



## Mrs. Pearl Lee Taylor

April 15, 1931 - December 13, 2019

Mother Pearl Lee Taylor, 88, of Peoria, IL, transitioned from this life to her heavenly home at 2:12 AM on Friday, December 13, 2019, at OSF St. Francis Medical Center, Peoria, IL.

Pearl was born on April 15, 1931, in Ripley, Tennessee, to Sally (Hines) Sangster and L. C. Copeland. She married Tom Taylor.

Pearl was the matriarch of five generations including three loving sons, Frederick and Lonnie Copeland, both of Peoria and James (Susan) Copeland of Bradenton, FL; three daughters, Gwendolyn Holland and Inez Copeland, both of Peoria, and Johnee (Dwight) Richardson of Oklahoma City, OK, seven grandchildren, a host of great-grandchildren, great-great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, relatives and friends. She also leaves to cherish her memory one brother, Humphrey (Cindy) Sangster of Detroit, MI; three sisters, Bobbie Lee of St. Louis, MO, Irma Jean (Earl) Johnson of Detroit, MI, and Evelyn Phillips of Rockford, IL. She is preceded in death by her parents, husband, two brothers and one sister.

Pearl began her healthcare career as a Certified Nurses Aid (CNA) at St. Francis Hospital in the late 1950's, also joining the Nurses' Guild at her church. She left the field only to be drawn back within a short time due to her strong need to help others. Pearl received her High School Equivalency Certificate on March 29, 1968, and she went to work for Methodist Hospital in 1969. At an age when many are resting on their laurels, Pearl received her Licensed Practical Nursing Degree from Illinois Central College at the age of

50 in May of 1981. She retired from Methodist after 21 years of service.

In addition to her nursing career, she was a successful entrepreneur opening C & H Café in the late 1960's and operating Pearl's Country Kitchen through the early 1980's.

After her retirement, Pearl worked at the Central Illinois Agency on Aging, where she was a caregiver and outreach specialist.

She was a 50 + year member of Grace Baptist Church, where she faithfully and tirelessly served as President of the Nurses' Guild for many years. She served as President of the Culinary Committee for nine years, President of the Pastor's Aide Committee for 20 years, and President of the Central District Nurses' Health Unit.

In 2012, the Central District Missionary Baptist Association Nurses' Health Unit annual banquet was re-named the Pearl L. Taylor banquet. She was a devoted leader of the Central District Nurses' Health Unit and the Grace Baptist Church Nurses' Health Unit. She was very active in the community by serving on many boards: Secretary, Central District United Mission; Peoria Church Women United Nomination Committee; NAACP Membership; Community Builder and Central District Women's Auxiliary. Pearl attended many Central District, State, National Board, Congress, and National Conventions. In the year 2001, she served as a Judge for the Peoria County Voters Registrar Census.

Her family was particularly blessed and honored when she was inducted into the Peoria African American Hall of Fame Museum in 2002, where she served as a board member beginning in 2006.

In her spare time, she enjoyed fishing, cooking and time with her family.

Funeral services will be held at 11 AM, Monday, December 23, 2019, at Grace Baptist Church with a visitation beginning at 10 AM. Pastor Claude L. White, Jr. will officiate, and Rev. Charles E. Johnson, Sr., Pastor of Tabernacle M. B. Church, will deliver the eulogy. Mother Taylor will be laid to rest at Lutheran Cemetery.

Simons Mortuary has been entrusted with arrangements. Online condolences may be made at [SimonsMortuary.com](http://SimonsMortuary.com).

