



Mrs. Kathryn W. Timmes

January 10, 1931 - October 8, 2019

She was dedicated to giving as if it were a job, but it was a job she enjoyed... one from which she never retired...she was tireless.

Mrs. Kathryn Williams Timmes, 88, of Peoria, IL transitioned from this life to her heavenly home at 7:08 PM on Tuesday, October 8, 2019 at OSF St. Francis Medical Center.

Kathryn was born January 10, 1931, in Ashland, Kentucky, to the union of Almira and Willie Williams. She was an only child, raised by parents and grandparents who were committed to instilling in her a life with strong self-awareness, a sense of her purpose in the world, and the academic and common-sense tools to achieve her goals. She was a good student—completing her elementary education in Ashland, Kentucky public schools; high school at Swift Memorial Institute, a private boarding school run by the Presbyterian church in Rogersville, Tennessee; and her undergraduate education at Bennett College, an all-girls historically black college in Greensboro, North Carolina. Upon graduation, she began her career teaching fourth grade in New York City. After a few years in New York, the opportunity arose to move to Peoria, which she adopted as her new home for more than 60 years.

Initially, she worked in early childhood education with children at Carver Center. After a year, she taught at Spalding Institute and the Academy of Our Lady, then began her 50-year career with District 150—dedicating her life to

children through teaching at Douglas Elementary and counseling at Manual and Woodruff High Schools. Generations of young people came to know “Miss Timmes” as teacher, mentor, advisor, and adopted mom. Always humbled by recognition, she gave, then gave more to causes for children, seniors, and women. Upon entering the warm and inviting kitchen in her home, her closest friends often joked about her refrigerator door—wallpapered from handle to hinge with photos of former students’ babies.

Kathryn led a fulfilling life over her 88 years. She met the love of her life, John Timmes, and they were married for 59 years until his death in 2015. They were blessed with 2 daughters: Janique (Jan, who preceded her in death) and Johnna. Johnna was her light...they never went a day without talking and sharing their lives, they enjoyed the closest of mother-daughter bonds.

Although she held many professional accomplishments, her greatest pride and joy was her role as loving wife, mother, and daughter.

Kathryn’s social and community involvement included being the first president of the Heritage Ensemble and a charter member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Peoria Alumnae Chapter. In addition to family and community, Kathryn shared a strong sisterhood with her closest friends. The relationship between these “sisters” extended beyond generations to their children and ultimately to some grandchildren. She leaves to mourn her daughter Johnna, her closest sister-girlfriend Jeanne St. Julian, and a host of extended family members, church members, neighbors, friends, former students, and colleagues. Her memory, we cherish.

A two-hour visitation will be held Friday, October 18, 2019 from 5 PM to 7 PM at Bethel United Methodist Church at 210 North Richard Pryor Place, Peoria, IL 61605.

Funeral services will be held at 11 AM, Saturday, October 19, 2019 at Bethel United Methodist Church with a two-hour visitation prior to the Funeral service beginning at 9 AM. Pastor Tyson Parks, III will officiate.

During the Saturday visitation, The Peoria Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta will render the Omega Omega Ceremony commencing at 9 AM until

9:45 AM. The ceremony is open to the public.

After the funeral service, a Private Interment will be held at Historic Springdale Cemetery where Kathryn will be laid to rest.

In lieu of flowers, Memorial donations may be made in honor of Kathryn W. Timmes to either the Peoria Tri-County Urban League's TSTM Program or to the Bethel United Methodist Church's Outreach.

Simons Mortuary has been entrusted with arrangements. Online condolences may be made at simonsmortuary.com.

Cemetery Details

Historic Springdale Cemetery

3014 N. Prospect Road
Peoria, IL 61603

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **18**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Bethel United Methodist Church
210 N. Richard Pryor Pl.
Peoria, IL 61605
http://www.peoriabethelumc.org/index.php?page=About_Us&ion=welcome

Visitation

OCT **19**. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Bethel United Methodist Church
210 N. Richard Pryor Pl.
Peoria, IL 61605
http://www.peoriabethelumc.org/index.php?page=About_Us&ion=welcome

Funeral Service

OCT **19**. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (CT)

Bethel United Methodist Church

210 N. Richard Pryor Pl.

Peoria, IL 61605

http://www.peoriabethelumc.org/index.php?page=About_Us&ion=welcome

Tribute Wall



“ *Simons Mortuary created a Tribute Video in memory of Mrs. Kathryn W. Timmes*



Simons Mortuary - October 17, 2019 at 06:10 PM



“ *Mrs. Kathryn W. Timmes*

January 29, 2023 at 06:10 AM



“ *Mrs. Kathryn W. Timmes*

January 29, 2023 at 03:12 AM



“ *An inspiting teacher...who had an energetic spirit and patient heart...she saw the gifts within each of her students and helped us to see our possibilities.*

