



## Dr. Judith E. Lyles

December 13, 1941 - January 19, 2021

Dr. Judith (Judy) E. Lyles, age 79, formerly of Mattoon, Charleston, and Champaign IL, left her earthly home into the arms of Our Heavenly Father surrounded by her loving family at 10:00 pm, Tuesday, January 19, 2021 at her residence in Champaign, IL.

A memorial service in her honor will take place at 12:00 PM, Wednesday, January 27, 2021 at Mitchell-Jerdan Funeral Home, 1200 Wabash Avenue, Mattoon, IL 61938; Reverend TJ Jackson will officiate. A committal service will immediately follow at Dodge Grove Cemetery in Mattoon, IL. The visitation will be from 10:00 AM until the time of service at the funeral home.

Judy was born December 13, 1941 in Mattoon, IL, to the late James Roy and Roberta Ruth (Hopgood) Williams. She married James Walter Lyles Sr. on November 29, 1959 in Mattoon, IL; he preceded her in death on December 18, 2003. She is survived by three children; Tina Lyles Cowan of Smyrna, GA, James W. Lyles Jr. (Deneen DeMarie) of Urbana, IL, Sirena Williams of Charlotte, NC; four grandchildren Rashida, Jessica (Quincey), Anthony and Keyana; five great-grandchildren; Iyana, Liam, Leena, Lee and Layla; one brother, James D. Williams and wife Sandra of Mattoon, IL.

Judy was very proud of her three children, four grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren. Her husband of thirty-eight years and her parents, preceded her in death in 2003, are now reunited in Christ. Although this was a difficult period in her life, she continued to fulfill her God-given mission of telling others about the love of Jesus and to give God all the glory.

At age nine, Judy accepted Jesus Christ as her Lord and Savior. She diligently and continuously sought to please God. She walked by faith that God knows what's best and let Him do the impossible. She was committed to personal bible study and obeying the Word of God! Most importantly, she shared her faith and the power of God with others as a witness of His Love. As a faithful member of Second Baptist Church of Wheaton, IL and Second Missionary Baptist Church of Mattoon, IL, Judy served on many committees, she faithfully served: Sunday School Teacher, Building Fund, Church Clerk, and Secretary.

Judy's professional educational background includes 30 years in Higher Education. Receiving a Master's Degree in Guidance and Counseling from Eastern Illinois University, and a Doctorate in Education from the University of Illinois in Vocational Technical Education, since 1988. Dr. Lyles was most proud of working with Dr. Fredrick Banks obtaining a grant for Higher Education Cooperation for Minority Teacher Identification and Enrichment Program. She strived to encourage others to always seek an education and do the same for others. Dr. Lyles also privately counseled others while working at EIU.

During her leisure, she was a worldwide traveler, co-chair of the SBC book club, enjoyed hosting formal teas at her home and spending time with her grand and great grandchildren. She loved to listen to some Nat King Cole! Each of us will personally cherish all the memories she created, the loving care she provided, and her radiant smile emitting the love of God forever engraved in our hearts. She leaves behind her most cherished scriptures from the bible, Philippians 4:7 "And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." Phil 4:13 "I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me."

For those who are unable to attend the services, a live tribute of her life will be available at [www.mitchell-jerdan.com](http://www.mitchell-jerdan.com) or [www.facebook.com/mitchelljerdanfuneralhome](https://www.facebook.com/mitchelljerdanfuneralhome) .

Please visit [www.mitchell-jerdan.com](http://www.mitchell-jerdan.com) or [www.facebook.com/mitchelljerdanfuneralhome](https://www.facebook.com/mitchelljerdanfuneralhome) to light a candle in her honor or share a memory with the family.

# Cemetery Details

## Dodge Grove Cemetery

917 North 22nd Street  
Mattoon, IL 61938

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN 27. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Mitchell-Jerdan Funeral Home Ltd.  
1200 Wabash Ave  
Mattoon, IL 61938  
(217) 234-8828  
[contact@mitchelljerdan.com](mailto:contact@mitchelljerdan.com)  
<https://www.mitchell-jerdan.com/>

## Service

JAN 27. 12:00 PM (CT)

Mitchell-Jerdan Funeral Home Ltd.  
1200 Wabash Ave  
Mattoon, IL 61938  
(217) 234-8828  
[contact@mitchelljerdan.com](mailto:contact@mitchelljerdan.com)  
<https://www.mitchell-jerdan.com/>

# Tribute Wall



“ Mitchell-Jerdan Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Dr. Judith E. Lyles



Mitchell-Jerdan Funeral Home - January 27, 2021 at 11:43 AM



“ Dr. Judith E. Lyles

October 08, 2023 at 07:40 PM



“ Tina, wishing you peace to heal your heart and bring you comfort. Remember and rejoice. Roz Drake

