



Miss Xia Linette Sykes

October 20, 2006 - November 26, 2025

Miss Xia Linette Sykes, 19, of Peoria, IL, passed away at 7:28 pm on Wednesday, November 26, 2025 at home. She was welcomed into the loving arms of her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and our ancestors, joining the lineage that holds her forever.

Xia was born on October 20, 2006 in Peoria, IL. She was a ray of sunshine and brought joy to her parents Darlene (Nance) Sykes and Dwight Sykes, Sr. Xia loved her family immensely. She enjoyed family gatherings and had a true love for travel, from visiting relatives in Indianapolis, IN to exploring places as far away as Washington, D.C., the Bahamas, and Cozumel, Mexico.

Xia was an active member of St. Paul Peoria Church where she gave her life to Christ and was baptized at the age of 5 on September 16, 2012. She served in several children's ministries. Xia was a Praise Dancer, Choir member, Approved Workmen Are Not Ashamed (AWANA) Children's Bible Study, and was a Praise and Worship Leader. She loved children and had a heart to take care of them. As a teenager, Xia completed over 300 hours of community service in the St. Paul Nursery Ministry as the Lead High School Servant and the Young Lives Nursery Ministry, a resource that offered mentorship, community, and a life with Christ for teen moms.

Xia had an insatiable curiosity from an early age. She was a lifelong learner,

gathering wisdom and experiences like treasures. She began her primary education at King's Kids Childcare Preschool at Southside Mission and went on to attend Hines Primary School and Washington/Reservoir Gifted School, where her love of learning flourished. She was also well-rounded in diverse co-curricular activities. Xia started modeling at 6 years old in the Janet's Just For You Fashion Show. She looked forward to participating in the show over the years. From age 8 to 12, she performed in local and regional events as a member of the Diamond Elite/Royal Family Majorette Dance team under coaches Courtney Mason and Shenneca Williams. As a young fashionista, Xia enjoyed fashion and makeup. She honed her skills as a young make-up artist by using her mother, her Aunt Beverly and herself as models. Her talent and skills led to many family and friends requesting her services for special events. Recently, her makeup artistry was featured in the 2023 Peoria Fashion Week marketing photo shoot and for the 2025 Peoria Fashion Week.

Xia nurtured her thirst for knowledge starting in middle school through her high school years in different programs at Bradley University (BU) including, the Bradley University Detroit Area Pre-College Engineering Program (BU DAPCEP), where she explored subjects such as musical math, coding, electrical engineering, biology, and chemistry. She further strengthened her academic foundation by completing SAT preparation courses, the inaugural Aviation Career Education Academy (ACE) in the summer of 2023, and the Building Excellent Scientists for Tomorrow (BEST) internships for high school students, in which she completed a statistical research study. In the summer of 2025, she participated in the ACE program as a Student Counselor-in-Training and was looking forward to returning as a Student Counselor in the summer of 2026.

Xia attended Richwoods High School and was an active participant and leader in the following student clubs: Interact Club (Chair), Spanish Club (Vice President), Science Club, Student Council, Minority Academic Advancement

Project (MAAP) and TRiO Upward Bound Program at Illinois Central College. She graduated Magna Cum Laude in May of 2025 with a diploma in the International Baccalaureate (IB) program. Her many academic accomplishments in high school were recognized through various awards and honors, including the Honor Roll, National Honor Society, Rotary Service Above Self Prescott Bloom Award, and The Illinois Principals Award.

Xia was accepted to the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) with a full four-year scholarship. She started in the fall of 2025 with a major in Psychology and a minor in Business. Her goal was to become a child psychologist. On campus, she continued her passion for modeling and fashion by joining the Moda Bellissima Modeling Troupe at UIUC. Xia also recognized the importance of finding peers who were not ashamed of their faith. In October, she joined the Acts Campus Ministry at UIUC. She became a faithful member of the Tuesday Night Activation service and attended their Fall Retreat. Her relationship with God was becoming more intimate.

Xia leaves to cherish her most precious memory, her parents, Darlene Nance Sykes of Peoria, IL and Dwight Sykes, Sr. of Edwardsville, IL; one sister, Amira (George,V) Evans of Whitestown, IN; two brothers, Jonathan Sykes of Mesa, AZ and Dwight Sykes, Jr. of Memphis, TN; her paternal grandparents, James and Wilma Sykes, Sr. of Clarksdale, MS; two nieces, Camilla Evans and Irie Sykes; her aunts and uncles, Gregory (Diana) Nance of Huber Heights, OH; Beverly Nance, Jeffrey Nance, Michael Nance, Diane "Linda" (Dale) Jackson and Thurman "Butch" Tate all of Peoria, IL, Ray (Camilla) Sykes, Demetra "Rene" Sykes and James "Poochie" Sykes, Jr. all of Clarksdale, MS and Marco (De'Undrea) Sykes of Memphis, TN, Linda Peace of Whitestown, IN; her 1st cousins, Andre (Crystal) Nance, Randy Jackson, Mario Jackson, Tamara Nance, Michael Nance, Makaila Nance, Alicia Sykes-Diggs, Ashton Sykes, Addison Sykes, Tyson Phillips, Mariah Sykes and

