



Mrs. James Anna Hightower

June 2, 1931 - November 9, 2022

Mrs. James Anna Hightower, age 91, of Peoria, Illinois, transitioned from this life to her heavenly home at 6:51 pm on Tuesday, November 8, 2022 at River Crossing of Peoria Nursing Home.

James Anna was born on June 2, 1931 in Greenwood, Mississippi to James and Mary (Brown) Petty. She met the love of her life, Aldridge Hightower, Sr. They married on June 26, 1949 in Peoria, Illinois. To their union three children, Genevieve, Carolyn and Aldridge, Jr. James Anna and Aldridge, Sr. were married for 66 wonderful years until his passing on June 4, 2016.

James Anna worked at Woolworth Drug Store and for Canteen Vending Service at Caterpillar as a cook. She attended Douglas Elementary School and later in life received her GED (General Education Degree).

Mother James Anna joined Morning Star Baptist Church on Pecan Street St., Peoria, IL at 11 years of age under the leadership of Rev. Rogers. She was a lifelong member of the Usher Board, President of the Mother's Board and Captain of the Church Calendar Tea for the month of June each year for over 30 years. James Anna was also a member of the United Usher Board, President of the Usher Board, United Mission, Women United of Central Illinois, charter member of the Keystone Wives Club and Altruistic Club. She was a decorator, avid gardener, avid shopper and was devoted to her family.

James Anna leaves to cherish her most precious memories, her three loving children, Genevieve (James) Howard and Carolyn (James "JB") Little both of Peoria, IL and Aldridge "Al", Jr. (Charlotte Sykes) Hightower of Dawn, MO; three brothers, Samuel (Wilma) Petty, Gene (Jackie) Petty and George Petty all of Peoria, IL; three grandchildren, Tonya (Jeremy) Simpson of Frisco, TX and Kevin McGee of Nashville, TN and Jamold Little of Columbia, MO; seven great grandchildren, Jonathan (Amber) Simpson, Christopher Rhoades, Brandon Simpson, Olivia Simpson, Jordan Little, Jayvin McGee and Kylie Little; one great great-grandson, Jackson Simpson and a host of nieces, nephews other family and friends who loved her. She is preceded in death by her parents, her husband, one brother, Maurice Petty and five sisters, Rose Petty, Sadie Dixon, Katie Jacobs, Clara Dixon and Lee Bonds.

Funeral services will be held at 11 am on Saturday, November 19, 2022 at New Morning Star M.B. Church with a visitation beginning one hour prior at 10 am. Pastor Cleveland Thomas, Sr. will officiate. James Anna will be laid to rest at Historic Springdale Cemetery.

All contributions should be made to the New Morning Star M.B, Church 406 W. John H. Gwynn, Jr. Ave. Peoria, Ill. 61605.

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

The 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 (Central Time).

Due to Covid-19, social distancing is encouraged 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 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.

Thanks in advance for your cooperation!

Cemetery Details

Historic Springdale Cemetery

3014 N. Prospect Road
Peoria, IL 61603

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV **19**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

New Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church
413 W. John H. Gwynn Jr. Avenue
Peoria, IL 61605

Funeral Service

NOV **19**. 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM (CT)

New Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church
413 W. John H. Gwynn Jr. Avenue
Peoria, IL 61605

Tribute Wall



“ *Simons Mortuary created a Tribute Video in memory of Mrs. James Anna Hightower*



Simons Mortuary - November 22, 2022 at 03:46 PM



“ *Simons Mortuary created a Tribute Video in memory of Mrs. James Anna Hightower*



Simons Mortuary - November 17, 2022 at 01:01 PM



“ *Mrs. James Anna Hightower*

January 29, 2023 at 06:10 AM



“ *Mrs. James Anna Hightower*

January 29, 2023 at 03:12 AM



“ Gregg Randle lit a candle in memory of James Anna Hightower



Gregg Randle - January 02, 2023 at 03:35 PM



“ 1 file added to the album James Anna Hightower at Parkview Cemetery



Simons Mortuary - November 22, 2022 at 03:47 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mrs. James Anna Hightower.