Rosalind Drake - January 30, 2021 at 07:28 AM



“ Shirley Miller lit a candle in memory of Dr. Judith E. Lyles



Shirley Miller - January 29, 2021 at 12:39 PM

PW

“ Pam Williams lit a candle in memory of Dr. Judith E. Lyles



Pam Williams - January 27, 2021 at 05:58 PM

PW

*I will miss our Tea Time I spent with Dr. Lyles and the other golden girls. She shared so much wisdom and knowledge with me that I will cherish forever. Rest in Paradise girlfriend.*

Pam Williams - January 27, 2021 at 06:01 PM

SI

*Lol she enjoyed your company. I appreciate you stopping by to see her and have tea.*

Sirena - January 30, 2021 at 05:49 PM

JC

“ Dear Tina, Jimmy, Serena and families,  
I am so sorry for your loss. I have fun memories of Judy. We all shared a hotel room in Tulsa, Ok at the camp meeting of Kenneth Hagar Sr in 1980. You all are in my thoughts and prayers. Love Julia

Julia Cooper - January 27, 2021 at 04:29 PM

SI

*Thank you so much for the prayers. Mom enjoyed that camp meeting.*

Sirena - January 30, 2021 at 05:47 PM

RJ

“ *Rev Diane Jones lit a candle in memory of Dr. Judith E. Lyles*



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**Rev Diane Jones** - January 27, 2021 at 03:04 PM

SI

*Thanks*

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**Sirena** - January 30, 2021 at 05:50 PM

BC

“ *I started my 20 year career at EIU under the supervision of Dr. Lyles and Dr. Banks as office secretary/manager for the HECA Program. Dr. Lyles was a wonderful person to work for. I will always be appreciative of her guidance and direction as I started my campus journey. I retired in May 2020 but will cherish the fond memories of my job experience wih Dr. Lyles. My thoughts and prayers are with the family.*  
*Betty Carr*

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**Betty Carr** - January 27, 2021 at 12:48 PM

AY

“ Dr. Lyles was full of life and light. She painstakingly paved a way for others through her mentoring and advocacy. I was fortunate enough to be a student of Dr. Lyles at EIU. She spent many hours after class talking to myself and many others. A few years ago, I taught the same class I took from her in my program and I thought of her wisdom and her advice each and every week. I'm so sorry for your loss. The world was a better place with her in it. Thank you, Dr. Lyles, for opening my eyes, for your patient support and instruction, and for the legacy you leave behind. Your spirit will live on through all the lives you touched!

Angela Yoder - January 27, 2021 at 10:14 AM

AM

Sirens and family Ms Judith was a beautiful lady inside and out she always had kind words with a big smile. Praying for comfort and strength for the family. I love you 🙏❤️

Annie Mahone-Epps - January 29, 2021 at 12:05 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dr. Judith E. Lyles.



January 26, 2021 at 02:17 PM

AM

“ Alicia McCoy purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Dr. Judith E. Lyles.



Alicia McCoy - January 26, 2021 at 12:50 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Dr. Judith E. Lyles.*



January 26, 2021 at 10:57 AM

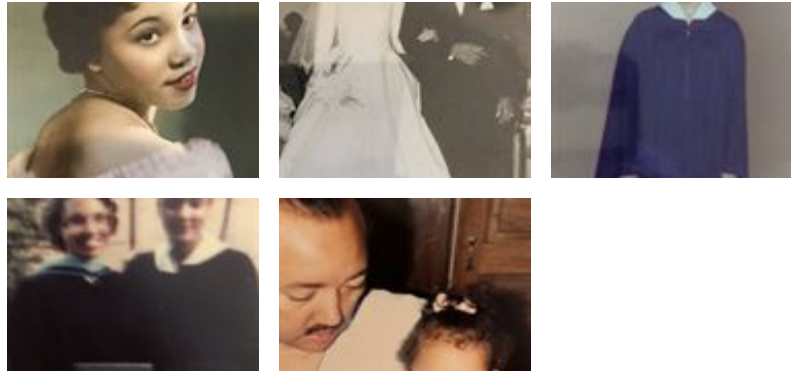


“ *During our lives, we are drawn to certain people because of the love they have for others. Judy was one of those special people. She knew her purpose and she lived her purpose; sharing God’s love with all she encountered. Judy opened her heart and her home to me as my cousin and friend. Her encouragement, her love, her wisdom and her laughter; I will dearly miss. I will always cherish the time we spent together and the impact she had on my life. Debbie Thurmond*

**Deborah Thurmond** - January 25, 2021 at 07:41 PM



“ *71 files added to the album Life Tributes*



**Mitchell-Jerdan Funeral Home** - January 25, 2021 at 01:31 PM

JR

“ *Dr. Lyles taught one of my Graduate classes. I have fond memories of her as my professor and mentor! Rest in peace.* ”