Desmond Sykes; her Godparents, Sonyta and Marchan Atkins and Dr. Jacqueline Henderson Hunter; her Godsisters, Kayla Washington, Hannah Washington and Tianna Atkins; her special village: Lisa Kelly, Yvonne "Boobie" Lawton, Shondra McKinley, Vivian Rutherford, Markus Kilgore, Floyd McGhee, Bronetta Jones, Vanessa Harris, Dr. Jessie Dixon, Florence Gilkesson and Shandra Summerville, her beloved Pastor, Deveraux Hubbard, 1st Lady Kristie Hubbard and the St. Paul Church family, the Simons Mortuary family, and a host of other cousins, relatives and friends who loved her dearly. She was preceded in death by her maternal grandparents, Obadiah "Obie" and Flora "Boots" Nance; her Aunt Mary and Uncle Wilbert Phillips, and Uncle Bennie Ratlieff.

Xia's sweet spirit, beautiful smile and infectious laugh will remain in our hearts forever. She is not just the child of Darlene and Dwight. Xia is ours.

Funeral services will be held at 11 am on Saturday, December 13, 2025 at St. Paul Peoria Church with a visitation one-hour prior at 10 am. Pastor Deveraux Hubbard will officiate. Xia will be laid to rest at Historic Springdale Cemetery.

Cemetery Details

Historic Springdale Cemetery

3014 N. Prospect Road
Peoria, IL 61603

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 13. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Paul Peoria
114 W. Forrest Hill Avenue
Peoria, IL 61604

Funeral Service

DEC 13. 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM (CT)

St. Paul Peoria
114 W. Forrest Hill Avenue
Peoria, IL 61604

Tribute Wall



“ *Simons Mortuary created a Webcast in memory of Miss Xia Linette Sykes*



Simons Mortuary - December 10, 2025 at 07:45 PM



Blessed are they that mourn for they shall be comforted. I will forever remember Xia smile. 🙏❤️

MAry Hopson - December 13, 2025 at 01:22 PM

VB

*A beautiful young lady!
Inside and out! One of the few people that I know with a memorable million dollar smile! Praying for Darlene and all of Xia's family & Friends.*

Valerie Bayliss - December 24, 2025 at 06:29 AM



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



Simons Mortuary - January 05 at 12:47 PM



“ 1 file added to the album *Memorial Tribute*



Simons Mortuary - December 16, 2025 at 03:48 PM



“ *Siobhan Morris lit a candle in memory of Xia Sykes*



Siobhan Morris - December 13, 2025 at 07:07 PM



“ *The loss of a child is a pain that words cannot heal. I offer my heartfelt condolences and hope that the cherished moments you shared will bring you some comfort.*”



Cheryll Gordon - December 13, 2025 at 02:35 PM



“ *Jennifer Parham-Williams lit a candle in memory of Xia Sykes*



Jennifer Parham-Williams - December 13, 2025 at 11:55 AM

CJ

“ My thoughts and prayers with Darlene, the Nance's, and Sykes families. I'm so sorry for your loss 🙏. May God keep you all in his comfort and grace



Corrie Jackson - December 13, 2025 at 11:54 AM

RH

“ Ranaisha Howard-Dunigan lit a candle in memory of Xia Sykes



Ranaisha Howard-Dunigan - December 13, 2025 at 11:27 AM

RH

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Ranaisha Howard-Dunigan - December 13, 2025 at 11:26 AM

RH

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Ranaisha Howard-Dunigan - December 13, 2025 at 11:24 AM

RH

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Ranaisha Howard-Dunigan - December 13, 2025 at 11:22 AM

RH

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Ranaisha Howard-Dunigan - December 13, 2025 at 11:22 AM

RH

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Ranaisha Howard-Dunigan - December 13, 2025 at 11:21 AM

RH

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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RH

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Ranaisha Howard-Dunigan - December 13, 2025 at 11:21 AM

RH

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Ranaisha Howard-Dunigan - December 13, 2025 at 11:21 AM

RH

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Ranaisha Howard-Dunigan - December 13, 2025 at 11:20 AM

RH

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Ranaisha Howard-Dunigan - December 13, 2025 at 11:20 AM

RH

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Ranaisha Howard-Dunigan - December 13, 2025 at 11:20 AM

RH

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Ranaisha Howard-Dunigan - December 13, 2025 at 11:19 AM

