



## Charlene M. James

February 14, 1936 - November 25, 2021

Charlene M. (Gray) James, age 85 years, a resident of Karnak, Illinois, passed away Thursday morning, November 25, 2021, at 10:49 AM at her home.

Charlene was born February 14, 1936 in Vienna, Illinois. She was the daughter of Charles J. and Violet L. (Thompson) Gray.

On June 17, 1955, Charlene was united in marriage to Eddie James by Rev. Earl Voyette at the Vienna First Christian Church. Eddie preceded her in death on May 14, 2011.

Charlene is survived by: her son – Charles “Buzz” (Sharon) James of Simpson; 2 grandchildren – Melody (Carl) Schmidt of Karnak and Steve James of Cypress; 2 great grandsons – Eli and Adlia Schmidt; a brother – Jim Bob (Joyce) Gray of Vienna; a sister-in-law – Theresa Gray of Vienna; nephews – Joe Gray, Jason (Debra) Gray, and John (Beth) Gray; a great niece and nephews – Taylor (Jacob) Horn, Patrick Gray, and Blake Gray; a great-great nephew – Edison; as well as other relatives and a host of friends.

In addition to her parents and husband, Charlene was preceded in death by a brother – Carl W. Gray.

Charlene was a 1954 graduate of Vienna High School. She had been employed as a cook and waitress at Ned's Shed in Vienna and Basham's Restaurant in Karnak. Charlene was also a devoted homemaker.

She was a member of the Daniel Chapman Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution and served as Regent for 7 years as well as holding other offices within the organization. Charlene was a lifelong member of the Vienna First Christian Church and attended the First Baptist Church in Karnak.

Charlene served as a room mother for 6 years at the former Karnak Grade School. Additionally, Charlene would often drive members of the baseball and basketball teams to out-of-town games. She treasured all the children who grew up playing in her backyard when her son, Buzz, was young. Also, she has appreciated the friendship of her longtime neighbors, Alan Barnett and Scott & Kay Tapley.

Charlene was an avid reader. She also enjoyed studying genealogy, spending time with her family and working in her yard.

A graveside service will be held Monday, November 29, 2021, at 2 PM at Cypress Cemetery. Interment will follow. Pastor Dean West will officiate.

Visitation will be held Monday afternoon, November 29, 2021, from 12 Noon until 1:30 PM at Bailey Funeral Home in Vienna.

Memorials may be made to the Baptist Children's Home & Family Services, 949 County Road 1300 North, Carmi, Illinois 62821 or to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, Tennessee 38105.

# Cemetery Details

## Cypress Cemetery

5847 State Route 37 South  
Cypress, IL

# Previous Events

## Visitation

NOV **29**. 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM (CT)

Bailey Funeral Home  
705 North First Street  
PO Box 695  
Vienna, IL 62995  
(618) 658-2311  
baileyfhinc@hotmail.com  
<https://baileyfh.com>

## Graveside Service

NOV **29**. 2:00 PM (CT)

Cypress Cemetery  
5847 State Route 37 South  
Cypress, IL

# Tribute Wall



“ *Charlene M. James*

January 30, 2023 at 12:19 AM



“ *Davis And Pat Prewitt lit a candle in memory of Charlene M. James*



**Davis and Pat Prewitt** - December 06, 2021 at 07:17 PM



“ *The James Family were my next door neighbors when I was young. Charlene was like my second mother. She was always there for all the neighborhood kids. Later in life we became close friends. I will always cherish our visits in our back yards. Rest easy my dear friend.*

**Alan Barnett** - November 29, 2021 at 11:37 AM



“ *Elizabeth Kerley lit a candle in memory of Charlene M. James*



**Elizabeth Kerley** - November 28, 2021 at 01:59 AM

BR

“ Bobby Rentfro lit a candle in memory of Charlene M. James



Bobby Rentfro - November 27, 2021 at 12:44 PM

SB

“ When I became interested in DAR, Charlene was regent. She was so kind, organized, and interesting, I knew I wanted to join an organization led by a woman of such kindness and dignity. I have missed her these years she was not able to attend. God bless her family. Sandra Boaz

sandra boaz - November 27, 2021 at 08:08 AM

SR

“ Sheri Robinson lit a candle in memory of Charlene M. James



Sheri Robinson - November 26, 2021 at 11:58 PM

JH

“ I am so sorry for Buz and family! When I think of Charlene I remember the days we all played in our yards and she would give us kool aid and make ribbons for our wiffleball tournaments! She was a great lady and I will miss her. A privilege to grow up next door. Loved her ❤️



Julie Barnett Hinton - November 26, 2021 at 07:20 PM

PM

“ *Phyllis Myers lit a candle in memory of Charlene M. James*



Phyllis Myers - November 26, 2021 at 05:34 PM

JS

“ *John Slack sent a virtual gift in memory of Charlene M. James*



John Slack - November 26, 2021 at 03:32 PM

EK

“ *Elizabeth Kerley lit a candle in memory of Charlene M. James*



Elizabeth Kerley - November 26, 2021 at 11:34 AM

MM

“ *Condolences to her family. I always loved to hear her laugh! Margaret & Jerry Mathis*

Margaret Mathis - November 25, 2021 at 09:35 PM



“ Mike Crews lit a candle in memory of Charlene M. James



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**Mike Crews** - November 25, 2021 at 06:32 PM



“ Sam Riley And Deb Newton lit a candle in memory of Charlene M. James



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**Sam Riley and Deb Newton** - November 25, 2021 at 01:27 PM



*Breaks my heart. Charlene and I were good buddies from grade school on, forever. Loved to play ball for Mr. Kerley and Mr. Stanley. She opened her home to me every time I came down south and we would roam all the all treasured spots again. I will miss her dearly. -Pat Gray Kitner*

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**Pat Gray Kitner** - November 26, 2021 at 09:18 AM