of North Charleston, SC, Bettie Jean Holmes, Barbara Gray and Doreatha Fulmore all of Goose Creek, SC; 8 grandchildren; 6 great-grandchildren; a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends. She is preceded in death by her biological father, parents and one brother, Samuel Grant.

Funeral services will be held at 10 am on Saturday, March 17, 2018 at Mt. Zion M.B. Church with a visitation beginning at 9 am. Pastor Alphonso Lyons, Jr., will officiate. Bernice will be laid to rest at Parkview Cemetery. Simons Mortuary has been entrusted with arrangements. Online condolences may be made at [simonsmortuary.com](http://simonsmortuary.com).

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAR 17. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (CT)

Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church  
305 S. MADISON PARK TERRACE  
Peoria, IL 61605  
(309) 674-4379

## Funeral Service

MAR 17. 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM (CT)

Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church  
305 S. MADISON PARK TERRACE  
Peoria, IL 61605  
(309) 674-4379

# Tribute Wall



“ *Simons Mortuary created a Tribute Video in memory of Ms. Bernice LaVerne Hayes*



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**Simons Mortuary** - March 20, 2018 at 11:56 AM

SW

*Simons staff: I love it! So many beautiful memories. Of course, I have thousands of family pics. Happy to see many included in the video. Thank you sibs! -- R.I.H., Mama -- Sandra (daughter)*

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**Sandra W** - March 23, 2018 at 02:52 PM



“ *Ms. Bernice LaVerne Hayes*

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January 29, 2023 at 06:10 AM



“ *Ms. Bernice LaVerne Hayes*

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January 29, 2023 at 03:12 AM



“ 5 files added to the album *Mama's memories from Sandra*



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**preferablysw** - May 12, 2021 at 08:10 AM



“ 1 file added to the album *Mama's memories from Sandra*



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**preferablysw** - May 09, 2021 at 11:00 AM



“ 2 files added to the album *Mama's memories from Sandra*



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**preferablysw** - May 03, 2020 at 12:20 PM



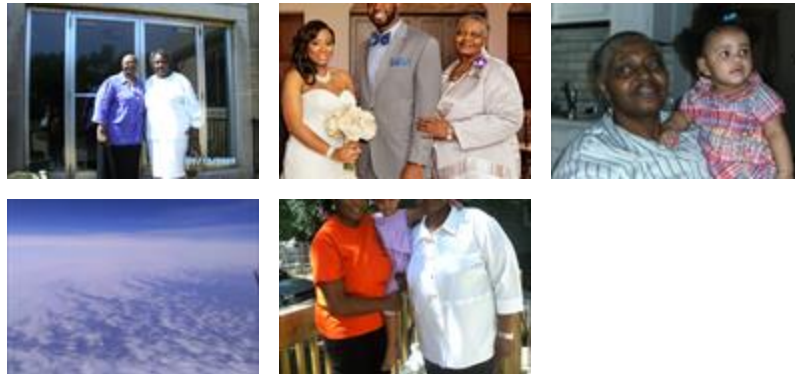
“ 2 files added to the album *Mama's memories from Sandra*