Marty Sierra-Perry, AOL 1967

Marty Sierra-Perry - April 26, 2020 at 04:17 PM

RS

“ *Richard Zakeaauss Samuels sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Kathryn W. Timmes*



Richard Zakeaauss Samuels - October 31, 2019 at 01:40 AM

RP

“ *Johnna, I am so sorry about Kathryn. She was a wonderful woman and will be missed by many...none more than you. I was out of town for her service but I'm sure it was uplifting and that many wonderful things were said about your mom. Roberta Parks*

Roberta Parks - October 22, 2019 at 12:48 PM

KW

“ *I'm so saddened to hear about Ms Kathryn Timmes' passing! She helped me adjust to the Peoria area & District #150 (Woodruff HS) in so many ways. Always positive, always smiling, & always looking to help others!! Heaven has gained one of it's true "Angels" back. RHI Ms Timmes and "Thank You" so much for just being you!! God Bless, Ken Williams*

Ken Williams - October 21, 2019 at 07:16 PM

KR

“ *Johnna my thoughts are with you as you mourn the loss of your mother. I'm sure many have said or will express how she touched and forever changed their lives. I'm one of those privileged many who is better because for one small space in time she was a part of my world. I have Never forgotten her,our conversations, or the things she taught me. I strive to be a better human being every day because I want to be more like her. I pray You find please and sleep in this difficult time*

kris - October 18, 2019 at 10:26 PM

TB

“ *With Sincere condolences, we extend our deepest sympathy to the Kathryn Timmes. May the beacon of life and hope be reflected in the many lives she impacted...*

*Troy & Rita Burns
MHS Class of 80 & 83*



TR Burns - October 18, 2019 at 10:08 PM

VO

“ *Victor Cato - Portland, Oregon purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Mrs. Kathryn W. Timmes.*



Victor Cato - Portland, Oregon - October 18, 2019 at 02:38 PM

BD

“ *I well remember seeking Ms. Timmes' wisdom back when I was covering the schools and then writing editorials for The Journal Star. I trusted and respected her.*

Barb Drake - October 17, 2019 at 09:34 AM

AP

“ *Alfanzo Petty lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Kathryn W. Timmes*



Alfanzo Petty - October 16, 2019 at 07:11 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mrs. Kathryn W. Timmes.*



October 15, 2019 at 10:59 PM



“ *Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mrs. Kathryn W. Timmes.*



October 15, 2019 at 09:07 PM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mrs. Kathryn W. Timmes.*



October 15, 2019 at 08:28 PM

TZ

“ As Johnna's best friend since our freshman year in college, I was the lucky recipient of Kathryn's wise counsel over many, many years. She also kept in touch with my mother in Iowa via letters and notes, a kindness that was greatly appreciated. She was a wise and strong woman, and she loved her daughter fiercely.

Tanya Zumach - October 15, 2019 at 08:23 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Mrs. Kathryn W. Timmes.



October 15, 2019 at 08:20 PM

LM

“ What a powerful woman of God. Ms. Timmes walked all my daughters through high school and was concerned about them after high school. Such a blessing and a great loss to the Peoria community as a whole. PPS needs more women (and men) to carry on this powerful, empowering legacy.

Mosley Family

Leonard & Marilyn Mosley - October 15, 2019 at 10:38 AM

RS

“ Ms. Timmes; played a major role in lives of a lot of kids. She guided, she yelled and loved all of us. Never did she ever want any of us to fail. I will always remember her and others who led the way for a better life for kids of Peoria. Thank you Ms. Timmes for always caring. RIH, your job here is done.

Richard Zakeaauss Samuels - October 14, 2019 at 05:45 PM

VK

“ To the Family of Mrs. Kathryn Timmes - I was very saddened to learn of her passing. Her contribution to the educational community is unparalleled. Her smile & laugh was infectious. She will be greatly missed & fondly remembered by all who had the privilege & pleasure of knowing her. May God bless, comfort & keep you during your time of grief is my prayer.



Vickie Kingcade-King - October 14, 2019 at 11:20 AM

CM

“ Johnna,

Our sincere sympathy to you in the loss off your Mom. What a wonderful lady she was. A pleasure to know you and your family over the years, both in the Dunlap area and at Woodruff High School. You are In our thoughts and prayers.

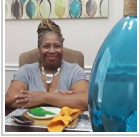
Otto and Carol Meischner

Carol & Otto Meischner - October 14, 2019 at 09:31 AM

 Vickie Johnson

“ Mrs. Timms was a wonderful wife, mother, educator and friend. Her vibrant personality and delightful sense of humor is what I remember most.

