



## Mrs. Phyllis Lee Hayes

June 26, 1936 - April 23, 2023

Mrs. Phyllis Lee Hayes, 86, of Peoria, IL, transitioned to her heavenly home at 5:24 am, on Sunday, April 23, 2023, at OSF Richard L. Owens Hospice Home.

Phyllis was born on June 26, 1936 in Peoria, Illinois to Lee Roy and Guida (Laster) Underwood. She married the love her of life, James Hayes, Sr. in 1960. After 51 years of marriage, he preceded her in death on January 4, 2012.

Phyllis was a product of Peoria Public School District 150. Attending Woodruff High School, Roosevelt Junior High, and Douglas Grade School. Phyllis received an honorary Doctor of Law degree in 1986 through the African Methodist Episcopal Church and a Black Leadership Award in February 1986 from Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc.

Phyllis worked at Peoria State Hospital for seven years in the Psychiatric Nursing Department. She then enjoyed a illustrious career at Security Savings & Loan Association where she started in February 1968 in the mail room as a mail clerk. Phyllis held many additional positions in the bank such as a teller, Savings Counselor, and Assistant Secretary responsible for administration of Association's savings program. In December 1983 she continued to climb the ranks as she was promoted to Assistant Vice President Manager of Savings Operations and supervised the processing department in charge of all

retirement accounts. In June 1986 Phyllis was promoted again, this time to Vice President of Deposits Administration. Phyllis stayed committed to the bank through its many transitions; from Security Savings; to First Federal Savings and Loan Association, Talman Home Federal Savings and Loan Association before she retired from Associated Bank in 2010 after 45 years of dedicated service.

Phyllis was a member of the Peoria Jubilee Professional and Businesswomen's Club and served as Treasurer and Net-Working Chairperson. She served as both Governor and Treasurer of the Institute of Financial Education Peoria chapter #80. She was a member of the NAACP, the Tri-County Urban League Guild and National Council of Negro Women Inc. and served on the Board of Directors of the Peoria Economic Development Association (PEDA). Phyllis was appointed by the Mayor as Commissioner on the Community Redevelopment Commission. Additionally, in 88-89 she was a part-time staff member of Illinois Central College teaching Deposit Service and Administration. She also served as a business consultant for eighth graders through Junior Achievement.

Phyllis enjoyed reading and was an avid bowler. As a member of the Peoria Women's Bowling Association, she achieved high awards for her bowling skills. Her team Security Savings: Edna Gains, Marvin White, Ann Slaughter, Anolia Nash and Phyllis were the first All-Black team to compete in the major Peoria Women's scratch bowling league and were the Scratch Champions in one of the Peoria WBA Local Tournaments.

Phyllis was a faithful long-time member of Ward Chapel A.M.E. Church since 1960. She served in many capacities over the years such as the Missionary Society, Steward Board, Stewardship and Finance Commission, Junior Stewardess, and Usher Board. She faithfully attended church, Sunday school, and Bible Study. She was faithful to God and her church.

Phyllis leaves to cherish her most precious memory her son, James “Bo” (Kimberly) Hayes, Jr. of Peoria, IL; two sisters Myra Thompson of Jennings, Mo., Juanita Stewart; Alorton IL, In-laws: Sue Hayes of Los Angeles, CA, and Louise Underwood of San Diego, CA; 12 grandchildren; 20 greatgrandchildren; 1 great greatgrandchild; 1 God daughter; and a host of nieces, nephews, other family and friends who loved her. She is preceded in death by her husband, James R. Hayes Sr.; her parents; two sons, Gregory J. Sargent and Danny A. Sargent; an infant daughter, Sharon Hayes; four brothers, John Underwood, Leroy Underwood, Robert Underwood and Russell Underwood; brother in-laws, Rev. Donald Thompson and Leo Stewart Sr. and sister-in-law, Dorothy “Jean” Underwood.

Funeral services will be held at 11 am on Saturday, May 6, 2023 at Ward Chapel A.M.E. Church with a visitation one-hour prior at 10 am. Pastor Adrian Johnson will officiate. Phyllis will be laid to rest beside her husband at Historic Springdale Cemetery.

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

The 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 (Central Time).

\*Face mask are optional; but understand that some individuals may still mask in public for medical conditions or for their own comfort level.

\*It is our responsibility as Funeral Directors, to do everything we can to honor our beloved Families and to keep everyone as safe as possible.

Thanks in advance for your cooperation!

# Cemetery Details

## Historic Springdale Cemetery

3014 N. Prospect Road  
Peoria, IL 61603

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAY 6. 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

MAY 6. 11:00 AM - 12:00 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 Mrs. Phyllis Lee Hayes*



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**Simons Mortuary** - May 08, 2023 at 12:44 PM



“ *Simons Mortuary created a Tribute Video in memory of Mrs. Phyllis Lee Hayes*



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**Simons Mortuary** - May 04, 2023 at 05:54 PM



“ *1 file added to the album Burial at Historic Springdale Cemetery*



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**Simons Mortuary** - May 08, 2023 at 12:43 PM

TT

“ *The Advantasure Team purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Mrs. Phyllis Lee Hayes.*



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**The Advantasure Team** - May 05, 2023 at 11:37 AM

AV

“ *Arnica and family in Virginia purchased the Pink Tribute Spray for the family of Mrs. Phyllis Lee Hayes.*



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**Arnica and family in Virginia** - May 04, 2023 at 03:30 PM

LJ

“ *Love, your sister Juanita purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Mrs. Phyllis Lee Hayes.*



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**Love, your sister Juanita** - May 04, 2023 at 03:10 PM

MR

“ *Mattie Risby sent a virtual gift in memory of Phyllis Hayes*



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**Mattie Risby** - May 02, 2023 at 04:39 PM

AM

“ A beautiful woman of God. I have many memories of her with the Wilberforce Club of Ward Chapel with my grandmother. She and Mr. Hayes gave me the nickname Andi when I was little. She was instrumental in my getting hired at Security Savings & Loan as a young adult. Mrs. Phyllis, you will be truly missed. Love you!



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**Andrea Miner** - May 02, 2023 at 10:40 AM

JB

“ Joanie Brown sent a virtual gift in memory of Phyllis Hayes



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**Joanie Brown** - May 01, 2023 at 10:16 PM

CW

“ Hi Jimmy. So sad to hear of your mom's passing. Her and your dad were such jewels to our entire family. I remember the numerous times out at the bowling alley. Our parents would enjoy themselves bowling while us kids would tear up the play room!! Your mom was such a classy, intelligent, and compassionate woman who my mom totally adored. Mrs Phyllis will always be in our hearts! May God continue to give you His peace and strength. Love you, Skott, Corey, Dawn, and Carla.

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**carla warr** - April 29, 2023 at 04:07 PM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Mrs. Phyllis Lee Hayes.*



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April 28, 2023 at 12:58 PM



“ *My sincere condolences to all the family and friends. The time we shared in my life will always remind me how much she loved me. I was her family too. She was really a cheerleader for me. She taught me to honor myself before all others and to know my worth. I will miss her guidance and friendship. May she rest in peace.*

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**Sandra Redmond (Atlanta, GA)** - April 27, 2023 at 11:35 AM



*R.I.H.P your work here is done. You have left a legacy no one can forget. You have helped so many people. Thank you.*

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**Joy Smith** - April 28, 2023 at 04:43 PM