



## Mrs. Clara L. (Billins) Brooks Liggins

April 15, 1935 - June 8, 2021

UTICA - Mrs. Clara Lee (Billins) Brooks Liggins, 86, peacefully entered into eternal rest on Tuesday, June 8, 2021 with her family by her side.

Born on April 15, 1935 in Unadilla, Georgia, Clara was the daughter of the late Lonnie and Hazel (Washington) Billins. She completed her education in Utica after relocating with her family at the age of 10.

Clara's culinary skills and love of preparing meals found her working as a cook at Broadacres Nursing Home before retiring after 35 years. Finding retirement too tame for her, Clara returned to the kitchen for the next 10 years as the head cook at Loretto Nursing Center before ending her working career at the age of 80 with the Utica City School District.

Clara was a classy dresser who enjoyed reading, listening to music, traveling, and visiting the casino. But more than anything, she loved preparing meals for and spending time with her family. Clara loved the Lord and was an active and devoted member of St. Paul's Church serving faithfully for over 70 years.

A treasured matriarch, Clara was a devoted and loving wife, mother, grandmother, sister, aunt, and cousin whose generous and loving spirit will be missed by many. Her beautiful life will be forever honored and cherished in the lives of those fortunate enough to know her.

Clara leaves to honor her memory, her husband John Liggins Sr. with whom she had a beautiful and fulfilling life, as well as her 11 children, Valerie Bennett (David), Margaret Lilley, Joyce Enoch (Ervin), Clareitha Titus (Richard), Russell Brooks, Timothy Brooks, Donna Brooks (Anthony), Jackie Brooks

(Cynthia), Mark Brooks, James Brooks (Alsarina), and Eric Brooks. Clara also leaves to fulfill and continue her legacy 37 grandkids, 69 great-grandkids, and 22 great-great-grandkids all of whom she really enjoyed spending time with while telling them stories about their family's history. She also leaves her step-children, Rosi Liggins Jones, Pam Liggins, and John Liggins Jr. who she has always cherished as her own, all of Freemont, Ohio.

In addition, she leaves to cherish her memory her 11 brothers and sisters, Dorothy Brown, Willie Billins, Leroy Billins, Betty Stokes, Wilson Billins, Donald Billins, Stanley Billins, Molly Simms, Clifford Billins, David Billins and Michael Billins; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and goddaughter Shena Billins-Patterson. Clara was predeceased by her parents; brothers, Lonnie Billins Jr, Jackie Billins, and Richard Billins; grandson, Aaron Brooks; granddaughter, Clara Gayle Brooks; great-grandsons, Dana Jermaine Wilson, and Xavier Michael Harris; step-daughter, Katherine Scott; and son-in-law, Thomas Lilley, Sr.

The family would like to acknowledge and thank Tanya Nicholas, close family friend and health care aide. Thank you to MVHS at St. Elizabeth's Medical Center and the ICU Nurses for their compassionate care.

Calling hours will be held on Tuesday, June 15, 2021 from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm at St. Paul's Baptist Church, 219 Leah St., Utica with funeral service to follow immediately after visitation. Face masks are required and all COVID protocols will be observed.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUN **15**. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

St. Paul's Baptist Church  
219 Leah Street  
Utica, NY

## Home Going Service

JUN **15**. 12:00 PM (ET)

St. Paul's Baptist Church  
219 Leah Street  
Utica, NY

# Tribute Wall

JS

“ *Cousin Clara,  
I was saddened to hear of her transitioning, but found comfort in knowing she is now at peace and present with the Lord! I vividly remember the last time I was blessed to be in her presence, at Lena's 80th birthday celebration. She gave me the 'best' hug! I was amazed at how beautiful she looked and also how much she looked liked Aunt Hazel (her mom) and Aunt Clyde (my mom). A Beautiful Combination! Love and prayers to 'all' of my cousins. Clara, Forever Remembered, Forever Loved!*  
-Janet (Clark) Spry  
Severn, Maryland

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**Janet (Clark) Spry** - June 15, 2021 at 01:32 PM

TB

“ *Joyce and family. sorry to hear of your mom's passing. I remember how she always looked so young. May she RIP. Prayers to all. TC Boehlert*

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**TC Boehlert** - June 14, 2021 at 08:50 PM

