



## Mother Mattie Mae Keyster

June 3, 1929 - April 19, 2016

Mother Mattie Keyster, 86, of Peoria, IL passed away at 2:24 pm on Tuesday, April 19, 2016 at Unity Point Proctor Hospital.

Mattie was born on June 3, 1929 in Lexington, MS to Drew and MaLiza (Travis) Johnson. She married Dillard Brown; he passed in 1964. She later married Fred Walter Keyster in 1968. He preceded her in death in 1999.

Mattie was a nurse's aid at Proctor Hospital for over 35 years, retiring in 1991. She was a faithful member of New Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church for over 59 years where she served 35 of those years singing in the choir. She also served on the Mother's Board and United Mission. Mattie not only loved her own children, she loved the children in the community serving as a foster grandmother with the Department of Aging. She enjoyed teaching and working with crafts at Jo Jo's crafts at the George Washington Carver Center. Mattie leaves to cherish her most precious memories, three daughters, Minnie (Freddie) Roberson Washington of Peoria, Jeanette (Clarence) Brown Walton of Lancaster, SC and Teresa Brown McPherson of Minneapolis, MN; three sons, Dillard Brown, Jr., and Louis Brown both of Peoria and Willie "James" (Jean) Brown of Baton Rouge, LA; three sisters, Elizabeth Meeks of Los Angeles, CA, Clinestine Ferguson of Chicago and Elnora Wilburn of Peoria; 9 grandchildren; 27 great grandchildren; 21 great great-grandchildren; and a host of nieces, nephews, other family and friends. She is also preceded in death by her parents; one son, Rickey Brown; two sisters, Lue August Robinson and Alice Williams and one brother, Oscar Johnson.

A funeral service will be held at 10 am, Saturday, April 30, 2016 at New Morning Star M.B. Church with a visitation one hour prior beginning at 9 am. Rev. Dr. Pat Pollard, Sr., Pastor of New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church, will officiate. Mother Mattie will be laid to rest at Swan Lake Memory Gardens. Simons Mortuary has been entrusted with arrangements. Online condolences may be made at [simonsmortuary.com](http://simonsmortuary.com).

# Previous Events

## Visitation

APR **30**. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (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 Mother Mattie Mae Keyster*



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**Simons Mortuary** - April 30, 2016 at 06:59 AM

MB

*Precious blessing, Ms. Mattie. Ty for your legacy, love you! RIH*

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**Mary Brown** - May 01, 2016 at 12:54 PM



“ *Mother Mattie Mae Keyster*

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January 29, 2023 at 06:10 AM



“ *Mother Mattie Mae Keyster*

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January 29, 2023 at 03:12 AM

ST

“ *I still have the bear you gave me... I know this is late. But you know, better late than never. I love you Great Aunt Mattie! Love Stephe!*



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**Steph** - August 08, 2021 at 06:58 PM

AB

“ *To My Family*

*I am so very sorry for the loss of My Cousin  
Mattie who We knew and called Coot.  
I came to Peoria to visit and Mattie welcomed,  
extended and made me and my family feel so very welcome that  
actually we did not want to leave. My Mother {Polly} always talk  
about the frequency of the calls they have every other Sunday  
sharing and enjoying the relationship of being faithful and loving  
cousins who were very close but distance in living. To my family  
earth has no sorrow that heaven can not heal. Sleep on Cousin  
Mattie and take your Eternal Rest and know that we all love you but  
God Loves you Best. You are gone from the physical life but will be  
forever remembered in our hearts for your loving, kind and gentle  
spirit.  
Rest in Eternal Paradise Cousin Mattie  
Love Polly, Anita and The Butler Family*



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**Anita Butler** - April 30, 2016 at 12:22 AM

EC

“ *Evelyn Clayton lit a candle in memory of  
Mother Mattie Mae Keyster*



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**Evelyn Clayton** - April 28, 2016 at 04:57 PM

DN

“ Aunt Mattie was an exceptional woman whom I not only loved but deeply admired. She and Fred were pioneers in showing us that love and family could transcend superficial differences so often used to divide us. So thank you, Aunt Mattie; in so many ways, you left the world a better place. May the angels greet you as one of their own.

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**Dorothy Taylor, niece** - April 28, 2016 at 11:29 AM

TF

“ The Taylor Family purchased the Secret Garden Basket for the family of Mother Mattie Mae Keyster.



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**The Taylor Family** - April 28, 2016 at 10:28 AM

KT

“ Aunt Mattie, it was a privilege to know you and to call you Aunt. I will always remember sitting talking with you in my car after sharing a meal at Cracker Barrel, and visiting with you at your home in Peoria. Thank you for these treasured occasions. It was always a good feeling to see you and to talk with you, and I miss you.

*Ken Taylor, nephew*

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**Kenneth Taylor** - April 27, 2016 at 02:17 PM

CF

“ Visiting Mattie and Fred Keyster was always a joy. Mattie was open, caring, and loving. That was a big deal to a little boy from Cleveland, Ohio. I'll miss you Grandma Mattie!

Carl “Ed” Franklin, Ph.D.

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**Carl Franklin** - April 25, 2016 at 07:41 AM

KK

“ Mattie was one of the sweetest, friendliest people we know n loved. She always had a big smile n open arms for a wonderful hug. She was a very proud mom n grandmother, with one or more kids always around her. She livened up any family event she was at. She was so interested in how everyone was doing n what we were involved in. What a very beautiful addition she was to our family. We will miss you Aunt Mattie. The David Keyster Family.

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**Kathy Keyster** - April 22, 2016 at 02:38 PM

AL

“ Annette Lucy lit a candle in memory of Mother Mattie Mae Keyster



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**Annette Lucy** - April 21, 2016 at 12:45 PM