# Cemetery Details

## Lutheran Cemetery

914 S Pleasant St  
Peoria, IL 61604-5954

# Previous Events

## Visitation

DEC **23**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Grace Baptist Church  
405 N. Richard Pryor Place  
Peoria, IL 61605

## Funeral Service

DEC **23**. 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM (CT)

Grace Baptist Church  
405 N. Richard Pryor Place  
Peoria, IL 61605

# Tribute Wall



“ *Simons Mortuary created a Tribute Video in memory of Mrs. Pearl Lee Taylor*



-----  
**Simons Mortuary** - January 10, 2020 at 11:27 AM



“ *Mrs. Pearl Lee Taylor*

-----  
January 29, 2023 at 06:10 AM



“ *Mrs. Pearl Lee Taylor*

-----  
January 29, 2023 at 03:12 AM



“ *To Inez and the entire Copeland Family, you have my deepest sympathy for the graduation of Ms Pearl to our Heavenly Father. Your Mother and my Mother, Ms Odell Burns, were very good friends and worked together with the Agency of Aging and Church Women United. I also wanted to publicly "Thank You" again for the care you gave my Mother at Heddington Oaks!!! I pray GOD give you peace and comfort for you are never alone. I also share your sorrow.*



-----  
**Sherri Green** - July 22, 2020 at 11:10 AM

AW

“ *Angela Harper Walker lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Pearl Lee Taylor*



-----  
**Angela Harper Walker** - December 23, 2019 at 02:44 PM

DA

“ *Demetra Alexander sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Pearl Lee Taylor*



-----  
**Demetra Alexander** - December 23, 2019 at 10:17 AM

MF

“ *Mary Corporal & Family purchased the Basket Full of Wishes for the family of Mrs. Pearl Lee Taylor.*



-----  
**Mary Corporal & Family** - December 22, 2019 at 11:05 PM

LN

“ *May warm hugs embrace you across the miles as you rally to endure this difficult time! May God strengthen you as you find peace, knowing that Pearl is in God's arms & Grace forevermore! Blessings to all, Lori Norgart*



-----  
**Lori Norgart** - December 22, 2019 at 04:44 PM



“ *Crystal Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mrs. Pearl Lee Taylor.*



---

December 19, 2019 at 07:39 PM



“ *From your PepsiCo Rec/Retail & Marketing friends purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Mrs. Pearl Lee Taylor.*



---

**From your PepsiCo Rec/Retail & Marketing friends -**  
December 19, 2019 at 01:39 PM



“ *Gary & Cheryl Graham wish to send our deepest sympathy on the lost of your Mother.  
Blessings and Love.*

---

**Cheryl Graham -** December 19, 2019 at 09:48 AM



“ *Elnor Clark sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Pearl Lee Taylor*



---

**Elnor Clark -** December 18, 2019 at 08:17 AM

SL

“ *So many memories I will carry on. I'm glad to have been a part of her life* ”



-----  
**Shenell Langford** - December 17, 2019 at 09:30 AM



“ *Graves Mattie lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Pearl Lee Taylor* ”



-----  
**Graves Mattie** - December 16, 2019 at 11:02 AM

JB

“ *Joanie Brown sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Pearl Lee Taylor* ”



-----  
**Joanie Brown** - December 16, 2019 at 03:28 AM

A(

“ *This was our third street mom. Love her always. She will surely be missed. My condolences go out to the entire family. Love all you guys.* ”

-----  
**Alisa Hinton (Watson)** - December 15, 2019 at 06:11 PM

RB

“ *Ruth Bush lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Pearl Lee Taylor*



---

**ruth bush** - December 14, 2019 at 05:05 PM

EB

“ *Emel Buckner lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Pearl Lee Taylor*



---

**Emel Buckner** - December 14, 2019 at 05:46 AM

TR

“ *My condolences to my 3rd street friends. Nale, Fred, Lonnie, Inez. She'll never be forgotten. Praying for you guys. The Robertson family.*

---

**The Robertsons** - December 14, 2019 at 12:44 AM

EC

“ *So sorry to hear of Pearl's homegoing. She's now a soldier in God's army. Have known her for many years. She was a strong woman in many areas. You couldn't turn her down when she asked something of you. Rest on my fellow nursing sister you've earned it*



---

**evelyn tate clayton** - December 13, 2019 at 06:13 PM

JC

“ *Jessie Copeland lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Pearl Lee Taylor*



---

**Jessie Copeland** - December 13, 2019 at 04:46 PM

AC

“ *I have so many memories and I promise that I will cherish them all. I can't thank you enough for being there for me with everything in life. I love you always Grandma. I'm truly going to miss you, especially during Christmas.*

---

**Aminta Carter** - December 13, 2019 at 04:42 PM