



## Mrs. Ernestine Jackson

June 23, 1940 - September 6, 2023

Mrs. Ernestine Jackson, 83, transitioned to her heavenly home at 3:23 am on Wednesday, September 6, 2023 at her home.

Ernestine was born on June 23, 1940 in Benoit, Mississippi to Isaac, Sr. and Mary (Washington) Humes. She married the love of her life Atty. Donald R. Jackson, Sr. on January 21, 1961 at the former St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Peoria, IL.

Ernestine Jackson was a force for equal opportunity throughout Central Illinois. She had worked in the field almost 50 years when she retired from the City of Bloomington, Illinois in 2015 at the age of 75. The year she retired, she was elected to the board of Peoria District 150, representing District 3.

Ernestine's career in equal opportunity and affirmative action began in the late 1960s at the University of Illinois. In Peoria, while civil rights activists were in the streets pushing for equal opportunity in jobs, housing and education, Ernestine often found herself on the other front line inside city hall pushing to end discriminatory practices. She was the first director of fair employment and housing for the City of Peoria, assistant to the city manager for Champaign, director of diversity for CILCO, a personnel officer for the University of Illinois, human relations director for Bloomington and last worked as the EEOC Director for the City of Bloomington. Though her job titles changed from city to

city, her duties were always similar. Her work meant countless numbers were hired, promoted or awarded business contracts.

Mrs. Jackson was active in many organizations, including the Illinois Municipal Human Relations Association, the Illinois Affirmative Action Officers Association and the Colored Ladies Book Club. She served as an officer or member of several state and local committees of the NAACP. Her life-long love of singing led her to join school and church choirs. She was a founding member of the Heritage Ensemble. She was a 2023 honoree of the Peoria Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta's annual Sisterhood and Legends Celebration.

Ernestine was one of the founding members of Liberty Church of Peoria.

Ernestine accomplished all of this with a 12th grade education! But if asked, she would tell you that the accomplishment she was most proud of was being a wife, mother, grandmother, great grandmother and great-great grandmother. She was much loved and will be greatly missed.

Ernestine leaves to cherish her most precious memories her husband of 62 years, Atty. Donald R. Jackson, Sr.; three sons, Donald Jackson, Jr. and Dale (Diane Linda) Jackson both of Peoria, IL and Deric (Hannah Puffer) Jackson of Plymouth, MN; two brothers, Issac (Delores) Humes, Jr. and Richard (Gladys) Humes of Las Vegas, NV; two sisters, Maggie Jenkins of Cedar Rapids, IA and Tracy (Eugene) Gathers of Peoria, IL; 6 grandchildren, Desirae (Duane Simmons) Jackson, Mario Jackson, Sofia Jackson, Lewyn Jackson, Tiffany (Dominique) Hobbs and Randy Jackson, Jr.; 12 great grandchildren, Trinity, Leiana, Le'Naya, D'Ahira, Analya, T'Ayla, Delano, Serenity, Randy III, Jathan, Kaidyn and Marie; 3 great-great grandchildren, Aubriella, Akai and Angel; and a host of nieces, nephews, family and friends who loved her. She is preceded in death by her parents; mother-in-law, Kathlyn (Francis) Williams;

one brother, Robert Humes and one sister, Geneva Jackson-Grant.

Funeral services will be at 11 am on Friday, September 15, 2023 at St. Paul Church with a visitation 2 hours prior beginning at 9 am. Pastor Deveraux Hubbard is the Host Pastor. Ernestine's Pastor, Rev. Marvin Hightower of Liberty Church of Peoria, will bring the eulogy. Ernestine will be laid to rest at Swan Lake Memory Gardens.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the local NAACP in 3 ways: 1: Mail to Office at 101 N. MacArthur Highway, Peoria, IL 61605; 2: <https://www.peorianaacp.com> or 3: use the QR Code in the Photos/Videos tab on this website. Also, donations may be made to the Heritage Ensemble, <https://heritageensemble.com> or Liberty Church of Peoria at 2828 W Flint St, Peoria, IL 61604.

