



## Centenarian Pearly Mae Bonds

October 4, 1923 - June 29, 2024

### Centenarian Mrs. Pearly Mae Bonds

Our beloved Mrs. Pearly Mae Bonds, 100, of Peoria, IL, transitioned to her heavenly home at 8:50 pm on Saturday, June 29, 2024, at The Loft Rehabilitation and Nursing Home.

Pearly was born on October 4, 1923, in Curve, TN to Oscar and Elizabeth (Mitchell) Stinson, Sr. She married TR Bonds on October 31, 1942, in Caruthersville, MO. He preceded her in death 29 years ago, on June 29, 1995.

Although she traveled to many cities and states, Mrs. Bonds said there is no place like Peoria, IL.

Pearly accepted Christ as her personal Lord and Savior at an early age. She sang in the church choir and served on several church committees and boards as a member of Friendship Baptist Church, Grace Baptist Church, and later, Ward Chapel A.M.E. Church in Peoria, IL. Mrs. Bonds was a faithful member and officer of the Ward Chapel AME Church for over 50+ years, she loved her church immensely. She was one of the church's influencers and was an invaluable Pastoral Advisor. Mrs. Bonds served the church in many capacities such as Pastor's Aid, Steward and choir member. She founded the

Willing Workers Club and was a member of the Wilberforce Club. Over the years, she also led the voter's registration drive at the church and in the community.

Throughout her lifetime, she has dedicated herself to the cause of civil rights. Mrs. Bonds has received many awards and accolades. She was instrumental in getting the NAACP building donated from the City of Peoria; her efforts were also publicly celebrated when the building was renamed the "Pearly M. Bonds Community Center" in 2014.

Throughout the years, she has received awards which include:

- July 1984 NAACP 25 years or more Service Diploma
- November 1988 Ward Chapel AME Church Officer Certificate of Steward Board
- April 1992 Harrison Youth Center's Mother's Group Certificate of Recognition
- March 1996 African American Hall of Fame Inductee
- June 1997 United Usher Board of Peoria, IL Certificate of Recognition for Dedicated Christian Service as an Usher
- May 2005 Wall of Tolerance National Campaign Mrs. Pearly M. Bonds (Placed on the Wall of Tolerance)
- January 2009 King Holiday Day Committee Rosa Parks Award
- May 2010 YMCA Leaders Award Luncheon Valeska S. Hinton Human Rights Award

Let's celebrate Mrs. Bonds for her service as:

- One of the founding visionaries of the African American Hall of Fame Museum in 1987
- A fervent supporter and advocate of African American Hall of Fame Museum Inductees
- A dedicated Civil Rights leader in Peoria for over 50 years
- A bridge to financial access for various organizations
- A source of strength for Christian believers
- A champion for African Americans seeking jobs throughout the 1960s, 1970s, and 1980s
- A mentor and adviser to the African American Hall of Fame leadership team and other community leaders (Andre Bohannon, Junior Watkins, Pastor Howard Johnson, Eric Turner, Rosemary McCullough, and others who serve the greater Peoria area)

Pearly leaves to cherish her loving memory, her son, James Bond of Aubrey, TX; five grandchildren, Carlos Jones, Teon Metts, and D'Mir Henderson, all of Peoria, IL; Kristopher Poynter of Louisville, KY, and Avante' Bond of Carrollton, TX; Ten-great-grandchildren; Sisters: Lillian Crooks of Glassboro, NJ and Alice Montine Brown of Chicago, IL, one brother Joseph Bedford Stinson (Marlene) of Sacramento, CA, and a host of other beloved family and friends. She is preceded in death by her parents, husband, and daughter, Theresa "Terry" Bonds; brothers, Joseph E. Graves, Eddie Stinson, and William Stinson; and sisters, Virginia Stinson Donaldson, Girtie B. Phillips, and Maggie L. Jamison.

The family would like to acknowledge cousins Yvonne Booth and Johnny Stenson, who have looked out for Pearly over the years, as anchors. Also, a special thanks to Ms. Angel Stenson, who always assisted Mrs. Bonds at the

nursing home, kept the family updated, and was with her when Mrs. Bonds passed. Angel made sure Mrs. Bonds was always impeccably dressed, her hair and makeup done, and her fingernails polished. Also, Cleo & Gloria Carter, Howard Johnson and the Ward Chapel Church Family.

Funeral services will be held at 11 am on Friday, July 12, 2024, at Ward Chapel A.M.E. Church, with a visitation beginning one hour prior at 10 am. Interim Presiding Elder Rev. Dr. Elaine Gordon will officiate. Associate Minister Rev. Arthur Williams, Sr., will bring the eulogy. Pearly will be laid to rest at the American Mausoleum.

