



Mrs. Roberta Kirksey

April 14, 1938 - May 31, 2025

Mrs. Roberta Kirksey, 87, of Peoria, IL transitioned to her heavenly home at 8:20 am on Saturday, May 31, 2025 at Richard L. Owens Hospice Home.

Roberta Kirksey was born on April 14, 1938, in Tunica, Mississippi, the eighth child of the late John and Delilah (Pickens) Hogan. She married Bobbie Haynes in Mississippi. He moved his bride to Peoria, IL in 1956. Four years later to their union a son was born, Bobby. Roberta later married Jeremiah Kirksey; he preceded her in death.

Roberta worked proudly at the Peoria Country Club for many years where she honed her culinary skills.

A devoted mother of Bobby Gene (Valeria) Haynes, cherished grandmother to Ashley and Tasharie Haynes, and adoring great-grandmother to Autumn Haynes. She is survived by her dear brother, Preston Hogan. She also lovingly embraced her blended family role as mother to Stephanie Wyatt, Jan (Artie) McFadden, and Shawn (Logan) Tucker. She is also preceded in death by her granddaughter, Summer Haynes; her siblings; J.L., Mildred, Maggie, Beatrice, Warren, Annie, Calvin, Geneva and Jerry.

Roberta formed treasured friendships with Shirley Whitaker, Ibbie Voltz and her friends at Simons Mortuary where she led the Annual Holiday Gala

highlighting her famous Turkey in a Tuxedo among other delicious food and dessert favorites. She also is cherished by her devoted niece, Vanessa (Keith) Osbourne and nephew, Herbert Hogan who was like a son to Roberta. Her memory will live on through a host of other relatives and friends who were blessed by her warmth and presence.

Known for her exceptional cooking artistry whose kitchen was always abuzz with activity. Her legendary cornbread dressing, zucchini bread, mac-n-cheese, banana pudding, caramel cake, five-flavor cake, seven-up cake, cheesecake, and many more dishes that brought comfort and smiles to many. She found true joy in serving others through food, and her signature dishes remain etched in the hearts of all who gathered around her table.

Roberta was a true Christian warrior who walked faithfully with God. She fought the good fight, finished her race, and kept the faith. Today, she is rejoicing in eternal life—her reward for a life well-lived. Roberta was a faithful member of Peoria Friendship M.B. Church for over 60 years where she was head of the culinary committee.

A celebration of life will be held at 12 noon on Wednesday, June 4, 2025 at her beloved Peoria Friendship M.B. Church with a visitation one hour prior at 11 am. Rev. Dr. Claude Russell, the Pastor, will officiate. Roberta will be laid to rest at Historic Springdale Cemetery.

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

Cemetery Details

Historic Springdale Cemetery

3014 N. Prospect Road
Peoria, IL 61603

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 4. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Peoria Friendship M.B. Church
3828 N New York Ave.
Peoria, IL 61614

Celebration of Life

JUN 4. 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM (PT)

Peoria Friendship M.B. Church
3828 N New York Ave.
Peoria, IL 61614

Tribute Wall



“ *Simons Mortuary created a Tribute Video in memory of Mrs. Roberta Kirksey*



Simons Mortuary - June 03, 2025 at 04:44 PM

SC

Aunt Roberta we will always love you and miss you. I know you will be happy in your new heavenly home. Stella Cobbin and family

Stella Cobbin - June 03, 2025 at 05:01 PM



“ *Simons Mortuary created a Webcast in memory of Mrs. Roberta Kirksey*



Simons Mortuary - June 03, 2025 at 01:29 PM

DG

“ *Denise Burns Green lit a candle in memory of Roberta Kirksey*



Denise Burns Green - June 15, 2025 at 06:46 PM

BC

“ *Beautiful Lady, had the pleasure of welcoming her to our home when she travelled down with Jocie R. Really enjoyed her visit!!
Condolences to her family and friends!!*



Bea & Jay Cannon - June 05, 2025 at 03:53 PM



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



Simons Mortuary - June 04, 2025 at 04:49 PM

MR

“ *Mattie Risby sent a virtual gift in memory of Roberta Kirksey*



Mattie Risby - June 04, 2025 at 09:08 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Mrs. Roberta Kirksey.

June 03, 2025 at 10:58 AM



“ Basket Full of Wishes was purchased for the family of Mrs. Roberta Kirksey.

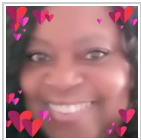


June 03, 2025 at 10:58 AM



“ Sending condolences to the family!

Darryl Pegues - June 03, 2025 at 08:05 AM



“ Darlene Horton lit a candle in memory of Roberta Kirksey



Darlene Horton - June 03, 2025 at 12:48 AM

MY

“ My deepest sympathies and love are extended to the Haynes and Kirksey families in the transitioning of our dear loved one Ms. Roberta Kirksey. It has been my blessings to have been acquainted with such a beautiful, spirited person.

Please know your family are in the thoughts and prayers of many. May your faith and numerous precious memories be sources of strength and comfort as you face the days ahead.

Remember, the Lord is near the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit, Psalm 34:18.

Michael Young, Washington, D.C.

Michael Young - June 03, 2025 at 12:13 AM

JT

“ We truly loved Ms Roberta, truly truly did. Condolence to our Bro. Bobbie... hold on to God's hand and everything will be alright. Fly high Ms Roberta, fly high ❤️❤️❤️

Judy Taylor - June 02, 2025 at 10:53 PM

JW

“ Janell W. lit a candle in memory of Roberta Kirksey



Janell W. - June 02, 2025 at 09:22 PM

TW

“ Theresa Walker lit a candle in memory of Roberta Kirksey



Theresa Walker - June 02, 2025 at 07:48 PM

AD

“ ADELL'S lit a candle in memory of Roberta Kirksey



ADELL'S - June 02, 2025 at 07:42 PM

LH

“ My Beloved childhood/everlasting friend, Roberta. Who I have known, her and the Hogan family, since grand s mychool, from Tunica, Mississippi. It was Roberta who inspired me and my husband to move to Peoria in 1967. God bless Preston and the family.

Love & Prayers
Lou Ella Hamilton & Family

Lou Ella Hamilton - June 02, 2025 at 04:29 PM

CK

“ Curtis kirksey planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mrs. Roberta Kirksey.

Curtis kirksey - June 02, 2025 at 03:25 PM

CK

“ *Curtis kirksey purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Mrs. Roberta Kirksey.*



Curtis kirksey - June 02, 2025 at 03:25 PM