



Ola Mae Senter

January 28, 1931 - August 28, 2022

Born on the 28th of January in St. Louis, Missouri under the astrological sign of Aquarius (Adventurous, Innovative, Rebellious, Independent, Humanitarian, Original...). Ola took the reins of life with deep and abiding faith and enthusiastically rode it until the early morning hours of August 28, 2022.

Ola was the seventh child of 10 children (5 sisters and 4 brothers) born to the marital union of Marcellus W. Watkins and Lucille Settlers Watkins.

Fiercely independent and self-motivated along with nurturing from her family, Ola developed academically, socially, and spiritually to triumph over life's challenges. After graduating from Sumner High School, she completed a secretarial school program at Los Angeles Business College in CA and later excelled at elective courses at St. Louis Community College to help advance in her career.

Ola enjoyed a distinguished 30 - year career with the US Government; working for the Veterans Administration for most of that time supporting veterans as a benefits counselor. Her diligence, concern, and professionalism earned her multiple awards as well as the respect of her clients, colleagues, and associates alike.

Deeply committed to promoting family unity, she married Harold E. Senter in

May of 1956 and created their own little circle of love with the addition of their 3 children, Brandon, Karolyn (Pidge), and Mark. The circle was expanded to later include her two beloved granddaughters, Lauren and April, and just when she thought her work as a grandmother was done, Riley and Reina made her great.

Ola's spiritual journey began early in the AME church of her parents, she converted to Catholicism as a young adult and raised her family in that tradition until she found her permanent spiritual home at Unity Christ Church devoting her life to living in accordance with the teachings of Christ. Ola was active in her community with altruistic pursuits as well as social engagements and fun with the Swinging seniors dance performance group from Monsanto YMCA before slowing down.

Preceding her in death: Her parents, 8 of her 9 siblings (Lewin Watkins, Evelyn Clay, Imogene Watkins, Marcellus Watkins Jr., Laverne Pollard, Lucille (Penny) Baker, Ethel Walton & Calvin Watkins), husband, Harold Senter, and firstborn son, Brandon Senter.

Holding her in our hearts forever: Daughter, Dr. Karolyn Senter, Son, Mark Senter, Daughter in Law, Connie J. Senter, Granddaughters, Lauren Senter, April Senter Ratliff (Mario), Great granddaughters, Riley J. Ratliff and Reina C. Ratliff. Brother, Melvin J. Watkins. Nieces, Geraldine Ford, Diane Keys, and Donna Hood. God Daughter, Kara Keys, and a host of other beloved nieces, nephews, cousins, in-laws, and friends.

To send flowers or a memorial gift to the family of Ola Mae Senter please visit our Sympathy Store.

Arrangements by Valhalla Chapel.

Cemetery Details

Bellerive Gardens Cemetery

740 North Mason Road
St. Louis, MO 63141
(314) 434-3933
info@bellerivegardens.com
<https://bellerivegardens.com>

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP 3. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Unity Christ Church
33 Skinker Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63105

Service

SEP 3. 11:00 AM (CT)

Unity Christ Church
33 Skinker Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63105

Tribute Wall

DM

“ When I lost my Nonna, Ethel Walton, Aunt Ola Mae came to visit Los Angeles for her funeral. I can still hear her contagious laugh, and I remember loving the sound of her voice because it sounded so much like my Nonna’s. She brightened every room and lifted everyone’s spirits, and I always loved her for checking in with my Mom and making her laugh over the years. Their phone calls were always hilarious!

On Mother’s Day, I launched a line of candles inspired by the women I love most. Lucille Watkins and Ethel Walton inspired two of the scents. I’ll have to blend one for Ola Mae, too! Without Lucille, the world would never have been blessed with a spirit as beautiful as Ola Mae’s, so I’m burning her candle all day today. I’m so grateful to Lucille (Muddy) for this beautiful family. They made my Mom the compassionate, beautiful, strong, hilarious and talented woman she is today, and I am forever grateful. Thank you for caring for my Mom the selfless way you did—she’s passed it onto me. {{hugs}}

I know she is so happy to be reunited with her family in heaven, and her legacy will live on forever. Love you, Aunt Mae! Thank you for your light and love. xo



Dayna Marie - September 02, 2022 at 09:36 AM

DH

“ There are so many memories of my beloved Aunt...but when I was about twelve, I remember telling her “Aunt Mae, one day we’ll just be two old ladies together!” And we were! I’m sixty five now and over the past ten years I would share my romance reads with her and laugh over her feedback: “This one was a little pornographic Donna-Girl, but it was good...I gotta let Diane read it!” I will love you forever, Aunt Mae! Give mom a hug for me!



Donna Hood - September 02, 2022 at 09:23 AM