



Mr. Lester Raiford

April 29, 1940 - February 26, 2026

Obituary Pending

Mr. Lester B. Raiford, 85, of Peoria, IL, passed away at 10:23 pm on Thursday, February 26, 2026.

Lester was born on April 29, 1940 in Moorhead, MS to Margaret (Rayford) Williams and Hardy Whigum.

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Lester worked as a brick layer and concrete for various construction companies. He enjoyed traveling and being with family. Lester was a US Army Veteran.

Lester leaves to cherish his most precious memory, two brothers, Bill Whigum of Milwaukee, WI and John Ester Watson of Moorhead, MS; and a host of other relatives and friends who loved him dearly. He is preceded in death by his parents; one daughter; four brothers, Robert Watson, Ted Williams Elmer Williams and Carl Williams and five sisters, Jesse Watson, Daisy Brown, Beatrice Coleman, Millie Mae Williams and Freddie Lee Morris.

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, March 20, 2026, at

Simons Mortuary Chapel with a gathering one half hour prior at 10:30 am.
Pastor Alvin Riley of Sovereign Grace M.B. Church will officiate.
Lester will be laid to rest at Lutheran Cemetery.

Simons Mortuary has been entrusted with arrangements. Online condolences may be shared at SimonsMortuary.com.

Cemetery Details

Lutheran Cemetery

914 S Pleasant St
Peoria, IL 61604-5954

Previous Events

Gathering

MAR 20. 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Simons Mortuary Chapel
912 W. John H. Gwynn, Jr. Ave.
Peoria, IL 61605
(309) 674-2638
info@simonsmortuary.com
<https://simonsmortuary.com>

Memorial Service

MAR 20. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Simons Mortuary Chapel
912 W. John H. Gwynn, Jr. Ave.
Peoria, IL 61605
(309) 674-2638
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Tribute Wall



“ *Virsie Ingram lit a candle in memory of Lester Raiford* ”



Virsie Ingram - March 19 at 12:54 PM