



Ophelia Jeter

March 23, 1933 - December 17, 2024

Ophelia Jeter, a beloved matriarch and cherished member of the community, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, December 17th, 2024 at SSM Health Good Samaritan Hospital in Mt. Vernon, at the age of 91. She was born on Thursday, March 23rd, 1933, in Gates, Tennessee, and lived a full and vibrant life.

Ophelia took great pride in her family and is survived by her loving children, Mildred Burns of Phoenix, AZ, Elder Joseph Burns and wife Cathy, of Mt. Vernon, IL, Earice Burns and wife, Necia, of Cleveland, Ohio; Earlando Burns of Phoenix, AZ, Areta Cummings and husband, Floyd, of Douglasville, GA, and Darren Burns of Centralia, IL. She also leaves behind siblings, Archie Bradford and wife Lois of Spokane, WA, Opal Dietzel and husband Paul of Everett, WA, Ruby Bradford of Ripley, TN, Creasy Reed of Ripley, TN, and Lawrence Bradford and wife Romi of Federal Way, WA; a special granddaughter, Ava Burns of Phoenix, AZ; Her memory will be cherished by a host of grandchildren, great-grandchildren, great-great grandchildren, other relatives, and special cousins and caretakers, Marva Clemons of Centralia, and Lisa Coleman of Centralia.

Ophelia was preceded in death by her father, Archie Bradford; mother, Mildred (Byrd) Bradford; her cherished daughter, Barbara Burns; and her sons, Johnell Burns, Jerry Burns, Julian Burns, and an infant son, Jarice Burns.

A woman of deep faith, Ophelia loved reading the Bible and nurturing plants and flowers. She served as a faithful servant unto the house of the Lord for many years. She was known for her love of leopard print clothing and her unwavering generosity to those around her. She made a significant impact on her community, particularly through her efforts in organizing donations of toys and clothes to those in need. Throughout her life, Ophelia was a devoted homemaker and industrious worker, contributing her talents to the Little Fuse Factory and Centralia Steam Laundry. She was known for her warm spirit and tireless dedication to her family and friends.

Funeral Services for Ophelia Jeter will be held at 11:00 am on Saturday, December 28, 2024 at The First Apostolic Church at 1202 South Poplar Street in Centralia with Pastor Jonathan Urshan and Elder Joseph Burns officiating. Burial will follow at Elmwood Cemetery in Centralia. A visitation for family and friends will be held Saturday, December 28, 2024 from 10:00 am to 11:00 am at the First Apostolic Church. Ophelia's legacy is one of love, resilience, and community service, and she will be deeply missed. In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests donations to be made to the family and will be accepted by the Sutherland-Garnier Funeral Home at 235 North Sycamore Street in Centralia, IL 62801 (618) 532-3523, who is honored to help the family prepare, celebrate and honor Ophelia's remarkable life. Online condolences may be made to the family by visiting www.sutherlandfuneralhome.com or the Funeral Home's Facebook page.

Though she may no longer walk among us, Ophelia's spirit will live on in the lives of all who were blessed to know her.

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 28. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

First Apostolic Church
1202 S Poplar St
Centralia, IL 62801-4754
(618) 532-6142

Funeral Service

DEC 28. 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM (CT)

First Apostolic Church
1202 S Poplar St
Centralia, IL 62801-4754
(618) 532-6142

Tribute Wall



“ *Sutherland Funeral Homes, Cemetery and Cremation Services created a Tribute Video in memory of Ophelia Jeter*



Sutherland Funeral Homes, Cemetery and Cremation Services - December 27, 2024 at 05:07 PM

JR

So sorry that she is gone but my mom will be happy she is in heaven with her. Miss Ophelia was a special lady always had a smile on her beautiful face. We all loved her very much she will be missed by my family. Sorry I can't be there to hug Joe and Darren but I have cancer and can't take the chance of getting sick. Just remember her last breath on earth is her first breath in heaven. Ophelia I love you and we will see each other again one day and what a joy that will be.

Janet Burwell Robbins - December 28, 2024 at 10:03 AM

EB

Thanks Reese Burns

Earice Burns - October 24, 2025 at 07:22 PM

KE

“ *To the family of Mrs. Ophelia Jeter:*

My sincere thoughts, sympathy, and deepest condolences are with you all during these very difficult time of need.

Loss of a loved one is never easy

Family:

May God continue to love you, cover you, protect you, encourage you, strengthen you, comfort you, and help you heal while empowering you all during this very difficult time.

Sincerely, honestly, and humbly written.

Kevin M. Hill

Kevin - December 28, 2024 at 11:57 AM

MJ

“ *I feel blessed to have known Ophelia. I worked for Addus and helped Ophelia for several years. She had a quick wit about her. She would take South Central to the senior center and then back to her home where I would meet her. When she ran late she said it was because they went on a tour! She spoke highly of her family and always looked forward to her birthdays where she said they were trying to pull a fast one! She will be missed*

Mary Jacobs - December 28, 2024 at 10:49 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Ophelia Jeter.



December 27, 2024 at 08:14 AM



“ Areta, Floyd and Kelvin - we are thinking of you guys. Please let us know if there's anything we can do. We love you very much!

Evelyn and Dustin Soper - December 26, 2024 at 09:59 AM



“ Ophelia was such a loving and caring neighbor. I have such great memories of her with that beautiful smile. Her humor and laugh especially will stay in my heart, as she knew what to say to make you smile and laugh. Ophelia sure knew how to dress in her beautiful glitzie clothes💕💕 Sending heartfelt prayers to her family. May she Rest in peace.💕💕

Sue Mashburn - December 21, 2024 at 03:46 PM



“ Ophelia was a true friend,always wanting to give to others,especially neighbors. She had a big big heart and beautiful smile.She will truly be missed by all who knew her. Marcia and Pat ,neighbors

Marcia Sussen Pat Robertson - December 21, 2024 at 09:59 AM



“ Sending our prayers for/with family and friends!

Vickie & Wayne Houser - December 21, 2024 at 08:52 AM