Simons Mortuary has been entrusted with arrangements. Online condolences may be made at [SimonsMortuary.com](http://SimonsMortuary.com).

# Cemetery Details

## Swan Lake Memory Gardens

4601 W War Memorial Dr.  
Peoria, IL 61615

# Previous Events

## Visitation

SEP **15**. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

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

## Funeral Service

SEP **15**. 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM (CT)

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

# Tribute Wall



“ *Simons Mortuary created a Tribute Video in memory of Mrs. Ernestine Jackson*



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**Simons Mortuary** - September 18, 2023 at 11:29 AM



“ *Simons Mortuary created a Tribute Video in memory of Mrs. Ernestine Jackson*



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**Simons Mortuary** - September 14, 2023 at 12:17 PM

KM

*Beautiful tribute*

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**Kimberly Moore** - September 15, 2023 at 06:00 AM

CM

*Don, I just learned of your loss. There's not much one can say except to let you know I am thinking of you. My sympathy & love to you.  
~Carole Martin, APWU-*

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**Carole Martin** - September 16, 2023 at 04:42 PM

MA

*We offer our condolences to the Jackson Family in the loss of Mrs. Jackson who was a Godly Woman who lived a life that was well pleasing in the sight of the Lord. Rest in Heaven! Mrs. Jackson your labor for the Lord was not in vain. Melvin and Marjorie Kay Douglas*

**Marjorie** - September 18, 2023 at 09:51 AM

JW

*My condolences to the family. Thy will be done. Amen*

**Jeff Woodard** - September 18, 2023 at 12:33 PM



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



**Simons Mortuary** - September 18, 2023 at 11:29 AM

KC

“ *Kathy Collins lit a candle in memory of Ernestine Jackson*



**Kathy Collins** - September 17, 2023 at 08:03 PM

GC

“ *My condolences to the Jackson family. May God keep you and guide you through your grief.*  
*Georgene Chissell,*  
*BN NAACP BRANCH*

**Georgene Chissell** - September 17, 2023 at 06:13 AM

JE

“ John Elliott, Bloomington I was saddened to hear the news of the passing of my long time friend Mrs. Ernestine Jackson. My thoughts and prayers are for Don and the family. Rest in sweet Ms. Jackson and thank you for a job well done in life.

John Elliott - September 16, 2023 at 02:46 PM

MD

“ My condolences to the Jackson Family. May God comfort you in your time of sorrow. Her life's journey is admirable and not in vain. Her light will forever SHINE.....

Sincerely, Mrs. Nina Dean (DuPage County Branch # 3012).

Mrs. Nina Dean - September 16, 2023 at 12:27 AM

MC

“ We offer our condolences to the family of Mrs. Ernestine Jackson. May God's peace cover you through this season. He is only a prayer away.

Michael and Margret Childress  
DuPage County NAACP  
Wheaton, IL

Margret Childress - September 15, 2023 at 10:59 PM

EB

“ Emel Buckner lit a candle in memory of Ernestine Jackson



Emel Buckner - September 15, 2023 at 02:51 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mrs. Ernestine Jackson.*



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September 15, 2023 at 10:32 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Mrs. Ernestine Jackson.

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September 15, 2023 at 10:32 AM



“ *To my family. It is with love that I submit my condolences for our loss. My prayer is that Aunt Ernestine rest in the arms of Jesus. Uncle Donald, Donnie, Dale and Deric.. I love you all and praying God hold you all up. Boys take care of my Uncle.*

*Love Kim*

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**Kimberly Moore** - September 15, 2023 at 05:52 AM

LC

“ Don, Desiree, and all of Ernestine’s loved ones my thoughts and prayers of comfort are with each one of you. I will truly miss my friend.

