



## Mrs Jessie Mae McDonald

December 29, 1937 - August 15, 2014

Jessie Mae McDonald, 76, of Peoria went to be with Jesus at 8:55 p.m. on Friday, August 15, 2014 at OSF St. Francis Medical Center. She was born December 29, 1937 in Drew, MS to Bunion Sr. and Marie (Liston) Jackson. She married Donald D. McDonald on December 23, 1966 in Peoria. He survives.

Jessie was known as “Sista” to many family and friends. She was a culinary whiz and shared her gift professionally with Hunt's Family Restaurant and Alpha Chi Omega Sorority combined for over 33 years. However, her greatest joy was sharing her delectable treats with those she loved. She was a devout member of the All Nation Pentecostal Church of Jesus Christ in Peoria for over 50 years where she served in the capacity of Sunday school teacher, superintendent, choir member, missionary chairperson, mother's board member, and kitchen staff member. She will be missed by all.

She leaves to carry on her life, her husband Donald, one daughter, DeAndrea (Chris) Haynes of Crestview, FL.; one son, Jeffrey( Amelia Behrens) McDonald of Peoria; two sisters, Dollie (Floyd) Creswell and Mary Jean( Sammy) Robinson; two brothers, Bunion (Rose) Jackson Jr. and Albert (Annie) Jackson all of Peoria, seven grandchildren and three godson. Along with a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and other family members whom adored her and will miss her dearly.

She was preceded in death by her parents and 2 brothers.

Home-going services will be Saturday, Aug. 23, 2014 at 11:00 a.m.at the Pentecostal Church of Jesus Christ, 401 Elm St. with visitation prior at 9:30 a.m. Elder CJ Jowers will officiate. Parkview Cemetery will be Jessie's resting place. Friends and family will be received at 600 Paris Ave.

Arrangements were made especially for Jessie's family and professionally directed by T.W. Parks Colonial Chapel.

Online condolences or words of encouragement can be made at [www.twparkschapel.com](http://www.twparkschapel.com).

# Cemetery Details

## **Parkview Cemetery**

2001 N. University  
Peoria, IL

# Tribute Wall



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mrs Jessie Mae McDonald.*



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August 22, 2014 at 04:27 PM



“ *Jessie was such a loving person, with a kind heart and soul! I have so many memories of talking with her while she sat on the stool near the window in the Alpha Chi Omega kitchen. I even remember when her son would come visit with his dachshund dog!*

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**Liz Jostes** - August 21, 2014 at 08:54 AM



“ *We always joked that you gained 10 lbs when you moved into the AXO house because Jessie's cooking was so great, but we really all gained so much more! Coming home to Jessie in the kitchen was like coming home to mom, she taught us grace, proper manners, was an encourager when we were down, and our biggest cheerleader when we were challenged. She truly taught us how to be proper ladies and prepared us well to mothers. Thank you for sharing your wife, mother and friend with the ladies of Alpha Chi Omega for so many years.*

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**Denise Kuehl Hansen** - August 21, 2014 at 07:44 AM

AC

“ When I went away to college, I had no intention of joining a sorority. But I participated in recruitment anyways and ended up finding a space at Alpha Chi Omega at Bradley University that transformed my collegiate experience and everything that's come after. I was granted leadership opportunities that shaped me and forged friendships that will last a lifetime.

*I lived in a house with 30 other women for two years - still some of my best memories of campus life. While there, we were tended to every day by Jessie, the matron of the kitchen who did so much more than see that we had a hot meal twice a day. She listened, she advised, she laughed, she celebrated with us. Today I join my sisters - ones I lived with back then and ones I've never met who were lucky enough to have been under Jessie's wing, too - in sadness, as Jessie passed away this weekend.*

*Some people commented what a shame it was the world was so broken-hearted about Robin Williams' passing, that we should focus more on the people in our daily lives. The truth is, loss is loss; when you lose someone who held a significance in your life, no matter how big or small, real or imagined - the actor who brought Popeye to life and taught you to seize the day, or the foster grandmother who made you tomato soup and grilled cheese sandwiches during finals week - it's gonna hurt for a minute. And that's OK.*

*Godspeed, Jessie. And Robin, too.*

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**An Alpha Chi** - August 21, 2014 at 07:02 AM

JP

“ Jessie was a mother to us all. She kept us in line, she laughed with us, and she made the most amazing monkey bread I've ever had. She truly was a blessing to so many people and her memory will live on in the heart of every Alpha Chi woman that she helped raise.

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**Jessica Pritzker** - August 20, 2014 at 08:35 PM



Patrick Jackson

“ on T was a very special person to me..she cool how to make a person have hope..when I was in the ICU going through kidney failure she was there with me she prayed for me and gave me awesome advice on how to deal with my isituation but most of all she told me she loved me..and truly she was a phenomenal woman !!

Patrick Jackson - August 20, 2014 at 08:09 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mrs Jessie Mae McDonald.



August 20, 2014 at 06:08 PM



“ Angela Teixeira lit a candle in memory of Mrs Jessie Mae McDonald



Angela Teixeira - August 20, 2014 at 05:57 PM



So sorry for your loss. I'm praying for you and your family during this most difficult time.

