



Mrs. Mary R. Gaines

February 29, 1928 - November 9, 2020

Mary Gaines, 92, of Peoria, IL, passed away peacefully on Monday Nov. 9, 2020, among beloved family members.

She was born February 29, 1928, to RT Shorter and Lena Thomas, in Shelby, MS.

Mary worked as a Surgical CNA at St. Francis Hospital for many years.

Mary leaves to cherish her precious memories 9 of her 12 children; Robert (Judith) Lee and Gail Lee, both of Wilmington, NC, Freida (Ralph) Peary of Atlanta, GA, Bobby (Paula) Rutherford of Grand Prairie, TX, Michael (Donna) Rutherford, Nancy Gayles, Becky Rutherford, all of Peoria, IL, Dean (Marcella) Rutherford of Nashville, TN, and Bridgette (Carey) Stuckey of Peoria, IL; 2 brothers, Donell (Donna) Shorter and Matthew (Wanda) Shorter both of Elkhart, IN; 3 sisters, Marie Shorter and Beatrice Shorter both of Shelby, MS and Betty Shorter of Shamburg, IL; 31 grandchildren; 47 great-grandchildren; 3 great-great grandchildren and a host of other family and friends.

Mary was preceded in death by one daughter, Constance Moody; two sons, Ronnie Lee, Mark Rutherford, and her parents.

Mary had a great sense of humor; known for being Fun Loving and Good Natured. Over the decades she was known as the neighborhood/community mother. Her intuitive nature led her to evangelizing to more than her 12 children. She loved helping others and would give her last to anyone in need. She was Loyal, Confidant, and Strong Willed. Mary was also known for her magnificent sense of fashion.

Mary was a strong Christian Mother that was known for her "Holy Dancing" and was a Senior citizen evangelist. She was a member of Love and Kindness Ministries. She was a past member of Star of Hope FGBC and Holy Tabernacle C.O.G.I.C.

A private funeral service will be held at 11 am on Wednesday, November 18, 2020 at Star of Hope Full Gospel Church with a visitation beginning at 10 am. Bishop Joseph Johnson will officiate. Mary will be laid to rest at Lutheran Cemetery. Online condolences may be made at [simonsmortuary.com](https://www.simonsmortuary.com).

The funeral 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. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, social distancing and attendance limits will be observed. As the States begin re-opening in response to the Global Coronavirus Pandemic, some people are returning to their previous normal living standards. Unfortunately, we are now in our new normal as unreal and sometimes uncomfortable as the socially distancing and continuous use of protective masks may feel. *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). Thanks in advance for your cooperation! *It is our responsibility as a 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. The

church can socially distance and seat at least 25% of it's capacity or less people. All others will be able to flow through and view prior to beginning the funeral service.

"But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.....

1 Thessalonians 4 (13 - 18)

"But he was wounded for transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed."

Isaiah 53:5

For comfort check out <https://youtu.be/pRBVHhnud-0> "What Death Means To A Christian"

J. Vernon Mcgee

Cemetery Details

Lutheran Cemetery

914 S Pleasant St
Peoria, IL 61604-5954

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 18. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Star of Hope Full Gospel Church
417 W. Romeo B. Garrett Avenue
Peoria, IL 61605

Celebration of Life

NOV 18. 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM (CT)

Star of Hope Full Gospel Church
417 W. Romeo B. Garrett Avenue
Peoria, IL 61605

Tribute Wall



“ *Simons Mortuary created a Tribute Video in memory of Mrs. Mary R. Gaines*



Simons Mortuary - November 17, 2020 at 03:39 PM

JC

I'm praying for us family's be alright your mom was good ones cuz I always loved ❤️ ❤️ her deeply in my heart I'm praying you get through this hard time in Jesus holy name and, mighty, hallelujah, hallelujah, we blessed 🙌🙏 your holy name amen 🙏 with my family to your family peace, joyful, hope 🙏 ❤️ be safe 🙏 cuzs I will miss her 🙏 ❤️ rest in peace amen

Judy Corder - November 19, 2020 at 12:24 AM

FP

Hi Judy...Thanks so much cuz. You know we're all going to miss Mom. I thank God for giving us such a beautiful woman of God. She taught us lots but mostly to live for the Lord so we can see each other at the "Great Family Reunion" 🙏 Love you cuz!❤️

Freida Peary - November 21, 2020 at 07:43 AM



“ *Mrs. Mary R. Gaines*

January 29, 2023 at 06:10 AM



“ *Mrs. Mary R. Gaines*

January 29, 2023 at 03:12 AM



“ *Catherine Randle Watson lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Mary R. Gaines*



