



Mrs. Monzola Gaines

December 22, 1943 - May 21, 2023

Monzola McKinney Gaines, 79, affectionately known as "Mon" was born December 22, 1943, to the late Romeo Robert & Ethel Lee Bennett McKinney in Sunflower, MS. She entered into rest on Sunday, May 21, 2023, at 8:45 PM at Carle (formerly Methodist) Hospital in Peoria, IL.

Mon accepted Christ as her Lord and Savior at an early age at the McKinney Chapel Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the rural community of Sunflower, MS under the leadership of the late Elder S. D. Yarborough.

She received her early education from Roundaway Elementary School and graduated from Gentry High School in Indianola, MS. Mon later moved to Pontiac, MI, where she was introduced to the love of her life, Leon P. Gaines. They married on July 12, 1974, in Peoria, IL, and enjoyed 48 years of marriage.

Mon was well known for her cooking, baking, and canning abilities. Family,

friends, and sometimes strangers traveled far and near to enjoy what we call "Sunday Dinner." Mon loved gardening, sewing, reading, trying new recipes, and collecting all the latest kitchen gadgets. She was a loving wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. She had a great sense of humor and was a prankster. Mon was employed by Peoria Public School District #150 at Manual High School in 1982, first working as a cafeteria worker and later as a custodian. She was a hard worker and loved by many staff members and students throughout her career. Mon was blessed to be able to retire in 2004. After retirement, she could be found lounging in her pajamas watching some of her favorite cooking shows, Survivor and Dancing with the Stars. She also loved playing candy crush.

Mon leaves to cherish her loving memory her husband, Leon P. Gaines; two sons, Everett (Lillie) McKinney of Indianola, MS, and Demetri Gaines of Houston, TX; two daughters, LaTonya (Terence) Franklin of Atlanta, GA, and Tisha (Courtney) Anderson of Peoria, IL; three brothers, Ambrose (Linda) McKinney of Sunflower, MS, Alfonzo McKinney of Drew, MS, and Carl (Helen) McKinney of Nashville, TN; (1) sister, Pernella (Jesse) Shortie of Greenville, MS; two sisters-in-law, Gloria Hayes of Pulaski, IL and Linda Gaines of Houston, TX eleven

grandchildren, Marquis Jordan-McKinney, Brandis Johnson, Brittney Gaines, Brandon Daniels, Darius Williams, Ariel Ivory, Darrion (Kennara) McKinney, Brian Gaines, Arneisha Walls, Mickayla Alexander, and Isaiah Alexander twenty-four great grandchildren, Aidan, Alaysia, A'mere, Amiri, Amori, Ariane, Brielle, Da'Layja, Daleah, D'Ari, Jrue, Kingston E., Kingston M., Laedon, Marion, Marleigh, Nazier, Phoenix, Ramani, Rayniah, Sage, Tasia, Treshaun, and Tristan; a host of aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. She was preceded in death by her parents, Romeo Robert & Ethel Lee Bennett McKinney, one son, Brian L. Gaines; two brothers, Romeo Milton McKinney, and Wayne McKinney; four sisters, Alberta McKinney Reddick, Sandra McKinney Bell, Masone Lajoice McKinney, and Verlinda McKinney Fields; and one great grandson, Troy Erving II.

Funeral Services will be held at 11 am on Saturday, June 3, 2023 at Church of the Living God of Peoria, with a visitation one hour prior beginning at 10 am. Host Pastor Vice Chief Bishop Leroy Smith. Rev. Alvin Riley, Sr., Pastor of Sovereign Grace M.B Church, will officiate and bring the eulogy. Mrs. Gaines will be laid to rest at Parkview Cemetery.

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

Cemetery Details

Parkview Cemetery

2001 N University St
Peoria, IL 61604
(309) 688-0733

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 3. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Church of the Living God
2815 W Lake Ave
Peoria, IL 61615
(309) 688-6463

Celebration of Life

JUN 3. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Church of the Living God
2815 W Lake Ave
Peoria, IL 61615
(309) 688-6463

Tribute Wall



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



Simons Mortuary - June 05, 2023 at 12:55 PM



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



Simons Mortuary - June 01, 2023 at 07:25 PM



“ *Joanie Brown sent a virtual gift in memory of Monzola Gaines*



Joanie Brown - August 12, 2023 at 06:57 AM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Pat's daughter, Taffy - June 06, 2023 at 03:47 PM



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



June 02, 2023 at 03:57 PM



“ Pat's Daughter, Taffy lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Monzola Gaines



Pat's daughter, Taffy - May 28, 2023 at 10:44 AM



“ Mon was a really nice person that will truly be missed.








Anita (Powe) Alexander - May 27, 2023 at 02:04 PM



Thanks Nita

Tonya Franklin - May 29, 2023 at 09:57 AM

PT

“ At first, words were escaping me. I couldn't express my sadness because my mind, as overwhelmed as it was, did not want to release the pinned up thoughts I was having, leaving my heart feeling hopeless.. and from my everlasting grief and sorrow, I have contemplated not saying anything, but then I finally found this picture, and it clicked! The word I landed on is free. *There was someone I removed from the picture for the sake of the point I want to make* With the exception of my own mother, of course, I've known these wonderful ladies my whole life and now they're gone. They are all gone to what I know is a heavenly place. Free of worry, free of sorrow, free of pain. No more burdens, no more guilt. No more judgement. They were beautiful. God is bringing His beautiful ppl home. Those who have ascended leave us to ask ourselves, are we beautiful in heart or are we ugly in spirit? Do we walk this planet with disdain in our heart, malice in our mind, judgement in our eyes? These women, while not perfect, were walking, talking examples.. And I grateful for their guidance in creating who I am today. Chris' laugh and her compassion left us in 2016. Tavie's sense of humor and spirited manner, right behind her sister, left us in 2017. My mother and everything a mother could possibly be left us in 2020. Ruthie's magnetism, motherly spirit, and love of laughter left us six months after my mom in 2021, and here we are at 2023, seeing Monzola, joining the angels where they will all sit together again, and enjoy laughter, at the table of the Most High. I miss each and every one of them, dearly, and I will continue to remember and honor them in death, as was done, in life. I love you all until  
    God Bless 

Pat's daughter, Taffy - May 27, 2023 at 02:07 AM

AW

“ Family ❤️



Anita McKinney Wilkerson - May 26, 2023 at 08:57 AM

TF

Thank you

Tonya Franklin - May 28, 2023 at 05:29 AM

YP

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Yvette Patacsil - May 25, 2023 at 07:32 PM

TF

Never seen this in color before. Thanks cuz

Tonya Franklin - May 29, 2023 at 09:16 AM

TF

“ 38 files added to the tribute wall



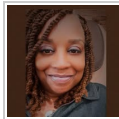
Tonya Franklin - May 24, 2023 at 02:10 PM

PG

“ My deepest condolences to the Gaines family.
May God keep you comforted & at peace.



Pam Gaston - May 23, 2023 at 04:00 AM



Thank you Pam

Tonya Franklin - May 24, 2023 at 01:56 PM

TF

Thank you

Tonya Franklin - May 24, 2023 at 02:04 PM

YP

So sorry for your loss.

Yvette Patacsil - May 25, 2023 at 07:31 PM



Thank you Yvette

Tonya Franklin - May 28, 2023 at 05:30 AM