



Mrs. Wardell Elese Graves

July 14, 1926 - August 18, 2012

Wardell E. Graves, 86, of Peoria, passed away peacefully at 4:10 a.m., Saturday, August 18, 2012 at Heartland Manorcare.

Wardell was born July 14, 1926 in Bessemer, AL to Robert and Jessie (Howard) Townsend. She married George Graves, Sr. on August 8, 1947 in Galesburg, IL. He preceded her in death August 29, 1997.

Also preceding her in death were her father, mother and stepfather, Ganzie and Jessie H. Banks; one daughter, Georgetta; and one sister (& brother-in-law), Roberta (William) Mack.

Wardell is survived by three sons, Walter (Clemmie) and George, Jr. (Martha) Graves, both of Peoria, and Harold (Penny) Graves of Waterloo, IA, one daughter, Laraine (Elton) Bryson and stepdaughter, Hattie Rudd; 9 grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren.

Wardell graduated from Bradley University with a Bachelor's (1975) and Masters Degree (1978) in Education. Postgraduate work was completed at University of Illinois, IL State, Northern and Western Universities. She also attended Fisk University, Meharry Medical College and IL Central College.

She retired from District 150 in 1991 after 22 years of teaching at the

Diagnostic Learning Center, Lincoln, Roosevelt and Garfield Schools. She was a life member of the following Organizations: Bradley Alumni Chapter, Phi Delta Kappa, Pi Lambda Theta, the Disabled Veterans Auxiliary, National Rifle Association, AARP, Retired Teachers Association and the NAACP. She was a longtime member of the Fisk University Alumni Club, the Tri-County Urban League Guild, the National Association of University Women and St. Joseph's Church (formerly St. Martin de Porres Church) where she served in the Altar & Rosary Society and Cursillo in Christianity Family #1.

A Funeral Mass will be held at St. Ann Catholic Church on Saturday, August 25, 2012 at 11:00 a.m. Father Terry Cassidy will officiate. Visitation will be Friday, August 24, from 5 to 7 p.m. at Ward Chapel AME Church and one hour before services on Saturday at 10:00 a.m. at St. Ann Catholic Church. Entombment will be in Resurrection Mausoleum. Simons Mortuary is in charge of arrangements.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Tri-County Urban League at 317 S. MacArthur Hwy., Peoria, IL 61605 or Ward Chapel AME Church, 511 Richard Allen Drive, Peoria, IL 61605.

Cemetery Details

Resurrection Mausoleum & Cemetery

7519 North Allen Road
Peoria, IL 61615
<http://www.ccapeo.org/index.cfm?load=page&page=156>

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 25. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Ann's Catholic Church
1010 S. Louisa Street
Peoria, IL 61614

Tribute Wall



“ *Simons Mortuary created a Tribute Video in memory of Mrs. Wardell Elese Graves*



Simons Mortuary - August 18, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ *Mrs. Wardell Elese Graves*

January 29, 2023 at 06:10 AM



“ *Mrs. Wardell Elese Graves*

January 29, 2023 at 03:12 AM

RL

“*Laraine, it came as a shock to me when I read your mother's obituary. She and your Dad were dear members of our Cursillo family back in the very earliest days of that movement. I had no idea that Dell was your mother as I have known you from United Way and the Bradley Advisory Council. We have prayed for your mother every Sunday at St. Ann's for years. I have such fond memories of her and your father. They raised a wonderful family and my husband and I send our prayers and sympathy to all of you.*

Rosie and Bob Langfels

Rose Marie Langfels - August 25, 2012 at 07:19 PM

NF

“*The Harris and Farmer family truly love the Brysons. We will truly miss Mrs Graves and know God has a special place for her. Love always.*

Marilyn, Anthony & Nicole

nicole a farmer - August 25, 2012 at 02:50 PM

MU

“*Remembering your family with sympathy. I enjoyed getting to know Wardell when she came to my store, Flower Basket in Eureka, IL. She treasured her family and friends, and created special Christmas memories with her lighted Village pieces. I remember her enthusiasm for life. Sincerely, Marge Ulrich*

Marge Ulrich - August 24, 2012 at 09:27 PM

JF

“ Our prayers are with all of you. God is walking with you the same way he had walked with your Mom. Your Mom's spirit will always be with you forever.

Please look to God when the sorrow is too hard to bare because he will ease your pain.

We love you.

Jennifer Farrell and Family - August 24, 2012 at 12:32 PM

JC

“ Walt, so sorry to read about your Mother. I know how close you were to her and how you went from Komatsu to have lunch with her frequently. You always spoke of her so lovingly. Remember the good times.....and remember she told you to wear a tie to work every day. Your family is in my prayers.



Jackie Clark - August 23, 2012 at 12:51 PM

LC

“ I am truly sorry for you loss. My thoughts and prayers are with you during your bereavement.

Praying the Lord's sweet presence is especially real to you today as He brings you the peace that only He can give.

God reaches out to you with love to assure you, with grace to uphold you, with compassion to comfort you. Keep your trust in Him who can grant you everlasting peace.

Lillian Coakley - NUL Affiliate Services Department

Lillian Coakley - August 23, 2012 at 10:57 AM

AL

“ WE ARE SO SORRY TO HEAR OF YOUR LOSS. OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS ARE WITH YOU...

LAURA CLAUSER AND FAMILY



Angie Landes - August 23, 2012 at 10:07 AM

RG

“ Walt and family, we are truly sorry for your loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time.

Roy & Shannon Geltz - August 23, 2012 at 06:23 AM

DD

“ Diana J. (Linsley) Dodge lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Wardell Elese Graves



Diana J. (Linsley) Dodge - August 21, 2012 at 03:08 PM

DD

May Wardell Rest in eternal peace with our Good and Loving Lord. My Sympathy is with the family at this time. Wardell will be truly missed.

Diana J. (Linsley) Dodge - August 21, 2012 at 03:13 PM