Vickie Johnson - October 14, 2019 at 05:48 AM



“ *Rochelle Moore lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Kathryn W. Timmes*



Rochelle Moore - October 13, 2019 at 09:53 PM

SJ

“ *Mrs. Timmes was a big part of my brothers' and I growing up, her warm greetings and encouraging words were so magical, and inspired us to continue to be great students, leaders, and people. We were so lucky to meet her, may God rest her kind soul.*

-Jackson Brothers

Sterling Jackson - October 13, 2019 at 09:31 AM

BC

“ *Bea Cannon lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Kathryn W. Timmes*



Bea Cannon - October 12, 2019 at 11:03 PM

AL

“ *Annette Lucy sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Kathryn W. Timmes*



Annette Lucy - October 12, 2019 at 10:35 PM

LC

“ *Avery bright shining light. In this day & age we need more people like her. You are greatly missed. I will remember you until the day I die. Love you more.*



Laverne Claybor - October 12, 2019 at 07:19 PM

RE

“ *RENESSA sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Kathryn W. Timmes*



RENESSA - October 12, 2019 at 04:03 PM

MW

“ *God's comfort to the family, know she is loved!* 💕🙏



Ms. Pat Ward - October 11, 2019 at 08:28 PM

DB

“ *I am honored to have shared my High School Years with you. Mrs Schlesinger was my counselor, But you gave me advice as if you were mine. you never meet a stranger. Beautiful inside and out, You'll never be forgotten.*

Dorothea Banks-Burse - October 11, 2019 at 08:24 PM

MH

“ *Mendoria Hughes sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Kathryn W. Timmes*



Mendoria Hughes - October 11, 2019 at 02:50 PM

RL

“ *Rondale & Kathy Lundy lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Kathryn W. Timmes*



Rondale & Kathy Lundy - October 11, 2019 at 02:07 PM

MP

“ *Mancy Pittman lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Kathryn W. Timmes*



Mancy Pittman - October 11, 2019 at 03:34 AM

KA

“ *Karen Ashby sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Kathryn W. Timmes*



Karen Ashby - October 10, 2019 at 09:54 PM

TW

“ *Richard and Theresa Walker*



Theresa Walker - October 10, 2019 at 09:22 PM

PF

“ *A lady known and admired by many. She had a heart larger than her smile and her love toward others filled the world with sunshine.*

Patty Filzen - October 10, 2019 at 04:34 PM

MG

“ *Mrs Timmes, I have no words to express what you done for all of the kids, young adult and even some adults that passed your way. You were small but your words were mighty. You were a role model to everyone, whether they were female or male. You had made many doors open for us and you didn't take any mess from anyone. You taught us at Manual that nothing was impossible for you to do or to say as long as you said it nicely. You taught us that we were more than a color and with faith it will happen. I always admired the hats and shoes and outfits that you wore. Mrs Timmes you were always happy and smiling; your smile was so beautiful that your eyes would light up at the same time. God has welcome you home with him. Rest know my forever sister. Love always. Mattie*

Mattie Graves - October 10, 2019 at 04:08 PM

CY

“ CynthiaFrye-Stone lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Kathryn W. Timmes



CynthiaFrye-Stone - October 10, 2019 at 03:28 PM

Lillian Blake

“ I loved Mrs. Timmes. She was very straightforward and was ALWAYS dressed nicely without a hair out of place. She was kind to all of us at WHS. She will be greatly missed. RIH sweet angel...

Lillian Blake - October 10, 2019 at 02:58 PM

RZ

It was my pleasure to work with Kathryn in the counseling office at Woodruff HS. During that time Kathryn became more than a colleague. She became a friend. She was a stalwart in the community, a leader in promoting equality for all, & a champion in making young people her #1 priority. She will be missed. Judy & I send our sincere condolences, Johnna. God bless!

Ron & Judy Zipfel

Ron Zipfel - October 12, 2019 at 11:58 AM



“ Mrs. Timmes was a earthly Angel to many including me and my kids. She was my counselor at Woodruff and was very special. Then she was there my babies at Roosevelt. She will be greatly missed. Rest in the Heavens Angel.



Wanda Stokes - October 10, 2019 at 02:32 PM

RS

Mrs. Timmes was an angel in my life as my counselor at Woodruff HD, a role she did not retire even well after I had gone on to college, grad school and beyond. She is largely responsible for helping me get on track to make my dreams come true. A smarter, wiser, more loving woman has never walked the Earth in human form. Mrs. Timmes I love you & you will lie on in my heart.

