



Mrs. Mary Dean Freeman-Butler

September 11, 1943 - April 7, 2025

UTICA – Mrs. Mary Dean Freeman-Butler, age 81, went home to be the Lord early Monday morning, April 7, 2025 surrounded by her loving family.

Born in Abbeville, Alabama on September 11, 1943 to the late Freddie and Ruby Jewel (Carter) Freeman. She graduated high school from Henry County Training School after which she relocated to Utica, New York. On August 26, 1984 she married the love of her life Milton C. Butler. They shared 29 years together before his passing on January 1, 2013.

Mrs. Butler was employed as a Certified Nurse's Aide at the Mohawk Valley Psychiatric Center from which she retired in 1997. She cared for her patients with compassion and a true concern for their wellbeing. She enjoyed conversing with them and learning about their lives while ensuring that they felt seen and cared for.

She was a loving wife, phenomenal mother, exceptional grandmother, a devoted sister, an amazing aunt and a trusted friend. She loved spending time with her family and friends who in turn enjoyed being around her. Mary Dean had an uncanny sense of humor and a warm loving manner. You could always depend on her for wise and honest advice with instructions to pray and depend on God. She had many sayings which some family members referred to as coming from The Book of Mary. She was a superb cook, family and friends enjoyed her carrot cake, pepper steak, coconut cookies, pot roast and

many other favorites. She never measured anything because as she said, "I am a Country Girl and Country Girls don't need to measure."

As a spiritual woman of great faith she was devoted to her church St. Matthew's Temple Church of God in Christ, Utica, New York where she was also a faithful member of the choir for many years. She was a choir soloist for such songs as "If I Suffer" and "He Won't Fail You". A great supporter and encourager of young people. She would often say when times were difficult or trying to "Pray and ask God to give you the strength to endure what He has allowed."

Mrs. Mary Dean Freeman-Butler leaves to cherish her memory children, Durene Brown, Christopher Freeman (Laconduas); grandchildren, Michael Brown, Khalil Chance and Kali Freeman; great-grandchildren, Naima and Rahim Zorome; godchildren, Vanessa Tucker, Justine Samuel Ampofo (Kelvin), Christine Samuel and Alan Henderson; brother, Henry C. Freeman (the late Barbara Freeman); sister, Mamie Dell Martin (the late Robert Martin); sisters-in-law, Deborah Freeman (the late Bobby Freeman), and Mary Freeman (the late Charles "Bubba" Freeman). She further leaves her memory to a host of beloved and cherished nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, cousins; in-laws; and dear friends of a lifetime.

She was additionally predeceased by her siblings whom she lovingly remembered, Everee McKay and Betty Freeman; brothers, Quincy Freeman, Willie "Billy" Freeman, Charles "Bubba" Freeman, George Freeman, Bobby Freeman, and Raymond Freeman; godson Lyle Johnson; father-in-law and mother-in-law, Henderson and Eddie (Harris) Butler.

A special and heartfelt thank you from the family goes out to The Pines at Utica Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation, Second Floor Staff for their kind and compassionate care of Mary Dean.

And from The Book of Mary, "Make good memories."

Visitation will be held on Friday, April 18, 2025 from 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., at St. Matthew's Temple Church of God in Christ, 110 Washington St. Mary's Home Going Service and Celebration of Life will commence at 12:00 p.m. at the church. Interment will take place in Forest Hill Cemetery.

Arrangements have been entrusted to the Eannace Funeral Home, Inc., 932 South St., corner of Hammond Ave.

Cemetery Details

Forest Hill Cemetery

2201 Oneida Street
Utica, NY

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 18. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

St. Matthew's Temple Church of God in Christ
110 Washington Street
utica, NY 13502

Home Going Service

APR 18. 12:00 PM (ET)

St. Matthew's Temple Church of God in Christ
110 Washington Street
utica, NY 13502

Tribute Wall

LB

“ *Lonnie Brown lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Mary Dean Freeman-Butler*



Lonnie Brown - June 08, 2025 at 04:06 PM

TC

“ *The Coalition of Blacks Against Cancer purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Mrs. Mary Dean Freeman-Butler.*



The Coalition of Blacks Against Cancer - April 16, 2025 at 03:00 PM

TF

“ *The Crenshaw Family purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Mrs. Mary Dean Freeman-Butler.*



The Crenshaw Family - April 16, 2025 at 01:47 PM

JM

“ *Jerrell, Marcus & Roy Mckay purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Mrs. Mary Dean Freeman-Butler.*



Jerrell, Marcus & Roy Mckay - April 15, 2025 at 02:12 PM

JM

“ *Jerrell, Marcus & Roy Mckay planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mrs. Mary Dean Freeman-Butler.*

Jerrell, Marcus & Roy Mckay - April 15, 2025 at 02:12 PM



“ *Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of Mrs. Mary Dean Freeman-Butler.*



April 15, 2025 at 08:07 AM

VJ

“ *Sincere condolences to the family. May Mary rest in Heaven. God's peace, Victoria*

Victoria Jones - April 14, 2025 at 01:06 PM

SR

“ *You lifted us this building, you were by far the shining light here. We all miss you so much. It definitely isnt the same with out you. RIP Beautiful*

Sara A Rost - April 14, 2025 at 10:01 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mrs. Mary Dean Freeman-Butler.*



April 14, 2025 at 07:59 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Mrs. Mary Dean Freeman-Butler.

April 14, 2025 at 07:59 AM



“ So sorry for your loss I'm glad I got to know you

elza johnson - April 14, 2025 at 07:43 AM



“ Mary you left and I didn't even know you were gone, I had been calling but I didn't get any answer, now I know why. I'm missing our talks, my heart is broken. But I know you are with God, Much love to the family. My heartfelt ❤️ deepest condolences 🙏 Ella Morrison and Family

Ella Morrison - April 13, 2025 at 11:39 PM



“ Mary Dean was a beautiful person i could talk to mary anytime we sing together with the women choir at St.matthew temple our song was if I suffer with God and we glorified God in that song can't nobody sing that song like my dear friend and sister Mary Dean love and will miss you very much praying for my church family in Utica new york Annie mae Brooks Columbia South Carolina

Annie mae brooks - April 13, 2025 at 10:51 PM

DW

“ *Deepest sympathy to the families of Mary Dean Freeman- Butler. I worked with Mary at Mohawk Valley Psychiatric Center. We live in the same apartment building. She was always a beautiful kind lady She was loved by everyone who made contact with her. I’m truly sorry for her family loss. She will be truly missed. Sending prayers of comfort and strength to her family.*



Dawn Winston - April 12, 2025 at 05:58 PM