Recently, Ernestine and I reminisced about the good times that we had when she worked in Champaign City Government. My sons were small so she joined me for various sports events. One of the boys wasn’t athletic at all and Ernestine would laugh so hard that tears would flow and our stomachs would hurt from laughing! Then Ernestine, Don, Desiree and my sons, we often met at NAACP Conventions where we learned and shared strategies on improving life for people of color on the local, state and national levels. Ernestine did it all! Wife, mother, grandmother, aunt, sibling, professional woman, activist, and most important, a child of The Lord Jesus Christ! I pray for as you think of her, you have peace, comfort and strength now and in the days ahead because she live a great life and her life made a difference!

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Larine Cowan - September 14, 2023 at 09:03 PM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Mrs. Ernestine Jackson.



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September 14, 2023 at 03:50 PM

SL

“ I remember Mrs. Jackson's kindness when attending NAACP Meetings in Peoria, Illinois. Her smiles were contagious! I felt welcome. My sincere condolences 🙏 to President Jackson and family.

God will comfort you as you continue to celebrate the life of Mrs. Jackson.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Sandra W Leconte, President  
NAACP Lake County  
Waukegan, Illinois

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**Sandra Leconte** - September 14, 2023 at 11:10 AM

ED

“ So sorry for your loss family. I will miss my big cousin. She was always a person I could talk to about our grandmother. I remember when she came to visit me in Minnesota we had some good talks. Love you and will miss you cousin always. RIP

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**Evon Dixon** - September 13, 2023 at 07:01 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Mrs. Ernestine Jackson.



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September 13, 2023 at 03:50 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Mrs. Ernestine Jackson.

September 13, 2023 at 03:50 PM



“ Love, Mark & Shelley Gibson purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Mrs. Ernestine Jackson.



Love, Mark & Shelley Gibson - September 13, 2023 at 03:22 PM



“ Brenda Gibson lit a candle in memory of Ernestine Jackson



Brenda Gibson - September 12, 2023 at 08:09 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mrs. Ernestine Jackson.



September 12, 2023 at 07:30 PM

PC

“ *Peggy and David Carroll purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Mrs. Ernestine Jackson.*



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**Peggy and David Carroll** - September 12, 2023 at 05:51 PM

RH

“ *Rena Horton lit a candle in memory of Ernestine Jackson*



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**Rena Webster Horton** - September 12, 2023 at 10:23 AM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mrs. Ernestine Jackson.*



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September 12, 2023 at 09:57 AM

HW

“ *My dear, dear friend. How I will miss our talks, your quiet wisdom, and your wonderful positive outlook on life. You inspired me to be better, think better, and do better. Rest well, good and faithful servant.*

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**Hope Ware** - September 11, 2023 at 11:55 PM

KS

“ *Deepest condolences to the Jackson family for your loss. - Kevin & Jana Sheehan*



Kevin Sheehan - September 11, 2023 at 10:24 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Mrs. Ernestine Jackson.

September 11, 2023 at 04:04 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Mrs. Ernestine Jackson.*



September 11, 2023 at 04:04 PM

VB

“ *R.I.H. ERNESTINE AND I WERE GOOD FRIENDS GROWING UP ON THE SOUTH END. WE ALWAYS HAD THINGS TO DO. SHE WAS A BEAUTIFUL SOUL. REST WELL MY LONGTIME FRIEND. PRAYERS FOR THE FAMLY. SHE WAS ALWAYS VERY SMART AND ALWAYS WANTED GOOD THINGS FOR OUR PEORIA.... VERNELL RICHMOND -BRADSHAW.*

VERNELL RICHMOND - BRADSHAW - September 11, 2023 at 03:24 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Mrs. Ernestine Jackson.*



September 11, 2023 at 01:55 PM



“ *1 file added to the album Peoria NAACP QR Code*



**Simons Mortuary** - September 11, 2023 at 11:46 AM



“ *Enduring Grace was purchased for the family of Mrs. Ernestine Jackson.*



September 11, 2023 at 11:33 AM



“ *Renee Adell lit a candle in memory of Ernestine Jackson*



**Renee Adell** - September 10, 2023 at 07:30 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mrs. Ernestine Jackson.*



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September 10, 2023 at 05:16 PM



“ *Bruce Brown lit a candle in memory of Ernestine Jackson*



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**Bruce Brown** - September 10, 2023 at 03:27 PM



