



Pearlie Mae Cooper

January 9, 1927 - March 27, 2025

Pearlie Mae Walden Cooper was born on January 9, 1927, in Garysburg, Halifax County, North Carolina, to the late Hannis and Bettie Mae Walden. As the only daughter among five brothers, Pearlle Mae embraced her faith early in life, being baptized and becoming a member of Chapel Grove Missionary Church in Garysburg.

After graduating high school, she pursued higher education at North Carolina College at Durham (now North Carolina Central University), earning a degree in Business Administration. It was during her time there, in 1947, that she proudly joined the Alpha Chi Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

Following her graduation, Pearlle Mae relocated to Portsmouth, Virginia, where she began her career of service. While working as a waitress, she met her late husband, Lynell E. Cooper, Sr. Their union was solemnized at Mount Vernon Baptist Church, and together they had two children: Lynell E. Cooper, Jr., and Gwendolyn Cooper.

Pearlie Mae's dedication to community service flourished during her work with the Portsmouth Housing Authority. She eventually became the manager of Portsmouth Parks and Recreation, serving neighborhoods such as Dales Homes, Jeffrey Wilson Homes, and Swanson Homes. Her infectious smile and willingness to assist families in need endeared her to the community,

where she was often found engaging with children, playing baseball, walking the various neighborhoods with pep in her step and spreading kindness.

Later, Pearlie joined Noble Street Baptist Church on November 1, 1951, where she devoted her time over five decades to service as part of the Pastoral Aide and Missionary auxiliary committees. Her involvement extended to Meals on Wheels, Women's Ministry, Sunday School, Vacation Bible School and the Prayer Warriors Ministry. Her warm personality was reflected in her affectionate terms for others, such as "Sugar Lump," "Pumpkin," "Dear," "Puddin'" and "Sweet'nam," as well as her kindness in receiving car rides while walking or riding the bus around Portsmouth.

Pearlie Mae leaves behind a loving family to cherish her memory, including her daughter-in-law, Sheila Cooper of Dallas, TX; a sister-in-law, Jean Walden, of Raleigh, NC; five grandchildren, Monica Cooper of Colorado Springs, CO; Lisa Cooper Collins (Darnell) of Petersburg, VA; Christopher Cooper (Antares) of Dallas, TX; Melissa Cooper Fennell Daniel (Detrick) of Charlotte, NC; and Jared Pearson of Los Angeles, CA; four great-grandchildren, Farasha, Dakotah, Kuhl, and Cooper; one great-great-grandson, Jerome; five nieces, six nephews, and numerous cousins. Her extended family at Commonwealth Senior Living - Churchland House also mourns her loss.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her five brothers, Oscar, James, William, Earl, and J.C.; her parents-in-law, Jesse and Rosa Mae Cooper; her ex-husband, Lynell E. Cooper, Sr.; her son, Lynell E. Cooper, Jr.; her daughter, Gwendolyn Cooper; and her adoptive daughter, JoAnne Shaw Henigan.

Pearlie Mae Walden Cooper's legacy is one of love, faith, service, and community—touching the hearts of all who knew her.

Cemetery Details

Roanoke Salem Baptist Church

2757 Cornwallis Road
Garysburg, NC 27831

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 4. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

J.T. Fisher Funeral Services
1248 N. George Washington Hwy.
Chesapeake, VA 23323
(757) 487-3700
info@jtfisherfuneralservices.com
<https://www.jtfisherfuneralservices.com>

Wake Service

APR 4. 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

J.T. Fisher Funeral Services
1248 N. George Washington Hwy.
Chesapeake, VA 23323
(757) 487-3700
info@jtfisherfuneralservices.com
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Service

APR 5. 10:00 AM (ET)

Noble Street Baptist Church
100 Noble Street
Portsmouth, VA

Tribute Wall



“ J.T. Fisher Funeral Services created a Tribute Video in memory of Pearlle Mae Cooper



J. T. Fisher Funeral Services - August 14, 2025 at 03:17 PM



“ 38 files added to the album Life Tributes



J. T. Fisher Funeral Services - April 03, 2025 at 10:58 PM

RS

I've known Ms. Cooper most of my life. She was always a no nonsense person with a big heart for the Lord, her children, church and everyone else's (children).

A very special Lady! Take your rest Ms. Cooper! See you at the rapture! One sweet day!!

Ray and Marion Smith

Ray and Marion Smith - April 04, 2025 at 03:33 PM

SB

“ Ms. Cooper touched many young and old people lives in multiple neighborhood communities, J-Dub especially. I can remember when I was coming up in the projects and she saw any of us out of place doing something wrong, she would put us in our respectable place. She will forever be in my thoughts and prayers for her caring heart and spirit that help keeping me on the right path. May God continue to bless the Cooper family in the days ahead.

R/

Steven Baker

Steven Baker - April 03, 2025 at 06:39 PM

NC

“ Natalie Cherry purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Pearlie Mae Cooper.



Natalie Cherry - April 03, 2025 at 03:00 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Pearlie Mae Cooper.




April 02, 2025 at 01:32 PM

LW

“ Sending my love, prayers, and condolences to the Cooper family. Melissa and Lisa, your grandmother's memories live on in both of you.

Lenita Willis - April 01, 2025 at 10:49 PM



“ Mrs Cooper was such a beautiful person. Growing up in Noble Street, she was one of the elders providing advice to us younguns when we step out of line lol and we listened and respected her. Love love her stories while visiting at Churchland House. Her endearing name for anyone 'Puddin' will always resinate with me as I will miss seeing her there. Take your rest Mrs Cooper, job well done Queen! See ya later . We Love you, Glenn, Carol & Mattie

Carol Turner - April 01, 2025 at 10:14 AM

RB

“ Mrs. Cooper was my neighbor in Douglas Park. She would look out for my daughter during thunder storms, because my girl was afraid of lightning and thunder. We spent a many summers enjoying custards and blizzards on her front porch. The conversation we had were great and her wisdom was unmatched. Rest easy sweet lady. Robin Anderson Brown and Family

Robin Anderson Brown - March 31, 2025 at 09:51 PM

PA

“ Ms. Cooper not only were you a dedicated coworker to my mom Corine Anstead but a part of our entire family. My mother loved you and you both embraced each other every day at Parks and Rec. Unfortunately my mother passed at an early age during your tenure. As you move on to a better, please remember we loved you and one day I will see you both on the other. Lisa I will keep you and your family in prayer. Our sincerest condolences to Ms Pearlie Cooper family.

Pamela T Anstead - March 31, 2025 at 02:52 PM

RT

“ *Condolences to the family. Met Mrs Cooper through Gwen. Remember her infectious smile.*



Reta Richardson Taylor - March 29, 2025 at 03:50 AM