preferablysw - May 19, 2019 at 05:14 PM



“ 12 files added to the album *Mama's memories from Sandra*



preferablysw - November 28, 2018 at 08:36 PM



“ 1 file added to the album *Mama's memories from Sandra*



preferablysw - June 10, 2018 at 11:59 PM

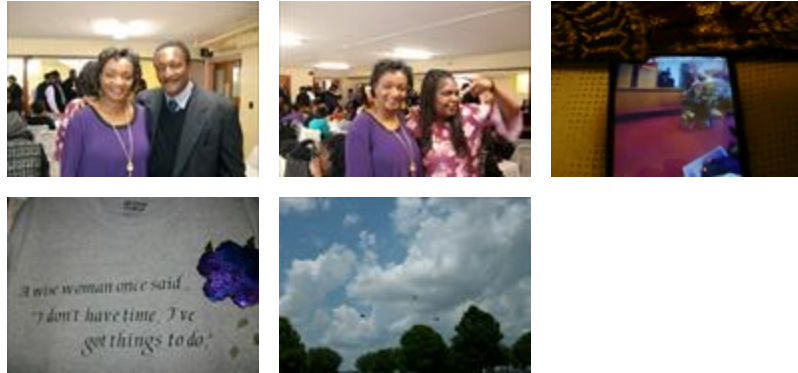
SA

*Amen! RIH, both of you. ❤️*

Sandra - June 07, 2025 at 09:29 AM



“ 7 files added to the album *Mama's memories from Sandra*



preferablysw - May 14, 2018 at 07:16 AM

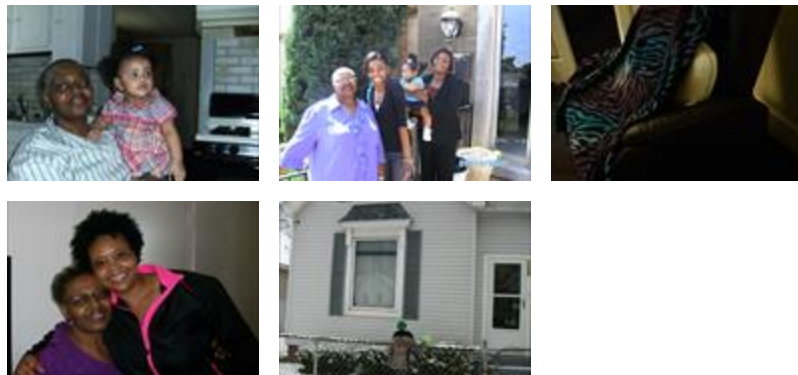


“ 0 file added to the tribute wall

preferablysw - May 12, 2018 at 01:03 PM



“ 31 files added to the album *Mama's memories from Sandra*



preferablysw - May 12, 2018 at 12:20 PM



“ 0 file added to the tribute wall

Sandra Williams - May 12, 2018 at 09:50 AM

MD

“ To The Family of Ms. Bernice LaVerne Hayes It was a honor and pleasure to know Ms. Hayes. She was a beautiful woman both inside and outside. We like the fact that she was serious in her walk with the Lord. She not only walked the walk, but talked the talk. Ms. Hayes was truly a godly woman who will be greatly missed. Although, she is no longer here on earth, we will always cherish her memory forever in our hearts. We are praying that God will continue to sustain, and comfort all of you in this difficult season of your lives. Humbly submitted. Deacon Melvin & Sis Marjorie Kay Douglas (Williams).

Marjorie Kay Douglas - April 23, 2018 at 09:19 PM



Thank you so much for sharing. God bless and keep you. -- Sandra

preferablysw - May 18, 2018 at 09:35 PM

MS

“ God bless you and your life and your family, Mrs. Bernice LaVerne Hayes - i love your daughter, Sandra - she has been a long time friend and has been a blessing in my life ever since i have known her - i will keep Sandra and her family in my prayers and welcome to your forever Home with our Savior and Victor our Lord Jesus Christ!



margaret solomon-bird

Margaret Solomon-Bird - March 30, 2018 at 08:51 AM



Hi Margaret! You are always so thoughtful. I appreciate you, dear friend. \*hugs\*

preferablysw - May 18, 2018 at 09:37 PM

SI

“ 5 files added to the album *Mama's resting place*



**Simons** - March 19, 2018 at 12:29 PM

SM

*Beautiful!*

**Simons Mortuary** - April 30, 2018 at 02:51 PM

RU

“ *Ruth lit a candle in memory of Ms. Bernice LaVerne Hayes*



**Ruth** - March 17, 2018 at 11:05 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Ms. Bernice LaVerne Hayes.*



March 16, 2018 at 09:55 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Ms. Bernice LaVerne Hayes.*



March 16, 2018 at 12:18 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Ms. Bernice LaVerne Hayes.*



March 15, 2018 at 07:10 PM



“ *To the family of MS. Bernice LaVerne Hayes, I loved the warm hugs and friendly smiles I always received every time I saw her. It is with deepest sympathy I hope you find assurance in GOD'S word, strength in His presence, comfort in His mercy, and peace in His love.  
Rev.Dottie Robinson and family*



**Rev. Dottie Ribinson** - March 15, 2018 at 01:14 PM



*Thank you for sharing your memory of Mama. Your prayers are appreciated. -- Sandra (daughter)*

**Sandra W** - March 23, 2018 at 02:26 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Ms. Bernice LaVerne Hayes.*



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March 15, 2018 at 10:30 AM



“ *From her Rosmini House family purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Ms. Bernice LaVerne Hayes.*



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**From her Rosmini House family** - March 15, 2018 at 09:50 AM



“ *Dear Bernice, gone to your Lord, Jesus. May you enjoy eternal peace and the eternal light that your smile radiated. Your friends at Rosmini House where you worked for so many years, will always remember you fondly. Our hearts and prayers go out to your family who will miss you the most.*

*Father Bill Miller*

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**Father William Miller** - March 15, 2018 at 09:40 AM



*Thank you for sharing your memory, Father Bill. She spoke well of you all. God bless and keep you. -- Sandra (daughter)*

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**Sandra W** - March 23, 2018 at 02:24 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Ms. Bernice LaVerne Hayes.*



March 15, 2018 at 08:46 AM



“ *To my 2nd mama. U will be missed and forever loved. Rest on Beautiful. Marvan Cornish*



**Marvan CORNISH** - March 15, 2018 at 02:00 AM



*Hi Marvan! Thank you so much for being an extended family member and always being there to support my sister, Sharon. Hugs -- Sandra W.*

**Sandra W** - March 23, 2018 at 02:22 PM



“ *Remember your mother had a very loving heart and I also will remember that her kindness spoke all the time love Maria Allen Jackson*

**M jacksn** - March 14, 2018 at 02:34 PM



*Thank you for sharing your memory with us. -- Sandra (daughter)*

**Sandra W** - March 23, 2018 at 02:21 PM

SE

“ Rest on Bernice....Sandy Evans



Sandy Evans - March 14, 2018 at 12:30 PM

SW

Thank you for coming. -- Sandra W.

