



## Ms. Leia R. Bennett

October 25, 1971 - May 3, 2025

Leia Rashaun Bennett, 53, of Peoria IL, transitioned into eternal life on May 3, 2025. Leia was born on October 25, 1971 in Peoria IL, to Ora Bennett-Waithe and the late Larry McArthur, and was lovingly raised by her mother and stepfather, the late Alan “Bruce” Waithe.

Leia dedicated her professional life to helping others, working as a Direct Support Professional (DSP) with Sevita, and previously studied at Illinois Central College. Known for her warm spirit and love for the simple joys of life, Leia enjoyed watching TV, binge-watching her favorite shows, playing cards, and most of all, spending cherished time with her children and grandchildren.

She leaves behind three beloved children: Alaka Bennett, Shizair Bennett, and Shimar Bennett, as well as her bonus daughter, Alnisha Mickle, whom she loved as her own. She was a proud and devoted grandmother to Jordyn Marizetts, Austyn Marizetts, and Akari Bennett, who brought immense joy to her life.

She is also survived by her two sisters, LaTisha Bennett and Michelle (David) Fowler and her brother, Derek Waithe. In addition to her immediate family, Leia is remembered with love by a host of nieces, nephews, extended family, and dear friends who were touched by her kindness, laughter, and unwavering love.

Leia was preceded in death by her father Larry McArthur, her stepfather Alan “Bruce” Waithe, her maternal grandmother Milzella Bennett, Maternal Grandfather Claude Bennett, her paternal grandmother Erma Lee McArthur and paternal grandfather Robert McArthur.

A Celebration of Leia’s Life will be held on Friday, May 16, 2025 at Star Hope Full Gospel Baptist Church at 11:00 am with visitation commencing one hour prior at the 10:00 a.m. Pastor Artilla Kasaru of Open Door Holiness Ministries will present the Eulogy. Leia’s memory will live on in the hearts of all who knew and loved her.

Arrangements were made especially for the “Bennett” family and professionally directed by T.W. Parks Colonial Chapel. Live streaming can be viewed by clicking the link for TW Parks Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/twparkscolonialchapel>. To send flowers or a memorial gift to the family of “Leia R. Bennett” please visit our Sympathy Store.

# Cemetery Details

**Private**

## Previous Events

### Visitation

MAY 16. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Star of Hope Full Gospel Baptist Church  
417 W Romeo B Garrett Ave  
peoria, IL

### Celebration of Life

MAY 16. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (CT)

Star of Hope Full Gospel Baptist Church  
417 W Romeo B Garrett Ave  
peoria, IL

# Tribute Wall

CJ

“ *BEAUTIFUL QUEEN you will be truly missed here. I KNOW your light is still shining right along with THAT SMILE 🙏*



Conswalla Johnson - May 20, 2025 at 12:02 AM

DR

“ *Donna Ross lit a candle in memory of Ms. Leia R. Bennett*



Donna Ross - May 19, 2025 at 02:19 PM



“ *May your soul be at peace Ms. Leia*



Tequila Gamble - May 19, 2025 at 07:57 AM

SM

“ *Siobhan Morris lit a candle in memory of Ms. Leia R. Bennett*



Siobhan Morris - May 17, 2025 at 12:38 AM



“ *Cresha Mayze lit a candle in memory of Ms. Leia R. Bennett*



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**Cresha Mayze** - May 16, 2025 at 07:34 PM

MR

“ *May God give strength and prayers and peace and comfort to the immediate family of Leia Bennett ! Jesus*



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**Minister Roslyn** - May 16, 2025 at 02:47 PM

SH

“ *Shari lit a candle in memory of Ms. Leia R. Bennett*



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**Shari** - May 16, 2025 at 01:49 PM

MM

“ *Rest in peace Leia u lived a good life rest in peace in the Lord arms love u and the whole family. Marnita Mcdonald*

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**marnita mcdonald** - May 16, 2025 at 11:15 AM

KK

“ *Kimberlyne K. purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Ms. Leia R. Bennett.*



Kimberlyne K. - May 16, 2025 at 02:44 AM

RF

“ *Rena Webster Horton & Family lit a candle in memory of Ms. Leia R. Bennett*



Rena Webster Horton & Family - May 15, 2025 at 11:16 PM

RS

“ *Ronnye Smith lit a candle in memory of Ms. Leia R. Bennett*



Ronnye Smith - May 15, 2025 at 04:00 PM

TF

“ *The Dismuke family purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Ms. Leia R. Bennett.*