Catherine Randle Watson - November 28, 2020 at 02:42 AM



“ *Gregg Randle sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Mary R. Gaines*



Gregg Randle - November 22, 2020 at 06:23 PM



“ *Gregg Randle lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Mary R. Gaines*



Gregg Randle - November 22, 2020 at 06:02 PM

DE

“ Our deepest condolences to the Rutherford family for the loss of your dear Mother..May she rest in him. Stay encouraged family ...love you.Curtis and Deborah Easley



D. Easley - November 22, 2020 at 09:11 AM

FP

“ The family of Mary R. Gaines acknowledges with grateful appreciation all expressions of loving kindness shown during this time of bereavement. We thank God for your compassion, thoughtfulness and prayers.
" She fought a good Fight, finished the course and kept the Faith. She now has gone from Labor to Reward, She's been ushered on Home to be with the Lord. " 🙏

Freida Peary - November 21, 2020 at 09:03 AM



“ Freida, I remember meeting your mother a few years ago at your home. After we exchanged pleasantries, she turned to me and asked, "Are you saved?" She was a beautiful lady and a true Christian woman. They don't make them like her anymore. Praying for you and your family during your time of bereavement. Thankful that I had the opportunity to meet and share time with this beautiful spirit. May she rest well with the saints.



Vassiena

Vassiena Adesanya - November 19, 2020 at 08:11 AM

FP

Hi Vassiena, thank you so much for sharing this difficult time with us. Mom really Loved the Lord and wanted to share his Love with Everyone. 🙏 Mom did have a beautiful spirit and I thank God for 92 years. Mom is rejoicing now..."To be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord" 🙏

Freida Peary - November 21, 2020 at 07:50 AM

JB

“ Bridgett , Michael, Fredrida and Family We Are Praying For You All. May The God Of Hope Peace And Love Surround All Of You In This Time That We All Need Him Most. Ms Mary Was Truly A Loving Mother. RIH GBNF ❤️🙏🕊️



Joanie Brown - November 18, 2020 at 09:41 PM

FP

Hi Joanie, thank you so much for your condolences. We truly appreciate all your Prayers and Support. 🙏 Mother will be Truly Missed!❤️

Freida Peary - November 21, 2020 at 07:54 AM

SR

“ Nancy, I can't Express how much I appreciate you for allowing me to be a part of your mother's life. She welcomed me in as you have always done. Praying always, and especially at this time. She was truly a beautiful spirit. Blessings always! Love to you all.

Sylvia Richardson - November 17, 2020 at 04:14 PM

FP

Thank you Sylvia...Mom was truly a mother to all. Thank you for your Prayers at this difficult time, we appreciate you!❤️

Freida Peary - November 21, 2020 at 07:58 AM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Mrs. Mary R. Gaines.*



November 17, 2020 at 03:27 PM



“ *To Robert (Judith) & Family - I wish to extend my deepest sympathy to you. The loss of a Mother is one of the hardest to endure. May God grant you the strength to endure her passing. The comfort comes in knowing that she rests with the Lord. Hang on to each precious memory you hold dear of your time God allowed you to spend with her. May God console you as only He can is my prayer for you.*



Vickie & James King - November 17, 2020 at 10:28 AM



Thank you Vicki, we appreciate your Prayers and Support...The Family.
🙏❤️

Freida Peary - November 21, 2020 at 08:01 AM



“ *Praying for you guys at this very difficult time.*
Denise Smith



Denise - November 16, 2020 at 06:15 PM

FP

Thank you Denise, we appreciate you Prayers and Support at this difficult time. 🙏❤️

Freida Peary - November 21, 2020 at 08:04 AM

CF

“ *Cathy Randle & Randle Family sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Mary R. Gaines*



Cathy Randle & Randle family - November 16, 2020 at 06:37 AM

FP

Thank you so much, Mom will always be remembered!❤️🙏

Freida Peary - November 21, 2020 at 08:06 AM

CF

“ *Cathy Randle & Randle Family lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Mary R. Gaines*



Cathy Randle & Randle family - November 16, 2020 at 06:06 AM

OG

“ *Bridgette and family, I'm so sorry for your loss. My heart is heavy and prayers are with you all always. May the Lord comfort, strengthen, sustain you and continue to keep you all in His loving embrace. Love, Ondrea and family.*

Ondrea Green - November 14, 2020 at 11:01 AM

FP

Thank you so much Ondrea, we thank God for your Compassion, Love and Support. 🙏❤️

Freida Peary - November 21, 2020 at 08:12 AM

KA

“*Karen Ashby sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Mary R. Gaines*