November 22, 2022 at 11:08 AM

MH

“ To the Family of Mrs. Hightower. May the Love of Jesus carry each of you through this difficult time. Hold on tight to the memories that you all created before this beautiful, caring and loving soldier moved on to her new home. We are asking the Lord to give you strength for today and hope for tomorrow.

Sincerely,
Mary Hudson
Bethel United Methodist Women

Mary A. Hudson - November 18, 2022 at 11:04 PM

RF

“ Rena & Family lit a candle in memory of James Anna Hightower



Rena Webster-Horton & Family - November 18, 2022 at 09:36 PM

MM

I am sorry I could not be there and I have so many lovely memories from the past my her loving kindness to me thank you James Anna 💕

Marie McClain - December 04, 2022 at 08:47 AM

CR

“ Carolyn Reynolds lit a candle in memory of James Anna Hightower



Carolyn Reynolds - November 18, 2022 at 10:39 AM



“ *Al, and family, your mother was such a gracious and wonderful lady. She always had a smile. Every time I drive past her home I got a warm feeling. My deepest sympathy*

Marilyn Boyle - November 17, 2022 at 04:05 PM



“ *Sending prayers and condolences to the family.*

Holly Garrett - November 17, 2022 at 11:26 AM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mrs. James Anna Hightower.*



November 17, 2022 at 10:16 AM



“ *Mattie Risby sent a virtual gift in memory of James Anna Hightower*



Mattie Risby - November 16, 2022 at 04:26 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Mrs. James Anna Hightower.*



November 16, 2022 at 01:28 PM



“ *Sonya wade lit a candle in memory of James Anna Hightower*



Sonya wade - November 16, 2022 at 10:20 AM



“ *Mancy Pittman lit a candle in memory of James Anna Hightower*



Mancy Pittman - November 15, 2022 at 01:11 PM



“ *Sending prayers and love to the family.*

Jas Threatt - November 15, 2022 at 09:08 AM



Sending prayers 🙏 hugs and ❤️❤️ Love to Genia, Carolyn and Al my cousin so sorry for your loss 😭 your Mom will be missed.

Michael@Mary Anderson-Farris - November 16, 2022 at 05:20 PM

RF

“ *Rena Horton & Family lit a candle in memory of James Anna Hightower*



Rena Webster- Horton & Family - November 14, 2022 at 10:30 AM

RL

“ *Sending our love and condolences to our cousin's on the passing of your mother and our Auntie praying that God strengthen you all and comfort each of you doing this sad time. From all your cousin's here in Flint, Michigan.*



Rose Hightower, Latchison

Rose Latchison - November 11, 2022 at 05:15 PM

CH

“ *Calvin Pamela Hightower lit a candle in memory of James Anna Hightower*



Calvin & Pamela Hightower - November 10, 2022 at 12:22 PM

JM

“ *Janice Marshall lit a candle in memory of James Hightower*



Janice Marshall - November 09, 2022 at 09:51 PM

AL

“ *Annette Lucy lit a candle in memory of James Hightower*



Annette Lucy - November 09, 2022 at 08:36 PM

KD

I have known this sweet lady since I was a young girl. My prayers and Love to the family ❤️🙏

Kathryn Dyes - November 11, 2022 at 08:00 AM

GL

May God bless your beautiful soul , you were so loved by so many! You will be sorely missed by all who knew you for so many wonderful years!!

Georgia Little - November 11, 2022 at 08:22 PM

EL

Sending prayers and condolences to the family.

Ella Lee - November 15, 2022 at 04:31 PM

MH

We were so sorry to hear of your mother's passing. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family during this difficult time. Thinking of you, Eric and Maribeth Hall

Maribeth Hall - November 16, 2022 at 03:29 PM

MY

My love and sympathies extended to The Petty and Hightower families in the homegoing of our loved one Mother James Anna Hightower.

I considered myself blessed for her acquaintance through New Morning Star Baptist Church Church. I will always retain great memories of Mother Hightower.

May your faith and numerous memories be sources of inspiration as you face the days ahead.

Michael Young, Washington, D.C.

Michael Young - November 18, 2022 at 02:07 AM