Sandra W - March 23, 2018 at 02:20 PM

BW

“ Bobby And Saundra Walker sent a virtual gift in memory of Ms. Bernice LaVerne Hayes



bobby and saundra walker - March 14, 2018 at 10:32 AM

KM

“ Doreatha Grant Fulmar and Family,  
I want you to know that I am here for you at this time of grieving.

Katrina M., Human Resources  
Florence County School District 3

Katrina M. - March 14, 2018 at 10:03 AM

SW

Thank you for sharing. -- Sandra (daughter)

Sandra W - March 23, 2018 at 02:19 PM

JC

“ Johnny Cameron lit a candle in memory of Ms. Bernice LaVerne Hayes



Johnny Cameron - March 14, 2018 at 02:17 AM

AB

“ Alma Brown lit a candle in memory of Ms. Bernice LaVerne Hayes



Alma Brown - March 13, 2018 at 11:04 PM

TP

“ Tylynne Perry sent a virtual gift in memory of Ms. Bernice LaVerne Hayes



Tylynne Perry - March 13, 2018 at 11:03 PM

JB

“ JOANIE BROWN sent a virtual gift in memory of Ms. Bernice LaVerne Hayes



JOANIE BROWN - March 13, 2018 at 09:24 PM



“ Sincere sympathy to the family. Bernice was a wonderful neighbor. We shared a lot of time discussing our children when they were younger. To her family i say look to the hills from where your help comes. Betniece always had a smile on her face. Sleep in peace my friend/cousin.



Evelyn Tate-Clayton - March 13, 2018 at 08:59 PM

SW

Thank you for sharing. -- Sandra (daughter)

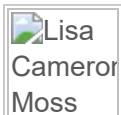
Sandra W - March 23, 2018 at 02:18 PM



“ Lisa Cameron-Moss lit a candle in memory of Ms. Bernice LaVerne Hayes



Lisa Cameron-Moss - March 13, 2018 at 08:13 PM



Heaven has gained another beautiful Angel. Rest in Heaven Bern. You were greatly loved by our family and I know you know this. Our second momma. To the rest of the family, my thoughts and Prayers are with you all. I know it's hard on you, but be there for each other. I know what you are going through. I love you all.

Lisa Cameron-Moss - March 13, 2018 at 08:18 PM

SW

Thank you, Lisa. We appreciate you all. Love you, cuzzo. I know you would've been there if you could.

Sandra W - March 23, 2018 at 02:14 PM

SW

*Hugs 'n love -- Sandra*

Sandra W - April 04, 2018 at 04:37 PM

MC

“ *Michelle Claudon lit a candle in memory of Ms. Bernice LaVerne Hayes*



Michelle Claudon - March 13, 2018 at 08:06 PM

CB

“ *She's now in Abraham's Busom! Rest In Peace Bernice you shall be terribly missed! See you layer. Love Cynthia Barnes and Family!!!*



Cynthia Barnes - March 13, 2018 at 07:37 PM

SW

*Thank you for sharing! -- Sandra W. (daughter)*

Sandra W - March 23, 2018 at 02:18 PM

MR

“ *Mattie Risby sent a virtual gift in memory of Ms. Bernice LaVerne Hayes*



Mattie Risby - March 13, 2018 at 06:21 PM

KS

“ *Katie Sturdivant lit a candle in memory of Ms. Bernice LaVerne Hayes*



**Katie Sturdivant** - March 13, 2018 at 03:34 PM

KN

“ *Kim Nelson lit a candle in memory of Ms. Bernice LaVerne Hayes*



**Kim Nelson** - March 13, 2018 at 03:29 PM

SW

*Thank you. -- Sandra*

**Sandra W** - March 23, 2018 at 02:17 PM

SJ

“ *SHEILA JOHNSON lit a candle in memory of Ms. Bernice LaVerne Hayes*



**SHEILA JOHNSON** - March 13, 2018 at 01:48 PM

JW

*I am so sorry for your loss....Ms Bernice was such a sweet and beautiful person...I loved her dearly...RIH*


**Jody Williams** - March 13, 2018 at 02:17 PM

SW

*Thank you for sharing! -- Sandra*

**Sandra W** - March 23, 2018 at 02:15 PM

BT

“ *Bernice was a special lady in my life! We used to eat dinner every Sunday after church. Everytime we saw each other, we would hug and catch up. Take your rest my sweet sister!!!!* 



**Beverly J. Thomas** - March 13, 2018 at 10:01 AM

SW

*So sweet. Thank you for sharing your memory. -- Sandra*

**Sandra W** - March 23, 2018 at 02:16 PM