



## Ms. Deborah Jean Rias

May 16, 1954 - February 18, 2025

Ms. Deborah Jean Rias, 70, of Peoria, IL, passed away on Tuesday, February 18, 2025 at her residence.

Deborah was born in Peoria, IL on May 16, 1954 to Joella Henning and Lincoln Mabins, Jr.

Deborah was a 1972 Manual High School graduate where she excelled academically. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree Cum Laude from Eureka College in the Social Science Divisions in July 1975. She also earned a Master of Arts degree in Social Justice Professions with a specialized concentration in Human Services from the University of Illinois (Sangamon State University) in May of 1983. Deborah was also certified by the State Teacher Certification Board for the State of Illinois as a substitute teacher.

Deborah worked as a drug rehabilitation counselor at the Human Service Center/Fayette Companies, a substitute teacher for Peoria Public School District 150, a counselor at Martin Luther Homes of Illinois and retired as a case manager from the Illinois Department of Human Services.

Deborah loved swimming, listening to music, traveling, fishing, writing and reciting poetry. She was an excellent cook and also loved to bake. Her love of cooking was demonstrated by the love and care she put into cooking the food

for her family and friends. Deborah was baptized at Mt. Zion M. B. Church under the leadership of Rev. Wendell Phillips and Rev. Alphonso Lyons, Jr. She worked diligently on the culinary committee, she was a loyal choir member, and she helped out in the food pantry Deborah was also a member of the Women's Auxiliary and was a former Missionary Society Queen. She spent many years volunteering with the NAACP fighting for social justice.

Deborah leaves to cherish her most precious memory her loving mother, Joella Harris of Peoria IL; three siblings, Darren Mabins of East Chicago, IL, Kimberley (David) Franklin and Audie Mabins both of Lancaster, CA; two grandsons, Kahlil Rias, Sr. and Ted Godfrey; three great grandchildren, Tavayah Rias, Nautica Rias, and Kahlil, Rias, Jr.; grandson-in-love, Keith Haynes, Jr.; three god children, Tyrena Denney of East Peoria, IL, Michael Geathers of New Haven, CT and Christian Burke of East Hartford, CT; three aunts, Margaret Mabins, Geraldine Henning and Ella Mae Martin; and a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends. She is preceded in death by her son, Ashanti Rias; her father; her step father Robert Sam Harris; her maternal grandfather Robert Henning, Sr.; her maternal grandmother, Sara Henning and her uncle, Robert Henning, Jr.

Funeral services will be held at 10:00 am on Saturday, March 8, 2025 at Mt. Zion Baptist Church 305 S. Madison Park Terrace with a visitation one-hour prior beginning at 9:00 am. Rev. Tyrone Evans will officiate with Pastor Dr. Matthew Mitchell bringing the eulogy. Deborah 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). Contributions can be made to Mt. Zion M.B. Church.

# Cemetery Details

## Parkview Cemetery

2001 N University St  
Peoria, IL 61604  
(309) 688-0733

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAR 8. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (CT)

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

## Celebration of Life

MAR 8. 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. Deborah Jean Rias*



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**Simons Mortuary** - March 06, 2025 at 07:30 PM

JB

*That. Is Deb that was the love of my life my Cuz we love each other to the bone lovely family. She well be really miss i miss you Jeanie Love James see you on the otherside*

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**James Burns** - March 07, 2025 at 01:58 PM

EY

*Deb was one of my best friends, I did all I could do for you while you were here on earth. I did not talk the love, but I showed you the kindness and what a real friendship meant to me. We didn't share the same parents, but you were like a blood sister to me. I know we will see each other again up in heaven that we always talked about. My friend, sis, and former co-worker.*

*RIP. Evelyn Young*

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**Evelyn Jean Young** - March 12, 2025 at 03:44 PM



“ *Simons Mortuary created a Webcast in memory of Ms. Deborah Jean Rias*



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**Simons Mortuary** - March 01, 2025 at 12:01 AM

CB

“ *Cynthia Ann Barnes lit a candle in memory of Deborah Rias*



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**Cynthia Ann Barnes** - March 06, 2025 at 08:17 PM



“ *John H Lee lit a candle in memory of Deborah Rias*



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**John H Lee** - March 06, 2025 at 10:52 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Ms. Deborah Jean Rias.*



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March 06, 2025 at 10:27 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Ms. Deborah Jean Rias.

March 06, 2025 at 10:27 AM



“ Deb I'm truly going to miss you were a down to earth person very smart and I loved being around u your son and mother you will truly be missed R.i.h.P 🕊️🕯️



Siobhan Morris - March 04, 2025 at 01:40 AM



“ "When someone you love becomes a memory, the memory becomes a treasure".  
I am so sorry to hear of Deborah's passing. I have fond memories of us as friends in school then as adults raising children we would have our son's birthday parties together.  
Deborah was a kind and loving person. May her family find comfort, peace and strength during this time. 🙏🕊️❤️

Cheryll Gordon - February 27, 2025 at 01:10 AM



“ LEOLA RANDLE JEFFERSON lit a candle in memory of Deborah Rias



LEOLA RANDLE JEFFERSON - February 26, 2025 at 08:39 PM

WH

“ I will miss you Deb. You were a good person and friend. I enjoyed working and socializing with you. Your kindness, loyalty, and generosity won't be forgotten. Rest in peace my dear friend. Love in Christ,

Wanda Higgins

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Wanda Higgins - February 24, 2025 at 01:22 PM

SB

“ I'm going to miss all those calls and rent from you. Hearing all the positivity and kind words you've brought to the family. I will continue to watch over all of the grandchildren for you. I know they was your heart. I love you forever and I am so happy that you are finally free. Rest In paradise! Love Always Subrena Barnett



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Subrena Barnett - February 24, 2025 at 04:01 AM

BH

“ I Love you Deb, may you rest in peace. You were an awesome IDHS Caseworker. You were always there for your co-workers, staff and clients. I'm so glad God allowed me the opportunity to get to know you and work with you for all those years 🙏

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Bonita Hopkins - February 23, 2025 at 05:39 PM

VB

“ My memory of Deborah goes back to when we were 10 and 9 years old. She lived on 4 street and I lived on 7th street. We were always friends and even if was years in between we visit, it was like yesterday. Deborah I love you my friend. Till we meet again.



Velma Bailey - February 23, 2025 at 04:08 PM

TD

“ I will miss you so much Deb. You guided me through so much and I hate to think of where I'd be if it weren't for you. Love you forever.

Tyrena Denney - February 22, 2025 at 06:30 AM

EJ

“ Glad I got to see you when I was back there. Glad we were able to talk. Memories of when we lived on fourth street I'll cherish. RIP my beautiful sister.

Earline Jones - February 21, 2025 at 08:01 PM

EJ

“ Earline Jones lit a candle in memory of Deborah Rias



Earline Jones - February 21, 2025 at 07:57 PM