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**Jennifer Reed** - January 25, 2021 at 12:28 PM



“ *Treasured Lilies Spray was purchased for the family of Dr. Judith E. Lyles.* ”



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January 25, 2021 at 08:04 AM



“ *Finest Farewell Spray was purchased for the family of Dr. Judith E. Lyles.* ”



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January 24, 2021 at 05:20 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Dr. Judith E. Lyles.* ”



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January 23, 2021 at 11:42 AM

BP

“ I met Judy many years ago when I started teaching at Eastern Illinois University. She was a tremendous help to me that first year when I was trying to find my way around, and she became a good friend during the years that we worked together. I was impressed with her ability to deal optimistically with her many life challenges. It was obvious that her faith sustained her. May she rest in peace.

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**Barbara M Powell** - January 23, 2021 at 10:34 AM

PM

“ I was fortunate to not only take her class, but become her graduate assistant. She took every experience she had and used it as love and light to fight so that those after her did not have the same struggle. She touched and changed so many hearts, turning them into warriors for change like she was. I am humbled to say that I am one of those touched and changed. It wasn't just me, Im sure she changed everyone she met. I think that's what finally gave me comfort when I heard of her passing. Knowing that she is gone from this earth physically, but still living strong in all of the hearts she changed and healed.....and now in the hearts that are being changed by her friends, family and students. I have always referenced her in my mind when Im lost or have doubt. I always will. Thank you for your light. May we all follow your example. Live in peace, Live in Power, Dr. Lyles  
-Patrick McKee, EIU Graduate, Chicago Illinois

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**Patrick McKee** - January 23, 2021 at 09:01 AM

JN

“ I am so sorry about Judy’s passing. We grew up together as neighbors after being born only six days apart. We started Columbian School together and both skipped second grade. I talked to her last at our 50th high school reunion. I told her how fortunate I was to grow up with someone different from me. Her response was that she came that night to be a blessing to someone, and that I was a blessing to her. I will never forget her, and will see her again in heaven. Rest In Peace.

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**Jerry L. Neff** - January 22, 2021 at 08:08 PM

GL

“ Judy was my friend and colleague at EIU. She was a woman of grace and dignity. I appreciate her mentorship and the love she shared with her students, friends and colleagues. With many great memories, Dr. Gloria Leitschuh

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**Gloria Leitschuh** - January 22, 2021 at 05:13 PM

DC

“ Our deepest condolence go out to our cousins Tina, James and Sirena in the loss of our aunt and your mother. Aunt Judy was a special aunt, who always had a word of wisdom to share and always encouraged us to strive to obtain the highest education you could achieve. She loved her family and extended family. She loved her some Uncle Jim and she stuck by him to the day the Lord called him home. She will be missed down here but heaven has gained another angel. Thank you all for the care you had for your mom during her good days and doing her bad days. You all will receive a extra crown for the care you gave to mom. We love you all and if anything we can do today and/or in the future please don't hesitate to reach out. Aunt Judy was the last surviving aunt or uncle on that side of the family.

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**Dennis & Virginia Cooper** - January 22, 2021 at 03:25 PM

JG

“ Dr Lyles opened her home to me when mine burned 2 weeks before I was due to move out of state. My condolences to the family. A beautiful spirit has left us. ❤️

Judy Griffin - January 22, 2021 at 03:18 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Dr. Judith E. Lyles.



January 22, 2021 at 12:15 PM

SW

“ Mother Judy, I will miss you when the doors of SBC Reopen, I enjoyed the time we had laughing before Sunday services, Love you Rest in Peace. SBC/Usher S.Warfield



Shirley Warfield - January 22, 2021 at 11:54 AM

LK

“ Judy and I were colleagues at EIU. We worked together, presented at conferences together, and traveled together. She had many "best" friends, and I like to think that I was one on them. I have so many memories of her, and most of them include laughter and joy. Hardly a day went by without Judy finding something to laugh about or to find something to appreciate. I am so blessed to have known her, and my life is so much richer because of her!

lynda kayser - January 22, 2021 at 10:40 AM

LK

“ Lynda Kayser purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Dr. Judith E. Lyles.



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**Lynda Kayser** - January 22, 2021 at 10:22 AM

GG

“ I went through Mattoon schools with Judy and I know she mentioned me in some of her classes at EIU. I lost track of her after high school but I remember her as a very special person and friend.

