



Mrs. Bessie Lee Banks

March 5, 1928 - December 17, 2023

BANKS, Mrs. Bessie Lee - Age 95, passed away Sunday, December 17, 2023 at her residence. Family hour 10:00 AM Saturday, January 6, 2024, from the Chapel of Lawrence E. Moon Funeral Home, 268 N. Perry St., Pontiac, Mi., with funeral service commencing at 11:00 AM. Interment Perry Mount Park Cemetery, 878 N. Perry St., Pontiac, Mi. Friends and pallbearers will assemble at the Funeral Home 10:00 AM Saturday, January 6, 2024. Mrs. Banks will lie in state in the Chapel of Lawrence E. Moon Funeral Home and may be viewed from 12:00 PM-6:00 PM Friday, January 5, 2024. Mrs. Bessie Lee Banks "Shake" was born March 5, 1928 in Marks, Mississippi, the daughter of Martin and Sarah Bell. Bessie attended Mississippi School System. She accepted Christ at an early age and was an active member of Liberty Missionary Baptist Church in Pontiac, MI until becoming ill with Dementia. Bessie was a homemaker but had several odd jobs as a Caregiver and would babysit many of her neighbors children. She was active in her community serving with a Tenant Board at the Sandford Arms Apartments and other community events. Bessie had a heart of gold and was known for making the kids in the community (icy cups) every summer. The "Icy Cup Lady" was her name and to some "Mama Banks" to many. In her free time she loved to go fishing on Saturday's plant her flower gardens every summer and on Sunday's cook a mess of food and would feed anyone who come over hungry.

Mrs. Bessie Lee Banks "Shake" leaves to cherish her memory: 2 daughters and 3 sons, Matthew (Jacqueline) Thompson, Marjorie Banks, Major Smith Jr., Willie (Sharon) Smith and Gloria Smith; 2 step-children, Marvin (Mattie Lou) Smith and Tommie (Jocelyn) Smith; 36 grandchildren; 119 great-grandchildren; 76 great-great-grandchildren; 1 great-great-great-grandchild; 2 cousins, Margaret and Geraldine Houston of Chicago, IL; a host of other relatives and friends including, special granddaughters, Latasha Smith, Mercedes Davis and Tiyanna Kelley; special friends, Margaret Brewer, Robert Griffin, Edna Bass, Georgia Dexter and Ethel Poole; daughter-in-law, Dorothy Smith.

Mrs. Banks was preceded in death by her husbands, Eddie Banks and Major Smith Sr.; son, James (Dorcas) Wilcher; step-son, James "Nap Sack" Smith; grandsons, Major Smith III and Anthony Thompson; granddaughter, Shawnderia Collier; great-granddaughter, Se'Quoia Smith; sister, Rosie Lee Barron; and niece, Seretha Bonds;

Cemetery Details

Perry Mount Park Cemetery

878 N. Perry St.
Pontiac, MI

Previous Events

Public Viewing

JAN 5. 12:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Lawrence E. Moon Funeral Home, Inc., Pontiac
268 N. Perry Street
Pontiac, MI 48342-2346
(248) 758-1913
lemoonfhpontiac@gmail.com
<https://www.lawrenceemoonfuneralhomepontiac.com>

Family hour

JAN 6. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

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Funeral Service

JAN 6. 11:00 AM (ET)

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Tribute Wall



“ *Lawrence E. Moon Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Mrs. Bessie Lee Banks*



Lawrence E. Moon Funeral Home - January 06, 2024 at 10:58 AM

CC

“ *Condolences from the Cowart Family*



Corlinda Cowart - December 28, 2023 at 11:02 PM

MH

“ *Gonna miss you Cuz 🥹. See you one day soon. Love Red (Margarie Houston)*

Margarie Houston - December 28, 2023 at 01:36 PM

JG

“ *Jeanette Grady sent a virtual gift in memory of Bessie Banks*



Jeanette Grady - December 18, 2023 at 02:32 PM