The Dismuke family - May 15, 2025 at 12:49 PM

CW

“ Catherine Randle Watson lit a candle in memory of Ms. Leia R. Bennett



Catherine Randle Watson - May 15, 2025 at 04:07 AM

SA

“ Rest in Paradise Leia I Love ❤️ You so much your Beautiful presence will truly be missed!!! Heaven truly has an Angel 💔



Sarah - May 15, 2025 at 12:42 AM

BE

Bernice n' Brice Bennett

Berni e - May 15, 2025 at 12:44 AM

CR

“ Corine Roberson lit a candle in memory of Ms. Leia R. Bennett



Corine Roberson - May 14, 2025 at 09:43 PM

CR

Sending my condolences to my family during this time of Bereavement. Ms. Leia R. Bennett RIP

Corine Roberson - May 14, 2025 at 09:45 PM

RF

“ May God keep you in bless you through this difficult times,, nothing is no more harder than losing , someone who you love and cherish.. my condolence as the well it's a family.. may God give you strength.. God bless you always 🙏

Robyn Furlow - May 14, 2025 at 01:07 PM

YG

“ Yolanda Gude lit a candle in memory of Ms. Leia R. Bennett



Yolanda Gude - May 14, 2025 at 10:48 AM

CK

“ Leila was a good friend, her smile was so contagious you couldn't help but LOVE her, This girl would have you cracking up at all times she definitely had a sense of humor I just remember our high school yrs of cutting up some times and we would be looking over at each other in detention hall like what u in here for n we both started laughing, we made our PHS years fun, I last saw her in March still the same Leia never changed always smiling and that's how i will always remember her, ...RIH BEAUTIFUL 🙏🙏🙏❤️



Charla King-Jackson - May 14, 2025 at 10:05 AM

QJ

“ Quenesha, Jessica, Jarvis purchased the Blue Caribbean Bouquet for the family of Ms. Leia R. Bennett.



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**Quenesha, Jessica, Jarvis** - May 14, 2025 at 09:50 AM

RM

“ Sending my condolences To The Bennett family during this time of Bereavement.  
From:  
Roxanne McGhee & Star of Hope Family



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**Roxanne McGhee** - May 14, 2025 at 01:56 AM



“ Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of Ms. Leia R. Bennett.



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May 13, 2025 at 06:06 PM

NC

“ Love you always get your rest Sis! 💔



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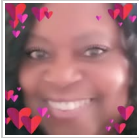
**Neicy Cagle** - May 13, 2025 at 05:41 PM

RH

“ *Rena Webster Horton lit a candle in memory of Ms. Leia R. Bennett*



Rena Webster Horton - May 13, 2025 at 01:51 PM



“ *Darlene Horton lit a candle in memory of Ms. Leia R. Bennett*



Darlene Horton - May 13, 2025 at 06:39 AM

JL

“ *I can remember when Leia and I used to get dress to go out. She always said " girl you so slow, I've been ready" We had some of the greatest times. I'm glad I had you as my friend you were always fun. I will miss seeing your beautiful smile and your kind heart. Rest in Heaven my friend. Love you and you will be missed.*

Jamelle Lilly - May 11, 2025 at 09:54 PM

LI

*Leia was a wonderful friend of my sister. They were friends for years. She always smiling and so pleasant. RIP 🌸🌸🌸🌸❤️*

Lisa - May 13, 2025 at 02:09 PM

CL

“ Carolyn Lobdell lit a candle in memory of Ms. Leia R. Bennett



Carolyn Lobdell - May 10, 2025 at 05:01 AM

EG

“ E Green lit a candle in memory of Ms. Leia R. Bennett



E Green - May 09, 2025 at 02:54 PM



“ Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of Ms. Leia R. Bennett.



May 09, 2025 at 02:30 PM

CC

“ Corey Cornish lit a candle in memory of Ms. Leia R. Bennett



Corey Cornish - May 09, 2025 at 05:14 AM

CB

“ *Leia Bennett!( I always called her whole name)Take your rest beautiful , I will always remember your beautiful smile & kisses my girl❤️ Definitely praying for the family, Love you all 🙏*



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**Chere Gordon ( Blocker) - May 08, 2025 at 04:16 PM**

DB

“ *Dorothea Banks-Burse lit a candle in memory of Ms. Leia R. Bennett*



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**Dorothea Banks-Burse - May 08, 2025 at 02:02 PM**