Randell Strickland - October 11, 2019 at 02:19 AM

KA

“*Words are never adequate in moments like these. We will say though, that our hearts go out to your family, and we will always remember the joyous memories that we are privileged to have in knowing Mrs. Kathryn Timmes.*

*Pamela Atkins
(Jessie Pettit)*


Kim Atkins-Parker - October 10, 2019 at 02:13 PM

KA

“*Truly a classy lady that will be greatly missed. She touched a lot of lives and was a true avid of educating ourselves. Prayers go out to the family.*

Kim Atkins-Parker

Kim Atkins-Parker - October 10, 2019 at 02:04 PM


Lopears
Holmes

“ *My heart is so sad to hear this news. She was an amazing & beautiful person. Her great smile & kindness was infectious. She helped me in so many ways as she did for so many others which is a testament to the kind of person she was. She never gave up on me even when I gave up on myself & genuinely cared. Thank you Mrs. Timmes for being there. RIP sweet lady. Lots of prayers to her family & friend.*



Lopears Holmes - October 10, 2019 at 01:10 PM

KG

“ *We are restoring the house on Sleepy Hollow. Hope to do her proud. To the family, my sincerest sympathy on your loss. She was a Peoria icon.*


Katherine Gittrich - October 10, 2019 at 12:23 PM

CL

“ *RIP Mrs. Timmes, you were my favorite counselor back in my day at Manual High School. To the family, you are in my prayers.*
Carolyn Lobdell



Carolyn Lobdell - October 10, 2019 at 09:28 AM


Erica
Baird

“ *I would not be who I am today had it not been for the love and guidance of Mrs. Timmes. She was a role model, a light and a fighter! She never gave up on me and fought to ensure I was treated fairly...when it was clear I wasn't. She will be forever missed!*

Erica Baird - October 10, 2019 at 08:58 AM

CB

“ Oh nooo... I loved her so much. Kathryn always came to my teller window for years at the bank. 19 to be exact. She gave me a little retirement gift that just touched my heart . What a beautiful, smart, classy, loving and thoughtful woman she was. I was blessed to know her. RIP Kathryn..until we meet again ❤️🙏💕
Claudia Boze 💕💕

Claudia Boze - October 10, 2019 at 01:33 AM

LJ

Simply put, I love ❤️ and respect you. It was a joy be fussed out by you, it was always delivered with love. Your journey is over, you fought a courageous battle with dignity and unmeasurable self respect RIP. Condolences and prayers to and for the family. God will provide your needs

LaFelda Jones - October 10, 2019 at 04:01 PM

TR

“ I can't believe that she's gone from this world. I have so many stories to share, but the most dear to me is from the time when my mother died. Mrs. Timmes took me aside at a crucial time, and she said, "I know you've lost your mother, and I'm going to be your mother now. Get yourself together, and come to see me tomorrow." She redirected my life. That happened more than once. As my grandmother might have said, "Her soul went straight to Heaven." God rest her and keep her.

Tim Ryon - October 10, 2019 at 12:43 AM

KW

“ She was such a great lady!! Loved working with her. My deepest condolences!

Kim Wolpert

Kim Wolpert - October 09, 2019 at 11:24 PM

SA

“ *Sheryl Allen lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Kathryn W. Timmes*



Sheryl Allen - October 09, 2019 at 11:18 PM

CL

“ *Carolyn Lobdell lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Kathryn W. Timmes*



Carolyn Lobdell - October 09, 2019 at 10:52 PM

EB

“ *Emel Buckner lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Kathryn W. Timmes*



Emel Buckner - October 09, 2019 at 10:39 PM

ZB

“ *Zerlyna Burse-Taylor lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Kathryn W. Timmes*



Zerlyna Burse-Taylor - October 09, 2019 at 10:00 PM

JT

“ Mrs. Timmes was my counselor at Woodruff and she always spoke how it was. She was such a great lady. I will never forget when I got sent to her, she was talking to my mom and said in front of me how smart and a neat person I was but I was lazy. Lol She was the only one out of all the staff that I trusted and new I could tell her any thing. She will surely be missed and prayers to her family! RIP Mrs. Timmes! 🙏🙏🙏🙏 Jennifer Tuley

Jennifer Tuley - October 09, 2019 at 08:09 PM

JB

“ Joanie Brown sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Kathryn W. Timmes



Joanie Brown - October 09, 2019 at 07:44 PM

JB

“ Joanie Brown lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Kathryn W. Timmes



Joanie Brown - October 09, 2019 at 07:43 PM

TM

“ At manual she was awesome. She helped everyone out.

Theresa McAfee - October 09, 2019 at 07:36 PM