“ *Karen Pickett lit a candle in memory of Ernestine Jackson*



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**Karen Pickett** - September 09, 2023 at 08:37 AM



“ *Robert Gail Johnson lit a candle in memory of Ernestine Jackson*



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**Robert & Gail Johnson** - September 09, 2023 at 03:08 AM

RH

“ *Rachel Hearn lit a candle in memory of Ernestine Jackson*



Rachel Hearn - September 08, 2023 at 09:17 PM

EA

“ *Deepest Condolences and prayers for the Jackson Family from Curtis & Deborah Easley*



Easley - September 08, 2023 at 06:57 PM



“ *So sorry to hear of your significant loss Jackson brothers Mourn and celebrate your mom's great life.*

*Jon Heller*



Jon Heller - September 08, 2023 at 06:55 PM

AJ

“ *Albert Purham lit a candle in memory of Ernestine Jackson*



Albert L Purham Jr - September 08, 2023 at 04:21 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mrs. Ernestine Jackson.*



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September 08, 2023 at 02:40 PM



“ *Sad to hear of her passing. I remember going over to the Jackson household from grade school through college. Mrs Jackson was always very generous and like a mother to all of Deric's friends. She will be missed by everyone who knew her.*

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**emil kaneti** - September 08, 2023 at 10:23 AM



*Mrs. Jackson was a passionate community activist, including as NAACP board member and PPS 150 school board member who loved her community.*

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**Lorene King** - September 09, 2023 at 03:30 AM



“ *Margaret Bryson lit a candle in memory of Ernestine Jackson*



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**Margaret Bryson** - September 08, 2023 at 10:20 AM

VJ

“ Mrs. Jackson,  
What can you say about her; everything nice.  
She was a woman of God, great mother,  
grandmother, wife and friend. She would talk  
to any stranger if she felt they needed help  
and an excellent community liaison.  
She will be immensely missed.



*My deepest condolences and prayers to the Jackson Men in her life  
and grandchildren.*

*Michelle Jones-Douglas*

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**V Michelle Jones-Douglas** - September 08, 2023 at 09:58 AM

B(

*May Ernestine Rest In Peace and her family and friends relish the  
memories of such a wonderful family member and friend who was  
respected by each. 🙏🥹🥹*

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**Beverly R. Travis (Leatherwood)** - September 09, 2023 at 07:56 PM

BG

*She was a very beautiful soul. I will never forget her as my Sunday  
School teacher at Rising Sun many years ago.*

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**Brenda Gibson** - September 12, 2023 at 08:05 PM

PH

“ Phillip Hickman lit a candle in memory of  
Ernestine Jackson



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**Phillip E. Hickman** - September 08, 2023 at 07:41 AM

AB

“ *Alma Brown lit a candle in memory of Ernestine Jackson*



Alma Brown - September 07, 2023 at 09:57 PM

MC

“ *I have known Mrs. Jackson all of my life. She was a champion for the oppressed and those who did not have the strength to challenge the powers of authority in this world and especially this City. This City owes both she and her husband Don a debt of gratitude which we can never repay. I salute her her life and all those who now may stand tall because Mrs. Ernestine Jackson lived.*

Minister Donald Cummings - September 07, 2023 at 08:04 PM

LH

*Rest in peace EJ as I addressed her when we shared the same office space when we worked for the city of Peoria and God's blessings to the Jackson family.*

lee hamer - September 08, 2023 at 09:52 PM

PW

“ *Patricia Ward lit a candle in memory of Ernestine Jackson*



Patricia Ward - September 07, 2023 at 06:58 PM

SC

“ *Sherry Cannon lit a candle in memory of Ernestine Jackson*



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**Sherry Cannon** - September 07, 2023 at 06:05 PM

JC

“ *What a beautiful soul!! Great memories from the soprano section of the Heritage Ensemble!! Mrs J was an awesome choir section-mate! Prayers for the family. Sincerely, Jandá Carter, Esq.*

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**JM Carter** - September 07, 2023 at 05:51 PM