



## Mary Lou Gilbert

June 30, 1935 - May 23, 2024

Mary Lou Gilbert was born June 30, 1935 in Chicago, IL, the second of ten children born to John and Zelma Castleman Giddings.

Mary Lou graduated from Saint Anne High School in 1952. She was a member of Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church and served faithfully on the usher board until her health failed.

She was united in holy matrimony to Edward Pickens, to which two children were born to their union. She later wed Jinks Gilbert.

Mary Lou began her employment as a nurse's aide at Manteno State Hospital. Next she became a supervisor for the Permanenite Corporation manufacturing facility in Morocco, IN and later in St. Anne, IL. From there she moved into a supervisor position at the Nestle facility in Hopkins Park, IL, where she worked for over 25 years.

Mary Lou will be remembered for her love and care for others. She enjoyed shopping, and watching the Chicago Bulls.

She leaves to cherish her memory, one brother, George (Janice) Giddings of Kankakee, IL; one sister, Lorraine (Edward) Bowman of Flossmoor, IL; special grandson, Jason Pickens of Kankakee, IL, who she helped raise; step-

daughters, Shirley Ross of Chicago, IL and Talina Edwards of Burnham, IL; step-sons, Marvin Gilbert and Maurice Gilbert, both of Chicago, IL and Melvin Gilbert of Calumet Park, IL; sisters-in-law, Ruby Giddings and Bernie Giddings, both of University Park, IL and Deborah Giddings of Minneapolis, MN; seven grandchildren, Tomele (LaQuesha) Staples of Aroma Park, IL, John Pickens Jr. of Saint Paul, MN, Jason (Brittany) Pickens of Kankakee, IL, Shawna (Michael) Colbert Eldridge of Chicago, IL, Iesha Pickens of Saint Paul, MN, David Crawford of Bloomington, IL and Nika Crawford of Atlanta, GA; 15 great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild; special friends, Helen Campbell Jackson of Peoria, IL, Delores McClendon of Flossmoor, IL and Ruth Jefferies of Memphis, TN; a great-niece, Eboni Calbert of Kankakee, IL and a great-great-nephew, Estabon Campbell of Kankakee, IL, and a host of other relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husbands; brothers, Earl Giddings, John Giddings, Waymer Giddings and Herbert Giddings; and sisters, Sandra Ellison, Rosetta Cunningham and Laura Jean Giddings.

# Cemetery Details

## Kankakee Memorial Gardens

Kankakee, IL

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUN 6. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (CT)

Morning Star  
570 N. Harrison  
Kankakee, IL

## Service

JUN 6. 10:00 AM (CT)

Morning Star  
570 N. Harrison  
Kankakee, IL

# Tribute Wall

EH

“ My aunt was always and one of the most purely kind people that I knew. We had a family reunuion in San Antonio, Texas in 2012 while I was living in ABQ, New Mexico. I spent a lot of time with her, Ebony and Jj so that she could take enjoy the activities. The day that I was leaving, I went to her room to say to her and the kids, slipped money into my pocket and wished me a safe trip. I tried to give it back but she adamantly refused. I left on my journey back to New Mexico. I stopped got gas and purchased a few items on my card and unbeknown to me by bank blocked my card. I stopped close to the NM border to fillup for the next leg of the trip but could not use my card or my phone to clear the block. I was in a dead zone for my carrier and could not get a connection. The station attendant told me to go ahead and fill up while I attempted to get the bank on the phone but I could not get a connection. It seemed like I was stuck until I remembered Mary Lou had slipped money into my pocket. I pulled it out and it was \$50, the bill was around \$46. I was like wow, how did she know. I paid for my gas and got on my way out of Texas and the dead zone I was in. I could not wait to call her to tell her what had happened and to thank her. Loving memory from your niece, Earlena.

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**Earlena Giddings Hill** - August 04, 2024 at 12:54 PM

EC

“ Elayne Coffie lit a candle in memory of Mary Gilbert



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**Elayne Coffie** - June 18, 2024 at 07:25 PM

JM

“ Praying for the family of Mary Lou Gilbert. She was a wonderful & caring woman of God. She will truly be missed. I thank you for friendship and was so loving to my mom. Rest well Ms Gilbert.  
In Him  
Jackie & Rodney Alford MD



Jacqueline & Rodney Alford MD - June 06, 2024 at 09:21 AM

EJ

“ I met Mary Lou when i was a little girl. She was so kind and friendly. She always had a beautiful smile on her face. She will truly be missed. My sincere condolences to the family.



Elaine Jackson - June 05, 2024 at 11:33 PM

DO

“ My condolences goes out to Mary Lou’s family. I knew her as a kind, compassionate and wonderful person. She will be truly missed.

Donna Odeneal



Donna Odeneal - June 05, 2024 at 10:11 PM

RT

“ A kind, full of wisdom and full of caring woman, we first met Mary Lou in 1976, at Meadowview Laundromat, a friendship was built on sharing the truth of helping others. Mary Lou will be missed..... Well done! A woman after God’s own heart!❤️

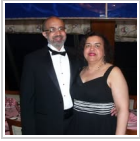
Rev. James Terrell Jr. & Linda Terrell - June 05, 2024 at 02:52 PM

CW

“ Cheryl Wilson lit a candle in memory of Mary Gilbert



Cheryl Wilson - June 05, 2024 at 09:27 AM



“ Mary Lou was a big part of our family's life (Vesta Jean Greenly). She used to call my Mother "Mom", visited her when she was sick, bringing much needed smiles and such a sweet spirit. The Greenly Family loves the Giddings Family. May God continue to comfort you as Mary Lou did for so many others. With our love and deep sympathy, Virginia Greenly Durr and Family



Virginia Durr - June 05, 2024 at 12:15 AM

PJ

“ Patricia Jamison lit a candle in memory of Mary Gilbert



Patricia Jamison - June 04, 2024 at 07:13 PM

DR

“ *My Deepest Condolences to the family. She was one of the sweetest persons I've known. Always had a kind and encouraging word whenever I encountered her. May she rest now from all the wonderful works she did while here.*



Dorothy Riley - June 04, 2024 at 03:22 PM

CJ

“ *Catherine Jackson lit a candle in memory of Mary Gilbert*



Catherine Jackson - June 04, 2024 at 12:56 PM

DA

“ *My Sincere Condolences to the family, She was a good friend to me and my family. She had a heart of gold. Will always be grateful for knowing her and all the good memories. R.I.H.*



Debbie Autman - June 03, 2024 at 11:05 PM

MM

“ *We will never forget Mary Lou's kindness and compassion towards our family and numerous others; her life was a gift from God. Rest in God's peace, sweet beautiful lady.*



Michael and Rita Morris - June 03, 2024 at 06:59 PM

JH

“ Hey, GM Family I'm so sorry for your loss Mary Lou was a very special person to me and my family which she holds a special place in our hearts which she will be missed dearly by the Harris Family so hang in there family God's got y'all R.I.P. you will be missed by all who came in contact with you.



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**Jacqueline Harris-Shorter** - June 03, 2024 at 09:29 AM

JF

“ JOANN FORD-BOX lit a candle in memory of Mary Gilbert



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**JOANN FORD-BOX** - June 01, 2024 at 01:52 PM