



Mrs. Mary Dell Telford

August 5, 1945 - November 6, 2025

Mary was born on August 5, 1945, in Starkville, Mississippi, to Mattie Dell Bradford. At the age

of four, Mary moved with her family to Edwardsville, Illinois, where she attended school and later made her lifelong home.

In 1967, Mary wed the love of her life, Sonny, and together they shared 54 wonderful years of marriage. She retired from the Edwardsville School District after a long and dedicated career.

Mary was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Sonny; her mother, Mattie Bradford; her sister, Barbara Ann Bradford; her granddaughter, Laziza Akins; her great-grandson, Loyal Dozier Jr.; and her great-great-granddaughter, A'zya Akins.

She is survived by her seven children: Rhonda Bradford, Tina Ellington, Delaine (Vernon Braylock) Mickens, all of Edwardsville; Jerry Bradford of Toledo, Ohio; Moe (Joanne) Ellington of Murrieta, California; Lisa White; and Tiffanie (Jeremy Ferris) Telford, both of Edwardsville.

She also leaves behind fourteen grandchildren—Tanya, Estefanita, Tiffanie, Vanessa, Heather,

Brittany, Cierra, Bryson, Ju Lisa, Travia, Shelby, Marcus, and Mia—twenty great-grandchildren, six great-great-grandchildren, and one brother, Lester Bradford of Godfrey, Illinois.

Mary will be remembered for her strength, resilience, and bold personality—a woman who lived life on her own terms, with elegance, confidence, and a touch of sass. She loved deeply, stood firmly in who she was, and never took any nonsense. Her spirit, grace, and fire will live on through all who knew and loved her.

Cemetery Details

Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV **15**. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

MT. Hebron Fellowship
6939 Marine Rd.
Edwardsville , IL 62002

Service

NOV **15**. 12:00 PM (CT)

MT. Hebron Fellowship
6939 Marine Rd.
Edwardsville , IL 62002

Graveside

NOV **17**. 9:45 AM (CT)

Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery
2900 Sheridan Rd
St. Louis, MO 63125-4198
(314) 845-8320

Tribute Wall

DG

“ i AM SO SORRY TO HEAR ABOUT YOUR MOM. I WORKED WITH HER AT THE NURSING HOME FOR MANY YEARS. i LOVED HER SPUNK, HER GET AND GO. YOU ALWAYS KNEW WHERE YOU STOOD WITH HER. SHE WAS A GREAT EMPLOYEE AND WENT FAR ABOVE AND BEYOND FOR THE RESIDENTS. TO MAKE SURE THEY WERE TAKEN CARE OF. SHE WILL BE MISSED BY ALL WHO KNEW AND LOVED HER. YOU ARE ALL IN MY THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS.

Donna Grable - November 25, 2025 at 10:13 AM

HH

“ Wil miss Mary dell(grandma) very much I loved her spirit she had so much energy rest in peace 💕

Hattie Holman - November 17, 2025 at 07:28 AM

LE

“ Had some great times with Mary Dell and Sonny ! What a good person! ❤️🙏

Lynn Engbretson - November 15, 2025 at 04:49 PM

BB

“ Beth & Bryce purchased the Heavenly Grace Spray for the family of Mrs. Mary Dell Telford.



Beth & Bryce - November 13, 2025 at 05:07 PM

BB

“ Beth & Bryce planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mrs. Mary Dell Telford.

Beth & Bryce - November 13, 2025 at 05:07 PM

TC

“ Tiny's crew purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Mrs. Mary Dell Telford.



Tiny's crew - November 13, 2025 at 02:05 PM

TC

“ Tiny's crew planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mrs. Mary Dell Telford.

Tiny's crew - November 13, 2025 at 02:05 PM