



## Mrs. Willie Mae Hopson

October 22, 1935 - February 22, 2020

God called his Faithful servant, Mother Willie Mae Hopson age 84, of Peoria, IL from labor to reward on February 22, 2020. Our beloved Willie Mae (Sista) was the second child born to Willie and Ellen (Randle) Gordon on October 22, 1935 in Cruger, Ms. Willie Mae accepted Jesus Christ as her personal survivor at an early age, and the church remained an integral part of her life. Willie Mae was educated in the Mississippi and Peoria Public School systems. In 1953, she married Charlie B. Thomas; he preceded her in death. On December 7, 1958 she remarried to Waymon H. Harper, Sr. He passed away on November 27, 1972. In 1982, she met and married Artis Hopson. They were blessed with a 38-year union.

Her early jobs included being a candy striper and working in the Preemie Center at OSF (formerly St. Francis Hospital). In 1995, Willie Mae retired from her administrative duties at Caterpillar, Inc. to care for her mother.

Sista had a zeal for life. She was well known and well loved. An avid bowler, she finished a stellar bowling career of 46 years. Her culinary skillset was unrivaled. In the neighborhood, she was revered as a village mom. She was the "Queen of Clean, her annual Yard Sales and annual Super Bowl Parties". A classy lady, when it came to travel, she was indeed a jet-setter. Sista encouraged her children and grandchildren to follow in her footsteps. A woman not given to bragging. She enjoyed listening to other people brag about her children and grands. Like her father, she loved to garden. Sista loved flowers and possessed a green thumb. During the spring and summer

months, she would be on the fish banks laughing with her sons and buddies. Her weekly fish fry always brought family and friends together. Sista's favorite past-time was watching the Steve Harvey Show, Family Feud, Wheel of Fortune, Rachel Maddow, Judge Judy and completing crossword puzzles. She was politically active, serving many years as an election judge. Twice she was afforded the distinct opportunity to visit the White House. On President Barak Obama's second inauguration, she and her family were present at the Capitol with 1.1 million people. Her happy place was relaxing on Martha's Vineyard.

Mother Hopson was a dedicated member (70 years) of New Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church. She loved the Lord. Her crowning achievement; she strategically led all of her children to the Lord. A hard worker, she faithfully served as former Annual Calendar Tea Chair, Culinary staff, Deaconess Board, Mother's Council, One Church, One Child Foster Care Program, Church Missions and Helping Hands Committee. Mother Hopson was gracious and kind, frequently thinking about others and their needs first. She would not hesitate to visit the sick. Through the church's Mentorship Ministry, she shared guidance and support with 2 spiritual daughters, Sandra Faulkner and Geraldine. Mother Hopson cherished her independence. When she became homebound and unable to attend church, she continued to listen to taped sermons and supported the church financially.

Mother Hopson leaves to cherish her most precious memories a loving and devoted husband, Artis Hopson of Peoria, IL; Four daughters: Mae Catherine Godhigh and Wanda F. Thomas of Peoria IL, Vachon K. (Thaddeus) Harper Young of Broadview, IL and Nadine Hopson Redmond of Apple Valley, CA; Four sons: Charles D. Thomas and Andre' A. Harper of Peoria, IL, Waymon H. (Angela) Harper, Jr. of Decatur, IL and Sean (Cyrie) Hopson of Apple Valley, CA, a host of grandchildren and great-grands, other family and friends who adored her. Also surviving is Willie Mae's sister-in-loves, Freida Gordon of Peoria, IL, "Celebrating Closer than a Sista" is Georgia (Dimp) Gordon Little, Geneva Randle King, Helen Scott, Prayer Partner, Sophia Woods, Mary

Ann King; including a special bowling buddy and niece, Imogene (Gordon) Simmons and a special Godson Antwine Freeman of Peoria, IL.

Willie Mae is preceded in death by her parents and one brother J.P. (Buck) Gordon of Peoria, IL. She will be greatly missed by all who encountered her kindness and radiant smile.

Funeral services will be held at 11 am, on Saturday, February 29, 2020 at New Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church, with a visitation, one-hour prior at 10 am. Pastor Cleveland Thomas, Sr. will officiate. Mother Hopson will be laid to rest at Camp Butler National Cemetery, Springfield, IL.

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

# Cemetery Details

## Camp Butler National Cemetery

5063 Camp Butler Road, RR1  
Springfield, IL 62707

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB **29**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

New Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church  
413 W. John H. Gwynn Jr. Avenue  
Peoria, IL 61605

## Funeral Service

FEB **29**. 11:00 AM (CT)

New Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church  
413 W. John H. Gwynn Jr. Avenue  
Peoria, IL 61605

# Tribute Wall



“ *Simons Mortuary created a Tribute Video in memory of Mrs. Willie Mae Hopson*



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**Simons Mortuary** - February 28, 2020 at 05:00 PM



“ *Mrs. Willie Mae Hopson*

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January 29, 2023 at 06:10 AM



“ *Mrs. Willie Mae Hopson*

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January 29, 2023 at 03:12 AM



“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



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**Wanda Thomas** - September 30, 2020 at 03:07 PM

SD

“ Prayers for the family. What a wonderful, loving, and kind woman.