RH

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Ranaisha Howard-Dunigan - December 13, 2025 at 11:19 AM

RH

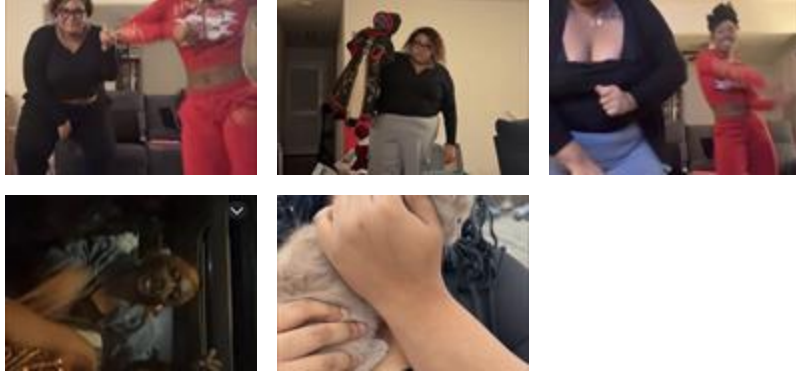
“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Ranaisha Howard-Dunigan - December 13, 2025 at 11:18 AM

RH

“ 14 files added to the tribute wall



Ranaisha Howard-Dunigan - December 13, 2025 at 11:17 AM

RH

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Ranaisha Howard-Dunigan - December 13, 2025 at 11:16 AM

EB

“ Emel Buckner lit a candle in memory of Xia Sykes



Emel Buckner - December 13, 2025 at 11:11 AM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Miss Xia Linette Sykes.



December 13, 2025 at 04:33 AM



“ Kaitlyn B. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Miss Xia Linette Sykes.

Kaitlyn B. - December 12, 2025 at 06:00 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Miss Xia Linette Sykes.



December 12, 2025 at 03:17 PM



“ ARNITRIA SHAW purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Miss Xia Linette Sykes.



ARNITRIA SHAW - December 12, 2025 at 03:01 PM

B(

“ *Brenda Cayson (Rudd) lit a candle in memory of Xia Sykes*



Brenda Cayson (Rudd) - December 12, 2025 at 11:55 AM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Miss Xia Linette Sykes.*



December 12, 2025 at 09:05 AM

L&

“ *Lekel Taylor & Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Miss Xia Linette Sykes.*

Lekel Taylor & Family - December 12, 2025 at 09:05 AM

SF

“ *Sherri Nichelson & Family purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of Miss Xia Linette Sykes.*



Sherri Nichelson & Family - December 12, 2025 at 04:03 AM

GB

“ *Gwen and Bezawit purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Miss Xia Linette Sykes.*



Gwen and Bezawit - December 11, 2025 at 06:06 PM

MA

“ *Mickeisha Armstrong/YoungLives purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Miss Xia Linette Sykes.*



Mickeisha Armstrong/YoungLives - December 11, 2025 at 10:49 AM

CF

“ *Carl Scott & Family purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Miss Xia Linette Sykes.*



Carl Scott & Family - December 11, 2025 at 09:05 AM

KC

“ *Kathy Collins lit a candle in memory of Xia Sykes*



Kathy Collins - December 11, 2025 at 12:57 AM

AA

“ Audrey Ashley-Nance lit a candle in memory of Xia Sykes



Audrey Ashley-Nance - December 10, 2025 at 05:30 PM

AI

“ Annette Irby lit a candle in memory of Xia Sykes



Annette Irby - December 10, 2025 at 08:28 AM

JL

“ Jennifer L. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Miss Xia Linette Sykes.

Jennifer L. - December 09, 2025 at 10:00 PM

CM

“ cynthia morgan lit a candle in memory of Xia Sykes



cynthia morgan - December 09, 2025 at 05:32 PM

CP

“ Carolyn Parham lit a candle in memory of Xia Sykes



Carolyn Parham - December 09, 2025 at 09:53 AM

MR

“ Mattie Risby lit a candle in memory of Xia Sykes



Mattie Risby - December 09, 2025 at 08:55 AM



“ Sweet Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Miss Xia Linette Sykes.



December 08, 2025 at 11:34 PM

AC

“ Amanda Christmas purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Miss Xia Linette Sykes.



Amanda Christmas - December 08, 2025 at 10:18 AM

SC

“ Stephanie Clark sent a virtual gift in memory of Xia Sykes



Stephanie Clark - December 08, 2025 at 10:12 AM

LD

“ Resy Easy little cousin. Praying for you Darlene.



La Dreana - December 04, 2025 at 12:52 PM

RW

“ Richard and Theresa Walker sent a virtual gift in memory of Xia Sykes



Richard and Theresa Walker - December 03, 2025 at 10:07 PM

AS

“ Arnitira S. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Miss Xia Linette Sykes.