Angela Teixeira - August 20, 2014 at 05:58 PM



“ *Celestial Love was purchased for the family of Mrs Jessie Mae McDonald.*



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August 20, 2014 at 11:47 AM



“ *I was privileged to get to meet DeDe's Mom on one of her visits to Crestview, FL. Her beautiful smile was immediately recognizable because I saw it every day on the face of her daughter. It was so readily apparent that Mom and daughter had a beautiful relationship based on love, respect, and mutual admiration. My deepest sympathies to all of the family and friends who loved her so much.*

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**Mary Lou Reed** - August 20, 2014 at 09:04 AM



“ *Blooming Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Mrs Jessie Mae McDonald.*



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August 20, 2014 at 08:48 AM



“ *We all loved her so much at Alpha Chi! She spoiled us rotten with her delicious brownies yet instilled in all of us that she expected proper behavior. We had a jar that you had to put a quarter in if you said something improper in her kitchen..... Stole that idea for my family. God Bless your family.*

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**Jill Denman** - August 20, 2014 at 05:39 AM



“ *Sweet Tenderness was purchased for the family of Mrs Jessie Mae McDonald.*



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August 19, 2014 at 10:09 PM



“ *Blooming Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Mrs Jessie Mae McDonald.*



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August 19, 2014 at 08:21 PM



“ *It's been nearly 20 years since I graduated Bradley University, but Jessie is still so much a part of my AXO memories. She was a wonderful cook and confidant to all of us. My thoughts and prayers go out to her family, friends and the countless college women whose lives she touched.*

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**Kelly Jobe Bathe** - August 19, 2014 at 04:26 PM



“ *My heart goes out to Jessie's family. I feel so blessed to have spent 2 years living in the Alpha Chi house where I got to regularly see Jessie. She was one of the few people I have ever known to be so kind to the core and the first thing I think of when I remember her is that heart-warming smile. What a sweet woman she was. She will be missed.*

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**Kelly Robinson** - August 19, 2014 at 04:11 PM

KE

“ *Much love and prayers to Jessie's family. She was a true blessing and made the Alpha Chi house a real home. She is loved and cherished by us all.*

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**Karen (Lauro) Eckhart** - August 19, 2014 at 04:01 PM

KM

“ *Jessie was our Alpha Chi mom. She always knew how to put a smile your face. If you needed a good laugh, you went to see Jessie. She touched so many lives and was so very loved.*

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**Krista Barrett Malone** - August 19, 2014 at 03:39 PM

AY


“ *Jessie made the AXO house a home for all of us. She was pure warmth. I loved how she referred to me by nickname Flo. God blessed us all with her talents and heart.*

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**Amy Flolo Yakes** - August 19, 2014 at 02:35 PM

MH

“ *Such a beautiful person inside and out. I remember Jessie always making me feel less homesick, and welcoming my own family when they came to visit me! She always made an extra strawberry pie for me to take to them every Thanksgiving and always got the biggest smile when I hugged her after every meal. I loved sitting and talking to her while she cooked! Keeping her and her family in my thoughts and prayers, as she was such a blessing and reminder of the true spirit of sisterhood!*

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**Meghan Hartig** - August 19, 2014 at 01:59 PM



Missy  
Foegal

“ *Jessie not only filled our bellies, but she also filled the hearts of so many Alpha Chis over the years. She will truly be missed.*

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**Missy Foegal** - August 19, 2014 at 01:47 PM



Erika  
Wagner

“ *Jessie was truly a blessing to every woman that passed through the Alpha Chi Omega house while she was there. Her food was amazing, yes (I still compare my cooking to Jessie's!), but her heart was the truly remarkable gift that she offered us. Jessie will be remembered fondly by me, and her family will be in my prayers.*

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**Erika Wagner** - August 19, 2014 at 01:35 PM



“ *Jessie will be missed terribly by everyone whose lives she touched. She traveled from Peoria to my hometown, 5 hours away, to pay her respects at my father's memorial. I was blown away by her support and care for me as a member of AXO. She truly treated us all as family and I couldn't have more respect for her. I wish I could join in the service but instead will be thinking of her from afar and hope that she is celebrated in as wonderful a way as she was a person.*

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**Lexie Beer** - August 19, 2014 at 01:17 PM



Lynsy  
Karrick

“ *My thoughts and prayers go out to Jessie's sweet family. This woman showed my Alpha Chi Omega sisters and I so much love during her time with us. She cared for us like we were her own. And the thought of her chocolate chip cookies will always bring a smile to my face.*

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**Lynsy Karrick** - August 19, 2014 at 01:09 PM

Mhairi Doty

“ *I loved Jessie. We would sing in the kitchen together at Alpha Chi. She was loved by each and every AX that came through that house. Very sorry to hear of her passing.* ”

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**Mhairi Doty** - August 19, 2014 at 01:03 PM

TC

“ *The Staff Of T.W. Parks CC lit a candle in memory of Mrs Jessie Mae McDonald* ”



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**The staff of T.W. Parks CC** - August 19, 2014 at 12:48 PM