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**Gary Groff** - January 22, 2021 at 09:24 AM

DU

“ I am forever grateful for Dr. Lyles and her commitment to her students. Her courses changed me and formed me into who I am today. I wanted to write to her and tell her about my position at the Hawaii Department of Education as a Restorative Practices coordinator revolving my work around equity and inclusion, but I could not find an address. Thank you Dr. Lyles for living out your beautiful self and sharing your compassion and truth with us all.  
Dulcy Dawson  
EIU Alum  
Kailua Kona, Hawaii

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**Dulcy** - January 22, 2021 at 03:59 AM

CL

“ *What a blessing Judy was in my life. She was such a giving, loving, caring person. When I moved to Indianapolis, we always stayed in touch, and visited. Such a joy to be with her and celebrate her birthday (Dec 13th), and then spend my birthday (Jan 13th) with my beloved friend. Oh, the fond precious memories. She was a phenomenal mighty woman of God. You fought a good fight, my dear friend. Well done! Claudia*

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**Claudia Lane** - January 21, 2021 at 11:34 PM

TW

“ *The Season Saints & Women Book Club of SBC Wheaton purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Dr. Judith E. Lyles.*



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**The Season Saints & Women Book Club of SBC Wheaton** -  
January 21, 2021 at 09:25 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Dr. Judith E. Lyles.*



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January 21, 2021 at 08:24 PM

SV

“ *Stella Vickers purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Dr. Judith E. Lyles.*



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**Stella Vickers** - January 21, 2021 at 06:52 PM

SV

“ *Cousin Judy was the choir director and piano player at the church that i was a member of. I was in the choir.*

*When i was older and lived in California and visited Mattoon, Judy had a dinner in my honor. That was so nice of her.*

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**Stella A Vickers** - January 21, 2021 at 06:34 PM

RA

“ *I remember very well those long drives to inspire minority students to pursue education. She was not only a professor but mentor and friend. Not only did I work with her I attended the same church. I was able to see her take care of her parents during their latter years. My family would visit and we would have tea parties. She was so classy. Condolences to her family I am glad she was in my life.*

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**RALPH** - January 21, 2021 at 06:09 PM

JK

*I went to school with Judy at Longfellow School in Mattoon, Illinois. She was always so kind and friendly to everyone. Sending prayers to her family. May she rest in peace.*

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**Judy A Karpus** - January 22, 2021 at 09:06 AM

CM

*Dr. Lyles was my professor while I was pursuing a guidance and counseling degree at Eastern Illinois University. From day one, when she entered the classroom, I knew I was going to love her. And I did. She had a brilliant smile, and behind that smile was wisdom and knowledge beyond belief. She taught her students so much more than the words that were printed in our textbooks. She taught us love and respect through beautiful stories. Dr. Lyles inspired me to use that same love and respect in my own career as a teacher and later, as a principal. May her legacy live through all the hearts and minds that she touched throughout her lifetime.*

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**Cynthia Bankson McChristy** - January 22, 2021 at 10:21 AM

HL

*Dr. Lyles was my professor and colleague at Eastern Illinois University. I am so sorry to hear of her passing. My prayers and thoughts go out to all of her family during this difficult time. With care, Heidi Larson*

Heidi Larson - January 22, 2021 at 12:32 PM

CD

*I am saddened to hear of Judy's passing. Thoughts and prayers for her family.  
Connie Donley*

Connie J Donley - January 22, 2021 at 10:46 PM

CW

*Dr. Lyles was my teacher at EIU and was such a blessing to all. She was so important to my development as a counselor. I will never forget her words of wisdom and her stories. What an amazing lady who shared her love with us all.*

Carey Wood - January 23, 2021 at 08:44 AM

EA

*We, the Grief and Loss Ministry of Second Baptist Church, Wheaton, Illinois send our condolences to the family of our beloved Mother Judith Lyles.*

ELOIS T ANDERSON - January 25, 2021 at 10:09 AM

SB

*A beautiful woman, inside & out. It is my privilege to have known her. Sending condolences to her family and friends.*

*Susan B.  
Anthology*

Susan B - January 25, 2021 at 10:17 AM

DT

*In 1976 I had Mrs. Lyles as a typing teacher in high school. That class had a huge impact on my life, and it wasn't the typing skills that I refer to. Mrs. Lyles put emphasis on a positive attitude. I did not have a positive attitude early in the class. One day before a typing test I decided to try this positive attitude she had been repeatedly talking about. Well, --it worked. It has worked ever since. She had the biggest impact on my life. I tried a few years ago to find her and thank her. I was un successful. I will thank her now and hope she rests in peace. My sincerest sympathy for your loss. It was a big loss for many,*  
*Denise (Walters) Terven*

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**Denise Terven** - January 27, 2021 at 09:19 AM

MA

*I will miss you MS. JUDY*

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**Mildred Agee** - January 30, 2021 at 05:11 PM

TF

*We were fortunate to meet Judy late in her life. What a sweet, lovely woman. She befriended my mother-in-law, Janet, at their assisted living residence. We were so happy that mom met such a special spirit. Even holding hands during movie night! We are so very sorry to learn of her passing. Our hearts go out to her loving family. Her light shown bright and will not be forgotten.*

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**The Kuzanek Family** - March 16, 2021 at 11:27 PM