Karen Ashby - November 12, 2020 at 11:32 PM

FP

Karen, thank you for your Love and Support and even though life has passed away...Moms Memory Will Always Remain. 🙏🕊️

Freida Peary - November 21, 2020 at 08:17 AM

JS

“*Bridgette and family, I am so sorry to hear of the loss of your mother, Mary. While I was unable to meet her on this earth I feel as though I have from the many stories that you shared of her. She raised an amazing daughter and I look forward to praising our Lord together in heaven! My thoughts and prayers are with you Bridgette and your extended family. Love you!*
Jeannie Szetela

Jeannie Szetela - November 12, 2020 at 10:54 PM

MB

“ To the Family of Mother Mary Gaines: Such a beautiful spirit filled woman of God. Mother use to tell me I was her anointed organist. Mom, we will shout together again. Never forgotten. Love you forever. Our deepest sympathy to this great family.



Elder Michael and Missionary Glenda Burrell

Msnyn. Glenda Burrell - November 12, 2020 at 02:48 PM

FP

Thank you so much Elder Michael and Missionary Burrell. We appreciate you and thank God for 92 years with such a beautiful woman of God. Mom Loved the Lord and encouraged all to live for the Lord so that we see each other at the "Great Family Reunion"❤️🙏

Freida Peary - November 21, 2020 at 08:27 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mrs. Mary R. Gaines.



November 12, 2020 at 01:37 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Mrs. Mary R. Gaines.



November 12, 2020 at 01:05 PM

PC

“ To the family of Mrs. Mary R. Gaines:

The pastor and members of the Pentecostal Church of Jesus Christ would like to extend to you and your entire family our deepest sympathy in the loss of your loved one. Even though our hearts are saddened, we pray that the Lord will comfort your hearts and bless you with enduring memories that you will always treasure. He is with you even in this time of sorrow too deep for words.

God be with you,

*Pastor Henry L. Bolden II
Lady Marcia J. Bolden
and the PCJC Church Family*

Pentecostal Church of Jesus Christ - November 12, 2020 at 08:46 AM

FP

Thank you so much Pastor and First Lady, we appreciate all your Prayers and Support. Mom Fought a GOOD Fight, Finished the Course and Kept the Faith. She is Rejoicing with Our Lord! 🙌 Although she has left us we weep not like those without hope, but count it all JOY, for we know that weeping may endure for a Night...But JOY cometh in the Morning. 🙏 Love You ❤️

Freida Peary - November 21, 2020 at 08:43 AM

LK

“ *A true pioneer and will truly be missed we are continuing praying for our family, we are more than cousin we are brothers and sisters so my heart is heavy*

LJ and Ingrid King - November 11, 2020 at 09:40 PM

FP

Hi Cuz...you got that right Mom was a true Pioneer and this families Prayer Warrior/Intersessor. She left us with lots especially the assurance that if we live for the Lord so that one day we all can see each other at the" Great Family Reunion" ❤️ Love you Cuz!

Freida Peary - November 21, 2020 at 08:50 AM



“ *Someone so special can never be forgotten. Becky I'm praying for you & your family. Hugs to you*



Evelyn Tate-Clayton - November 11, 2020 at 09:39 PM

FP

Thank you Evelyn for your Prayers and Support...we're going to truly miss Mom!❤️

Freida Peary - November 21, 2020 at 09:05 AM

JJ

“ *Jeanette Jackson-Owens lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Mary R. Gaines*



Jeanette Jackson-Owens - November 11, 2020 at 06:36 PM

DH

“ TO FREDIA & FAMILY, MY HEART GOES OUT TO YOU, YOUR SIBLINGS, YOUR KIDS AND THE ENTIRE FAMILY....SO SORRY FOR YOUR LOSS, I KNOW WHAT YOU ARE GOING THUR, I WILL CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR YOU....I AM HERE FOR YOU. LOVE YOU,
DIANE DOTSON-HERRON

DIANE HERRON - November 11, 2020 at 05:01 PM

RH

*To Robert, Freda, and Nancy
Your Connie, Ron, and mother will never be forgotten. Neither Crystal or I live in Peoria anymore, but the memories of our families during our youth will forever be remembered fondly. You mom and mine shared their youth and school and birthdays, just like Connie and I) We were meant to touch lives and I thank God for Ms Mary and her wonderful, beautiful family.
Love Rita Owens-Hinton*

Rita Hinton - November 14, 2020 at 09:38 PM

FB

“ To the family of Mary Gaines, I am so sorry for your loss. She was such a beautiful spiritual woman of God. I enjoyed spending time with Mrs Gaines and sharing wonderful stories about the Lord 🙏❤️

Felicia Burrows-Woods - November 11, 2020 at 03:29 PM