



Ms. Brenda Faye Payton

July 25, 1959 - December 18, 2025

Ms. Brenda Faye Payton, age 66, of Peoria, Illinois, passed away peacefully at home on Thursday, December 18, 2025.

Born on July 25, 1959, in St. Louis, Missouri, to the late Mr. O'Neal Payton and Delores D. (Lewis) Payton, Brenda lived a full life. She was a proud graduate of Wichita State University in Wichita, Kansas. Over the years, she made significant contributions in her professional life, working for the United States Post Office for over 40 years before retiring five years ago.

Brenda was the founder of Justice for Chris and A Mother's Heart. Her involvement with the Justice Center grew out of profound personal tragedy—the loss of her son, Christopher Ferguson, who was struck and killed by a drunk driver on July 28, 2006. Determined to turn her grief into meaningful change, Brenda began advocating for Chris's Law in August 2010. Her tireless efforts came to fruition in 2017, when the law was passed, mandating immediate drug testing whenever alcohol, drugs, or other intoxicating substances are suspected to be a factor in a crash, accident, or injury.

Brenda was a member of St. Paul Baptist Church 114 W. Forrest Hill Ave. Peoria, Illinois. She was also an active member of the TNBA Bowler Mixer League, where she enjoyed the camaraderie and spirit of competition.

Brenda had a passion for trying new foods. One of her favorite pastimes was traveling to Las Vegas, where she enjoyed visiting various casinos.

Brenda was a beloved family member, survived by her uncle, Novarta Payton; aunts, Denise Robertson, Kathea Clark, Shirley Hughes; brothers, O'Neal Payton and Herman Payton; sister, Lashun Payton; granddaughter, Jada Ferguson; special nephew, Kenyatta Ferguson; nephews, David Ferguson, Alex Ferguson, Shaun Lamar Thomas, Cedric Cook, and Isaiah James Williams; niece, Ashley Barber; and a host of great-nieces, great-nephews, cousins, and other relatives. She is also remembered fondly by her special friend, Darlene Jones.

She was preceded in death by her parents, O'Neal and Delores Payton; her son, Christopher Ferguson; her brothers, Robert Ferguson and James Lee "Jimmie Lee" Williams; nephew, Romon (Ro) Ferguson, and her grandparents, David and Opal Lewis.

Brenda will be deeply missed by all who knew her.

Funeral services will be held at 10:00 AM on Saturday, January 3, 2026 at St. Paul Peoria Church with a visitation one hour prior, at 9:00 AM. Pastor Devereaux Hubbard will officiate. Brenda will be laid to rest at Swan Lake Memory Gardens.

Cemetery Details

Swan Lake Memory Gardens

4601 W War Memorial Dr.
Peoria, IL 61615

Previous Events

Funeral Service

JAN 3. 10:00 AM (CT)

St. Paul Peoria
114 W. Forrest Hill Avenue
Peoria, IL 61604

Tribute Wall



“ *Simons Mortuary created a Webcast in memory of Ms. Brenda Faye Payton*



Simons Mortuary - January 02 at 07:27 AM

SR

Resting in Power in the mighty arms of Jesus Cousin Brenda. Well done....

Stacey Smith Robertson - January 03 at 04:07 PM

AL

“ *Annette Lucy lit a candle in memory of Brenda Payton*



Annette Lucy - January 15 at 01:41 AM

PA

“ *Pam & Kim Atkins lit a candle in memory of Brenda Payton*



Pam & Kim Atkins - January 07 at 07:18 PM



“ 1 file added to the album *Burial at Swan Lake Memory Gardens*



Simons Mortuary - January 05 at 01:06 PM

SR

“ *My cousin Brenda was an amazing woman who turned her personal pain into purpose by courageously fighting and winning a cause that was bigger than herself and even her heartache. We are all better because we knew or crossed paths with Cousin Brenda. She loved her family mightily and made sure they had what they needed. She would personally reach out to anyone she knew to help others. Cousin Brenda is now in the presence of God, her beloved son Chris , her mother she never knew and so many loved ones who were there to greet her and welcome her HOME.*



My prayers are with Cousin Brenda's entire family.

*Stacey Smith Robertson
Chicago, Illinois*

Stacey Robertson - December 30, 2025 at 03:34 PM

DW

“ Debra Watkins lit a candle in memory of
Brenda Payton



Debra Watkins - December 30, 2025 at 01:31 PM

DW

“ Debra Watkins lit a candle in memory of
Brenda Payton



Debra Watkins - December 28, 2025 at 11:30 AM

RG

“ Rosie Gingery lit a candle in memory of
Brenda Payton



Rosie Gingery - December 27, 2025 at 07:05 PM

RF

“ Rena Webster. & Family lit a candle in
memory of Brenda Payton



Rena Webster. & Family - December 26, 2025 at 07:41 PM

GT

“ Gladys Rutherford Tracey lit a candle in memory of Brenda Payton



Gladys Rutherford Tracey - December 26, 2025 at 02:53 PM

VF

“ Vickie Freelon-Coats lit a candle in memory of Brenda Payton



Vickie Freelon-Coats - December 25, 2025 at 06:14 PM

ER

“ I have loved knowing Brenda. She and I started at the post Office together. And we worked together a lot. Over the years she has been a great friend and I will miss her dearly. She was a beautiful person and she loved her family deeply. Praying you're in heaven with your loved ones.

Elizabeth Rybczyk - December 24, 2025 at 05:10 PM

SA

“ *Jada and Family,*

I pray peace and comfort for each of you during this time of sorrow. Brenda truly lived a life of Faith, Hope, and Love. Now she is resting from her labor, "I Can Only Imagine", but the significance of her works live on. I'm so grateful to have known her as my friend. May the God of all comfort meet your every need today and always.

Sharon Anderson

Sharon Anderson - December 24, 2025 at 09:47 AM

BC

“ *Brenda D Cayson lit a candle in memory of Brenda Payton*



Brenda D Cayson - December 24, 2025 at 09:46 AM

YW

“ *Brenda was recognized in 2012 at the National Day of Rememberence for being a Survivor who made a difference. We will miss her, may she rest in peace.*



Yolanda Wallace - December 24, 2025 at 05:03 AM

JE

“ *jeanellersberry lit a candle in memory of Brenda Payton*



jeanellersberry - December 23, 2025 at 11:26 AM

CR

“ *Catherine Randle lit a candle in memory of Brenda Payton*



Catherine Randle - December 23, 2025 at 07:36 AM

SO

“ *This saddens me so much. I did not see you much but always felt a bond. I will miss you.. Solivian*

Solivian - December 23, 2025 at 03:50 AM

DD

“ *Deborah Dailey-Easley lit a candle in memory of Brenda Payton*



Deborah Dailey-Easley - December 22, 2025 at 08:53 PM

EB

“ *Emel Buckner lit a candle in memory of Brenda Payton*



Emel Buckner - December 22, 2025 at 06:12 PM

SM

“ *Siobhan Morris lit a candle in memory of Brenda Payton*



Siobhan Morris - December 22, 2025 at 02:18 PM

SH

“ *Rest on, niece. You're with your loved ones now. You will be missed. I love you*

Shirley R Hughes - December 22, 2025 at 01:16 PM