



Ms. Mary L. McClendon

June 18, 1945 - February 8, 2026

Mary Louise (Hamm) McClendon was born in St. Louis, Missouri to the union of Osborne and Gladys Hamm on June 18, 1945. She was the oldest child with 4 siblings. Mary was preceded in death by her brother, Ray Donald Samuels, and her beloved sister, JoAnn (Hamm) Valentine, as well as both parents.

Mary confessed her faith in Jesus at a young age at Mt Nebo Baptist Church in Madison, Illinois.

Mary was a product of Madison Community School District #12. She graduated from Madison Senior High School in 1963. Mary went on to earn an Associates Degree in Business Administration from Concordia University in 1995 where she graduated with a 3.5 GPA at 50 years old!

She was united in holy matrimony to James Donald McClendon on July 1, 1966. He preceded her in death in 1990. Their union was blessed with one daughter, Tiffinie Yevette (McClendon) Vaughn. She never remarried.

Mary began working at the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod as a Claims Supervisor in 1969 where she retired in 2001. She later began working at Magellan Behavioral Health in 2002 until she retired again in 2010.

Mary loved her family! Her and her sisters JoAnn (deceased), Linda and Phyllis were like the 5th sister than a best-friends. Her niece, Mona (Ervin) Collins, was like a daughter to her.

Mary was a member of Greater St James Missionary Baptist Church where she had been a member since 1966.

Mary peacefully departed this earthly life surrounded by family on February 8, 2026.

Mary leaves to cherish her memory, her daughter Tiffinie Yevette (Florissant, MO); her grandson, Elias James Gayden (Florissant, MO); her granddaughter, Maia Chanel Gayden (Hempstead, TX); a great-granddaughter, Elani Jamese Gayden (Florissant, MO); her sisters, Linda Hoskins and Phyllis Ervin both of (East St. Louis, IL), and a host of nieces, nephews, friends, and relatives.

Well done, Good and Faithful Servant!

Cemetery Details

Upper Alton Cemetery

Oakwood Rd
Alton, IL 62002

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 20. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Greater St. James Baptist Church
2016 Belle Street
Alton, IL

Celebration of Life

FEB 20. 11:00 AM (CT)

Greater St James Baptist Church
2016 Belle St
Alton, IL 62002-6801
(618) 462-8211

Graveside

FEB 20. 1:00 PM (CT)

Upper Alton Cemetery
Oakwood Rd
Alton, IL 62002

Tribute Wall



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Ms. Mary L. McClendon.



February 17 at 02:32 PM