SB

“ *My deepest and sincerest condolences to the Brooks and Liggins family. Mrs. Liggins was such a wonderful person. My mom always spoke so fondly of her. She will be deeply missed.*

*Sonya (Voss) Baugh & Family*



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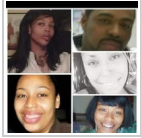
**Sonya Baugh** - June 14, 2021 at 03:16 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mrs. Clara L. (Billins) Brooks Liggins.*



June 14, 2021 at 10:36 AM



“ *Dawn Winston lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Clara L. (Billins) Brooks Liggins*



**Dawn Winston** - June 14, 2021 at 09:56 AM



*MY HEARTFELT CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILY OF CLARA...HEAVEN REJOICES AT HER ARRIVAL IN PARADISE . FAMILY PLEASE HOLD ON TO GOD'S UNCHANGING HAND AND BE ENCOURAGED BY THE LORD...SHE WAS A WOMAN OF GOD. REST AND HIGHLY FAVORITE BY THE LORD. STAND STRONG WITH THE LORD.*

**JUDY JOHNSON** - June 14, 2021 at 01:58 PM



“ *Sweet Tenderness was purchased for the family of Mrs. Clara L. (Billins) Brooks Liggins.*



June 14, 2021 at 08:12 AM

CC

“ with all our love for cousin clara.she wasn;;t just a beautiful person on the outside,but on the inside we will certainly miss such a wonderful,kind loving person.love cousin cleola earl and the rest of the washington family

cleola crawford - June 14, 2021 at 07:02 AM

LF

“ Love Nadine Parson and Hassan Jones and Family purchased the Pink Tribute Spray for the family of Mrs. Clara L. (Billins) Brooks Liggins.



Love Nadine Parson and Hassan Jones and Family - June 13, 2021 at 08:27 PM

MW

“ Our sincere condolences to the entire family of Clara Billins Brooks Liggins. May she forever Rest In Peace. Praying for comfort and peace. Mary and Bobby Wells.

Mary and Robert Wells - June 13, 2021 at 06:30 PM



“ Rainbow Of Remembrance Spray was purchased for the family of Mrs. Clara L. (Billins) Brooks Liggins.



June 13, 2021 at 10:59 AM

LS

“ *Linda Spratt lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Clara L. (Billins) Brooks Liggins*



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**Linda Spratt** - June 13, 2021 at 07:27 AM

CB

“ *Calvin M Bell lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Clara L. (Billins) Brooks Liggins*



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**Calvin m bell** - June 13, 2021 at 06:31 AM

CB

*With deepest condolences*

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**Calvin m bell** - June 13, 2021 at 06:32 AM

PW

“ *Beautiful WOMAN OF GOD  
LOVE YOU MS. CLARA*



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**Pamela Maddox Williams** - June 13, 2021 at 03:30 AM

BL

“ Bruce Clark And Tawanda Stanley. We Love lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Clara L. (Billins) Brooks Liggins



Bruce Clark and Tawanda Stanley. We love - June 13, 2021 at 02:03 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mrs. Clara L. (Billins) Brooks Liggins.



June 12, 2021 at 08:13 PM

JJ

“ JUDY JOHNSON lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Clara L. (Billins) Brooks Liggins



JUDY JOHNSON - June 12, 2021 at 05:21 PM

JJ

MY SINCERE CONDOLENCES TO YOUR ENTIRE FAMILY..YES CLARA YOU WERE A STRONG WOMAN OF GOD. HEAVEN REJOICES AT YOUR ARRIVAL. REST IN PARADISE WITH ALL YOUR LOVE ONES THAT DEPARTED BEFORE YOU. YES HEAVEN REJOICES ... GOD'S FAITHFUL SERVANT. JOB WELL DONE.....

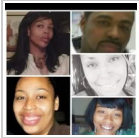
JUDY JOHNSON - June 12, 2021 at 05:47 PM

RP

“ Rose Pearson-Simmons lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Clara L. (Billins) Brooks Liggins



Rose Pearson-Simmons - June 12, 2021 at 03:18 PM



“ To the Liggins, Billins, and Brooks family Deepest sympathy for the loss of your love one. Mrs. Clara was a beautiful lady with a beautiful heart and soul. Sending hugs and prayers of comfort to all the families.



