



Essie Gertrude James

November 3, 1932 - September 11, 2021

Essie Gertrude James (Atkinson) age 88 of Springdale, Arkansas passed away on Saturday, September 11, 2021. She was born in Elk City, Oklahoma on November 3, 1932 to William Frank and Golda Lea Atkinson. Preceded in death by her parents, sister Lillie James and a daughter Jona Lea. She is survived by a son Harmon James Jr and daughter-in-law Carolyn James; daughter Karen O'Neal and significant other Terry Luther; brothers James Atkinson, Elmer Atkinson, Joe Atkinson, Eugene Atkinson, Jerry Atkinson; nieces Mary Jaro, Sheila Hatfield, Marsha Barger; a nephew Gary James and loved by many grandchildren, great grandchildren, and great great grandchildren.

Essie couldn't wait to attend elementary school at Pilgrims Rest in Springdale graduating in 1946. While she wanted to attend high school there wasn't enough money at the time. She and her brother went to work at Mayfield Canning Company to be able to pay for her first year of high school. At the time high school took 3 years but it took her 5 because she worked for short stints in drug stores in Tulsa, Oklahoma and Fort Smith, Arkansas to pay for her education. Graduating as an honor student from Huntsville State Vocational School in May of 1952. That same year Essie married Harmon "Jack" James. She later received her Certificate in Bookkeeping from Springdale High School in 1968. After working for many years as a bookkeeper she retired in 1996 from Mildred's Tax Service in Springdale. Essie loved quilting, embroidery, crocheting doilies and afghans, sewing vests

for Springdale Riding Club and saddle blankets for Springdale Quadrille. Her belief in education was so great, she as a young mother helped raise money to expand the Pilgrims Rest School. She liked watching football, golf, movies, and horse racing. She enjoyed cooking, reading, writing letters, working sudoku puzzles and collecting recipes, cookbooks, and hens. Her greatest attributes were her intelligence, sense of humor, kindness, willingness to jump in to fix anything and once designed her own home. Growing up with very little she learned to be very innovative with the little they had on hand. She had the ability to repurpose things which was the product of taking good care of all the things she had. Her home was open to anyone and the dinner table always had enough for everyone.

Funeral Services will be at 10 a.m., Thursday, September 16, 2021, at Sisco Funeral Chapel, Springdale, Ark. Burial will be immediately following at Friendship Cemetery, Springdale, Ark. Visitation will be 4-6 p.m. Wednesday September 15 at Sisco Funeral Chapel.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made on behalf of Essie James to the Springdale Fire Department, 417 Holcomb, 2nd Floor, Springdale, AR 72764.

Online condolences may be left at www.siscofuneral.com

Cemetery Details

Friendship Cemetery

1980 E. Friendship Road
Springdale, AR 72764
<http://www.friendship-cemetery.com>

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP **15**. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

Sisco Funeral Chapel
705 West Meadow
Springdale, AR 72764
(479) 751-4577
siscofuneralchapel@gmail.com
<https://www.siscofuneral.com>

Funeral Service

SEP **16**. 10:00 AM (CT)

Sisco Funeral Chapel
705 West Meadow
Springdale, AR 72764
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Tribute Wall



“ *Essie Gertrude James*

January 21, 2023 at 02:29 PM



“ *Penelope lit a candle in memory of Essie Gertrude James*



Penelope - September 15, 2021 at 11:44 AM



May your hearts be comforted in this time and know you are blessed

Penelope - September 15, 2021 at 11:45 AM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Essie Gertrude James.*



September 15, 2021 at 09:10 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Essie Gertrude James.*



September 15, 2021 at 03:51 AM

VF

“ I’m so happy I got to stay in touch with this beautiful cousin all these years. She was a joy to be around and brought smiles and love with each visit. So many fond memories throughout the years. Rest In Peace Bug Prayers, love and comfort for the family.

Vickie Starr Finch - September 15, 2021 at 01:28 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Essie Gertrude James.



September 14, 2021 at 09:01 PM

MB

“ I thank God that he aloud me to spend the last few weeks with Ms. Essis. She was a sweet lady. I will miss her very much. Rest in peace my love.

Monica Biagas - September 14, 2021 at 07:27 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Essie Gertrude James.



September 14, 2021 at 06:30 PM