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

# Cemetery Details

## American Mausoleum

7911 N. Allen Road  
Peoria, IL 61615

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUL 12. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Ward Chapel A.M.E. Church  
511 N Richard Allen Dr.,  
Peoria, IL 61605  
<http://www.wardchapelame.com/>

## Funeral Service

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

Ward Chapel A.M.E. Church  
511 N Richard Allen Dr.,  
Peoria, IL 61605  
<http://www.wardchapelame.com/>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Simons Mortuary created a Tribute Video in memory of Centenarian Pearly Mae Bonds*



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**Simons Mortuary** - July 15, 2024 at 04:00 PM



“ *Simons Mortuary created a Tribute Video in memory of Centenarian Pearly Mae Bonds*



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**Simons Mortuary** - July 11, 2024 at 03:31 PM

VK

*To the Bonds Family - I would like to extend my deepest sympathy to you for the loss of your loved one. Ms. Pearly Mae was a treasure. I remember her as a staunch supporter of the NAACP during the John Gwynn, Jr. era. She has been a stylish force to be reckoned with for as long as I can recall. Her dedication to any endeavor was something to behold. Another soldier has been called home to rest from her tireless labor. May God bless & comfort you.*

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**Vickie Kingcade-King** - July 12, 2024 at 04:14 PM

KD

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Karen Donaldson Virginia's daughter - July 12, 2024 at 02:19 PM

KD

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Karen Donaldson Virginia's daughter - July 12, 2024 at 02:14 PM

KD

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Karen Donaldson Virginia's daughter - July 12, 2024 at 02:12 PM

KD

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Karen Donaldson Virginia's daughter - July 12, 2024 at 01:59 PM

DS

“ On behalf of Cleo and Gloria Carter and Carter & Nance Family.  
We are truly gonna miss you!



Darlene Sykes - July 12, 2024 at 01:27 PM

KD

“ My Beautiful and beloved Aunt Pearly, is someone that I will deeply miss. I am so blessed she was not only a part of my life but my family's. I can recall my first memory of her when she came to her baby sister "Aunt Gin's" home to help out after my mom recovering from a recent surgery. She knew her being a wife and mother of 4 young children she would need some help. I can close my eyes and remember our first meeting. She had settled in and began to tidy up. She saw me and gave me a big hug. I then noticed with her bright smile she resembled my mom. She asked me if I wanted to help her dust. That was the beginning of our unique and beautiful journey. Even as I got older. But I'm sure she made everyone feel that way. I am grateful to have shared so many beautiful fun memories with her any enjoyed her laughter and love. Life can give us so many challenging moments. Time may have passed since I spoke or saw my sweet Aunt but nothing ever changed in my heart. I loved her. I prayed for her daily. Now I know she is resting easy and peacefully. I love and will miss you. Thanks

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**KAREN DONALDSON-RIVERA** - July 11, 2024 at 05:05 PM

EL

“ Thanks for your years of Christian, Social & Political services supporting the African American communities within Peoria, Illinois.



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**Ella Lee** - July 10, 2024 at 02:52 PM

CG

“ *Sister Bond was a great inspiration to many. A very classy Woman of God always had a kind word to others.* ”



Cheryll Gordon - July 09, 2024 at 06:37 PM

PH

“ *Phillip Hickman lit a candle in memory of Pearly Bonds* ”



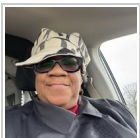
Phillip Hickman - July 09, 2024 at 08:51 AM

JG

“ *Joe graves lit a candle in memory of Pearly Bonds* ”



Joe graves - July 06, 2024 at 04:35 PM



“ *Drea Miner lit a candle in memory of Pearly Bonds* ”



Drea Miner - July 04, 2024 at 06:32 PM

MD

“ To the Bonds Fsmily,

*Ms Pearlie will be missed so much with her  
classy dressing and sparkly personality!  
She talked about God and his blessings and  
now he has received a beautiful gift!*



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**Michelle Douglas** - July 04, 2024 at 10:28 AM

LK

*She was an inspiration to us all!  
Now she will inspire the angels!* 🙏

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**Lorene J King** - July 06, 2024 at 04:06 AM

MW

“ Comfort and Peace from God our Father 🙏



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**Ms. Pat Ward** - July 04, 2024 at 06:32 AM

DA

“ To the Family of Mrs.Bonds sending Prayers  
and Condolences to the entire family 🙏



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**Demetra Alexander** - July 04, 2024 at 01:26 AM

JS

“ *Joyce Smith lit a candle in memory of Pearly Bonds*



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**Joyce Smith** - July 03, 2024 at 01:32 PM

CB

“ *Candace Broadway lit a candle in memory of Pearly Bonds*



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**Candace Broadway** - July 03, 2024 at 09:37 AM

 John H Lee

“ *John H Lee lit a candle in memory of Pearly Bonds*



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**John H Lee** - July 03, 2024 at 06:31 AM

TW

“ *Theresa Walker lit a candle in memory of Pearly Bonds*



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**Theresa Walker** - July 02, 2024 at 11:31 PM

VE

“ Aunt Pearly-

*I bet you are strutting around in your heels in Heaven. We love you but accepting that you are at peace and resting with our Heavenly Father.*

*Veronica Stinson,*

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**veronica** - July 02, 2024 at 02:54 PM



AL

“ Annette Lucy lit a candle in memory of Pearly Bonds

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**Annette Lucy** - July 02, 2024 at 11:49 AM



CW

“ Catherine Randle Watson lit a candle in memory of Pearly Bonds

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**Catherine Randle Watson** - July 02, 2024 at 01:46 AM