Arnitira S. - December 03, 2025 at 05:47 PM

PB

“ You are in our thoughts and prayers throughout this time. We love you all.

Pastor James and Rev. Ericka Bailey - December 03, 2025 at 02:08 PM

KC

“ Kathy Collins lit a candle in memory of Xia Sykes



Kathy Collins - December 03, 2025 at 08:47 AM

RA

“ Renee Adell lit a candle in memory of Xia Sykes



Renee Adell - December 03, 2025 at 08:02 AM

MN

“ Love you baby girl! xoxo Makaila💕



Makaila Nance - December 02, 2025 at 04:35 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Miss Xia Linette Sykes.*



December 02, 2025 at 03:00 PM



“ *Jill Neal lit a candle in memory of Xia Sykes*



Jill Neal - December 02, 2025 at 12:04 PM



“ *MY HEART GOES OUT TO THE FAMILY. PRAYING FOR THE FAMILY. LOVE YOU ALL*

BRENDA DAVIE - December 02, 2025 at 11:09 AM



“ *Toni Brown lit a candle in memory of Xia Sykes*



Toni Brown - December 02, 2025 at 09:15 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Miss Xia Linette Sykes.



December 01, 2025 at 07:32 PM



“ Journey Jonah Jonte Brittany Strickland planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Miss Xia Linette Sykes.

Journey Jonah Jonte Brittany Strickland - December 01, 2025 at 07:32 PM



“ Rena Webster Horton lit a candle in memory of Xia Sykes



Rena Webster Horton - December 01, 2025 at 03:03 PM



“ Renee Adell lit a candle in memory of Xia Sykes



Renee Adell - December 01, 2025 at 12:14 PM

PH

“ Praying for The Family... Psalm 116:15
Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death
of his saints 🙏...



Phillip E Hickman - December 01, 2025 at 10:41 AM

LD

“ Rest Easy cousin. Praying for you Darlene.

La Dreana - December 01, 2025 at 06:54 AM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of
Miss Xia Linette Sykes.



November 30, 2025 at 07:39 PM

RA

“ Renee Adell lit a candle in memory of Xia
Sykes



Renee Adell - November 30, 2025 at 08:01 AM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Miss Xia Linette Sykes.*



November 30, 2025 at 02:30 AM



“ *With love, Serenity planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Miss Xia Linette Sykes.*

With love, Serenity - November 30, 2025 at 02:30 AM



“ *Demarco Coburn purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Miss Xia Linette Sykes.*



Demarco Coburn - November 29, 2025 at 01:46 PM



“ *Brenda D Cayson lit a candle in memory of Xia Sykes*



Brenda D Cayson - November 29, 2025 at 12:10 PM

KR

“ Praying for Darlene, family and friends.



Katrina Reynolds - November 29, 2025 at 11:25 AM

TY

“ To my sweet Xia! ❤️ I'll always remember our conversations! I'll always remember the moments we spent together growing up! You lit every room up when you walked in! My fashionista, my diva, and an AMAZING make up artist! I thank God for allowing us to call each other family! My sister forever! I love you so much, forever and always! - Tyla

Tyla - November 29, 2025 at 10:51 AM

JA

“ My xia girl i love you so much words cannot describe the hurt i am feeling behind you fly high pretty.

jayla - November 29, 2025 at 10:33 AM

RN

“ I can't believe this is real 🥹💔 I love you so much angel 😭💕



Ruweya Nurridin - November 29, 2025 at 09:49 AM

RJ

“ Roshawn Johnson lit a candle in memory of Xia Sykes



Roshawn Johnson - November 29, 2025 at 09:11 AM

RH

“ Darlene and Dwight Sykes, may God be with the both of you and your loved ones and grant them with strength and comfort and peace 🕊️ and salvation to each and everyone of you ; ❤️ Roslyn and Vivian Harris

Roslyn Harris - November 29, 2025 at 08:52 AM

EA

“ Erica Albert lit a candle in memory of Xia Sykes



Erica Albert - November 29, 2025 at 07:37 AM

JD

“ My Xia 🌸💔



Jayda Davis - November 29, 2025 at 06:45 AM

AW

“ Ahadi W. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Miss Xia Linette Sykes.

Ahadi W. - November 29, 2025 at 02:07 AM

SW

“ Shanta White-Murray sent a virtual gift in memory of Xia Sykes



Shanta White-Murray - November 29, 2025 at 01:49 AM

SD

“ Solivian Dismuke lit a candle in memory of Xia Sykes



Solivian Dismuke - November 29, 2025 at 12:51 AM

PJ

“ I'm still lost for words. Can't believe you r gone. Xia R.I.P. baby girl!

Pamela Johnson - November 28, 2025 at 11:18 PM