Dawn Winston - June 12, 2021 at 10:28 AM

DB

“ Destini and Dymond Billins purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Mrs. Clara L. (Billins) Brooks Liggins.



Destini and Dymond Billins - June 12, 2021 at 10:07 AM

SW

“ My deepest condolences to the family. My thoughts and prayers are with you all 🙏



Sherisse Wells - June 12, 2021 at 06:23 AM

GN

“ I am so sorry to hear of Clara's passing. I had the pleasure of working with Clara at the Utica City Schools. She was a beautiful women, fun to talk to and laugh with. My deepest condolences to her family.

*Trudy Nitti*



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**Gertrude M Nitti** - June 11, 2021 at 10:54 PM

VR

“ Our deepest condolences to the Billins,Brooks and Liggins family...Our prayers are with you all we loved Ms Clara she will definitely be miss 🙏🙏🙏



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**Vanessa Rucker** - June 11, 2021 at 10:18 PM

EM

“ My Sincere Prayers for comfort for the entire Liggins, Billins, Brown, Brooks family RIP

*Eleanor {Lois Steele} McDonald*



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**Eleanor Dolores McDonald** - June 11, 2021 at 10:13 PM

LT

“ To the family I send my condolences. She was a beautiful lady. With the memories each of you hold in your heart strengthen you.



Leola Turner/Jones - June 11, 2021 at 09:19 PM

EH

“ My condolences to the family, love ones and friends. May God grant you comfort and peace 🙏🙏🙏



Edwina Clayton Harris - June 11, 2021 at 08:48 PM



“ Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Mrs. Clara L. (Billins) Brooks Liggins.



June 11, 2021 at 08:00 PM

VS

“ To the Billins, Brooks, and Liggins Families, may God give you all the Love, Peace, and Comfort that you may need. May God wrap His loving arms around your family to give you all of His understanding. Love Vornette Simons Family, Greensboro, North Carolina



Vornette Simons - June 11, 2021 at 07:42 PM

EP

“ Ms Clara Brooks Liggins was the best friend of my mom Jessie Mae Patterson. I will always remember the great times she and my mother shared she will be truly missed! My condolences to the Billins, Brooks , and Liggins families at this time.

Eric Patterson - June 11, 2021 at 07:01 PM

CY

“ Sending my deepest condolences to the Billins, Brooks. and Liggins family. May God hold you all in his loving arms walking you thru this difficult time.



cynthia - June 11, 2021 at 06:48 PM

SH

“ Sheila H lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Clara L. (Billins) Brooks Liggins



Sheila H - June 11, 2021 at 06:21 PM

CJ

“ Thank you Mrs. Clara for being a friend to my Grandmother-Jessie Mae Patterson. Growing up the stories heard about you two and how hard you worked as Black women. Helping to provide for your families, and also to keep the family unit together. It's nice to see such beautiful souls these days and your presence will be missed. Mrs. Clara rest on, and my condolences to you family.



Cherie Johnson-Foster - June 11, 2021 at 03:52 PM

BF

“ *Brenda Fudge lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Clara L. (Billins) Brooks Liggins*



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**brenda fudge** - June 11, 2021 at 03:29 PM

LW

“ *LIZZIE WASHINGTON lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Clara L. (Billins) Brooks Liggins*



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**LIZZIE WASHINGTON** - June 11, 2021 at 02:51 PM

JJ

“ *Julie Washington Jones lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Clara L. (Billins) Brooks Liggins*



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**Julie Washington Jones** - June 11, 2021 at 10:59 AM

RG

*Love to the family gone but her memories last forever keep the faith*

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**Retha gaines** - June 12, 2021 at 09:55 AM

CP

“ Cynthia Patterson-Bivens lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Clara L. (Billins) Brooks Liggins



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Cynthia Patterson-Bivens - June 10, 2021 at 10:27 PM

PW

“ Ms Clara  
Gone but never forgotten. A beautiful spirit.  
Love you forever Ms Clara 🌹🌹🙏🏻🕊️💕💕

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Pamela Maddox Williams - June 10, 2021 at 06:12 PM

SE

*My condolences to the Brooks family. Your mother was loved by so many people including my family. We loved her so much. She had a wonderful life. May God comfort you and keep you doing your grieving . I love you all.*

*Dee Dee Maddox and family*

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Sharon Diane Etheridge - June 11, 2021 at 06:22 PM