*Love Solivian (Arnicia) Furness Dismuke*

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**SOLIVIAN A DISMUKE** - February 28, 2020 at 10:49 PM

EB

“ *Emel Buckner lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Willie Mae Hopson*



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**Emel Buckner** - February 28, 2020 at 04:18 PM

BB

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with the family. Willie will be truly missed. Blessings, Barbara Brand*

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**Barbara Brand** - February 27, 2020 at 10:58 PM

TM

“ *Willie and I served as election judges at the same polling place....what a great team we made together. Election day was not as fun or interesting when she “retired” from this civic duty. She made everyone feel special when they entered the polling place. She had great stories to tell about her childhood, family, Caterpillar and life-special thoughts I’ll remember. Thanks for enriching my life Willie. Tom Miller, Peoria*



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**Tom Miller** - February 27, 2020 at 12:57 PM

AI

“ *Annette Irby lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Willie Mae Hopson*



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**Annette Irby** - February 27, 2020 at 10:07 AM

LW

“ *I worked with Willie in Engineering Services at Caterpillar. She was not only a great employee, but was a joy to be around. My condolences to her family. Lee Wilder*

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**Lee Wilder** - February 27, 2020 at 08:45 AM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Mrs. Willie Mae Hopson.*



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February 26, 2020 at 08:12 PM

JB

“ *Joanie Brown sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Willie Mae Hopson*



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**Joanie Brown** - February 26, 2020 at 05:25 PM

JA

“ Vachon we send blessings and love to and your family. May your Rest In Peace and Light Perpetual shine on her. 💕🙏

joan and Lascelles Anderson - February 26, 2020 at 04:38 PM

VH

“ Love you Mom, you fought a good fight for your health over the past 5 years. Our time together has been phenomenal and truly blessed by God.



Vachon Harper-Young - February 25, 2020 at 08:43 PM

LS

“ My prayers are with Vachon and family. I only met Willie Mae once but her sweet smile will always be with me.

Lois Sharp

Lois Sharp - February 25, 2020 at 07:49 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mrs. Willie Mae Hopson.



February 25, 2020 at 03:25 PM



“ 5.5" EBN Kneeling & Praying Angel was purchased for the family of Mrs. Willie Mae Hopson.



February 25, 2020 at 03:15 PM



“ I truly will miss my sister-in-love. Mary Hopson



Mary Hopson - February 25, 2020 at 02:58 PM



“ Always hospitable, loving, caring, and smiling. Beautiful, gorgeous, and classy at all times. Thank God for you. We love you forever. James Ronnie Richardson's family

Heather Roy - February 24, 2020 at 10:38 PM



“ A family pillar, matriarch, soldier, prayer warrior, mother and friend. You will be missed. My prayers are with you family.

Sherry Jackson



Sherry Jackson - February 24, 2020 at 10:33 PM

DS

“ *Such a beautiful soul, you will be missed. RIP  
Denise Smith*



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**Denise Smith** - February 24, 2020 at 10:16 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for  
the family of Mrs. Willie Mae Hopson.*



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February 24, 2020 at 09:51 PM

KA

“ *Karen Ashby sent a virtual gift in memory of  
Mrs. Willie Mae Hopson*



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**Karen Ashby** - February 24, 2020 at 06:43 PM

SA

“ To Her Family,  
*I pray your precious memories of Ms. Willie Mae will bring you much comfort during this time of sorrow. She truly inspired me with her gracious joyful spirit. Thoughts of her bring a smile to my face. Our Father has called her from labor to rest. May each of you find all you need in Him.*

*Sharon Anderson*

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**Sharon Anderson** - February 24, 2020 at 05:13 PM

CJ

*To my Family & Friends,*

*It's hard to say "goodbye" to Mama, Sista, Friend...my prayers are with you.*

*I AM hear for you always💕*

*CKay Jackson*

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**C kay Jackson** - February 25, 2020 at 12:56 PM

BA

*My condolences to you all may GOD give you comfort and strength through this difficult time much love to you all.*

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**Brenda Albert** - February 25, 2020 at 06:42 PM

RW

“ *Renessa Watkins sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Willie Mae Hopson*



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**Renessa Watkins** - February 24, 2020 at 05:00 PM

RW

*We all will miss your smiling face @ Salon Suites RIP 🙏🙏🙏 to family & all who love you & will miss you dearly!*

**Renessa Watkins** - March 01, 2020 at 06:16 PM

LC

“ *LaVerne Clayborn lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Willie Mae Hopson*



**LaVerne Clayborn** - February 24, 2020 at 03:32 PM

DP

“ *Diann Proctor lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Willie Mae Hopson*



**Diann Proctor** - February 24, 2020 at 12:54 PM

EC

“ *May your memories give you peace and comfort.*



**evelyn tate clayton** - February 24, 2020 at 12:34 PM

JA

*Sending some love compassion and prayer from the Ashford family may God give you peace she lived a long life beautiful lady. Her and my mother was besties cousins 🍷💖💖💖💖💖🙏🙏🙏*

**Joyce Ashford** - February 24, 2020 at 08:37 PM

CB

“ *A great woman and a GREAT cook. She will be missed but she is in PARADISE!* ”



**Curtis Bond** - February 24, 2020 at 11:47 AM

TW

“ *Theresa Walker lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Willie Mae Hopson* ”



**Theresa Walker** - February 24, 2020 at 11:25 AM

KD

“ *My love and prayers to all of you. Willie Mae and I have been close friends for many, years! She was a beautiful lady, inside and out!!* ❤️  
❤️🙏

**Kathryn Dyes** - February 24, 2020 at 11:24 AM

HG

“ *Our condolences to you and your family on the passing of your your beautiful Mother Willie Mae. May our love and prayers ease you through this difficult time.* ”

*MuchLove* ❤️

*Cousin Helen Gordon-Luster*



**Helen Gordon-Luster** - February 24, 2020 at 10:15 AM

CS

“ *Curtis Shumate lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Willie Mae Hopson*



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**Curtis Shumate** - February 24, 2020 at 05:29 AM

VR

“ *Vicki Richardson lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Willie Mae Hopson*



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**Vicki Richardson** - February 24, 2020 at 12:13 AM