



Lee Hawkins

February 2, 1945 - January 4, 2026

Lee Anna Hawkins, 80, of Chattanooga, passed away Sunday, January 4, 2026, in a local healthcare facility. She was born in 1945 to James Catchings, Sr. and Anna Lee Holland in Chattanooga, Tennessee. The second oldest of six children, Lee Anna was shaped early by family, faith, and community. She attended Howard High School, graduating in the Class of 1963, and maintained lifelong connections with her classmates. While living in Chattanooga, she welcomed her firstborn son, Antonio, and her second child, Annette.

Drawn by opportunity and possibility, Lee Anna moved to California as a young woman. She settled in Palo Alto, California, where life continued to unfold with both challenges and promises. While in Palo Alto, Lee Anna met William Stephens, and together, they welcomed her third child, Stefanie, and they moved to Washington State.

A few years later, Lee Anna felt called to return to California with her children. Back in Palo Alto, she built a stable and meaningful life for her family while working at the Veterans Administration Hospital, first as a nursing assistant and later as an administrative medical clerk. Her work reflected who she was – caring, dependable, and committed to serving others.

During this season of her life, Lee Anna met Robert Hawkins. They married

and moved to San Jose, California, in 1971, where they purchased a home and raised their family. In 1974, Lee Anna welcomed her youngest child, Leha, completing the circle of her greatest joy – her children. Lee Anna and Robert spent twenty-five years together in San Jose, building a life together. Faith and trust in God were central to her life, and she became a devoted member of First AME Zion Church, where she served faithfully as an usher and a member of the Trustee Board, always giving generously of her time and spirit. While living in San Jose, she made a host of friends who became part of her extended family.

In 1989, Lee Anna retired from the VA after years of dedicated service. Over the next several years, she worked part-time while continuing to pour herself into family, church, and community. In 1996, following her divorce from Robert, Lee Anna felt called to return home to Chattanooga, where her roots ran deep.

She was welcomed home with open arms by family and lifelong friends. As always, Lee Anna quickly became active in the community she loved. She remained deeply engaged with her Howard High School Class of 1963, serving faithfully on the reunion committee. She also found a spiritual home at Saint Mary CME Church, where she sang in the choir, served as choir treasurer, and was president of the Stewardess Board.

True to her commitment to service, Lee Anna joined Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc., Gamma Theta Chapter as a Philo. She was consistently of service to others by participating in numerous community service projects and as Financial Secretary. Giving back was not something she did occasionally, it was simply who she was.

Lee Anna was a beacon of care and compassion. She never hesitated to help someone in need. Within her family, she was a natural caregiver – opening

her home to those who needed refuge, offering comfort, and tenderly caring for loved ones during their final days.

She was a fun-loving mother of four and a devoted grandmother of four, known affectionately as Nana Lee by her grandchildren. She was incredibly proud of each of them and loved taking part in their special moments, whether near or far. Beyond her immediate family, she welcomed countless others into her heart, claiming them as her children and grandchildren. Lee Anna's heart was wide, generous, and full. She gave the best bear hugs – always a joyous, warm and memorable embrace. Even if you met her only once, you felt her warmth, kindness, openness, and unmistakable sense of humor. She brought beauty into the world simply by being herself.

Lee Anna was preceded in death by her daughter, Annette Catchings; brother, James Catchings; and sisters, Willie Mae Powe and Ernestine Seay.

Lee Anna will be deeply missed by her children: son, Antonio High and Maricela Baron High (Santa Clara, CA); daughter, Stefanie Smith and Ronald Smith (Cypress, TX); and daughter, Dr. Leha Anaya Hawkins (Sacramento, CA). She is also lovingly remembered by her grandchildren: Miles Nehemiah Robert Ollison, Malaya Symone Ollison, Dmitri Antonio High, and Camille Noelle Ollison.

She is survived by her brother, Robert Catchings; sister, Jannette Richie; niece, Tracy Catchings; nephews, Rodney Peterson and Ronald Wigfall; nieces, LaTanya Alverson and Robiyauna Catchings; and a host of grandnieces, grandnephews, and great-grandnieces and great-grandnephews.

Lee Anna will lie-in-state on Wednesday, January 28, 2026, at 11 a.m. at

Taylor Funeral Home. Funeral service will follow at 3 p.m. in the Chapel with Reverend David Young as the Eulogist.

DIRECTIONS TO LIVESTREAM: Click on the link below.

<https://view.oneromstreaming.com/index.php?data=MTc2OTQzOTM2OTE4NzI0ODAmb25lcm9vbS1hZG1pbiZjb3B5X2xpbnms=>

Click on link below

<https://view.oneromstreaming.com/index.php?data=MTc2OTYzNjgzOTE4NzU4MDgmb25lcm9vbS1hZG1pbiZjb3B5X2xpbnms=>

Previous Events

Lie-In-State

JAN 28. 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Taylor Funeral Home
3417 Wilcox Boulevard
Chattanooga, TN 37411-1076

Funeral Service

JAN 28. 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM (ET)

Taylor Funeral Home
3417 Wilcox Boulevard
Chattanooga, TN 37411-1076

Tribute Wall



“ 1 file added to the album *FuneralCamera1-LeeHawkins*



Taylor Funeral Home of Chattanooga, Inc. - February 27 at 04:00 AM



“ 1 file added to the album *FuneralCamera2-LeeHawkins*



Taylor Funeral Home of Chattanooga, Inc. - February 27 at 04:00 AM



“ 1 file added to the album *1FuneralcCamera1-LeeHawkins*



Taylor Funeral Home of Chattanooga, Inc. - February 27 at 04:00 AM



“ 1 file added to the album 2FuneralCamera2-LeeHawkins



Taylor Funeral Home of Chattanooga, Inc. - February 27 at 04:00 AM



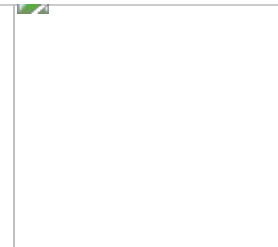
“ We extend our condolences and prayers to the Hawkins' Family on the passing of Lee Hawkins. May God's love comfort you as you honor and celebrate a life well lived!! Revs. Drs. Bethel and Mary Hendricks



Mary Hendricks - January 28 at 11:22 PM



“ Vincent Robinson lit a candle in memory of Lee Hawkins



Vincent Robinson - January 27 at 01:28 PM



“ Albert Wu purchased the Serene Reflections Bouquet for the family of Lee Hawkins.



Albert Wu - January 24 at 06:58 PM

CT

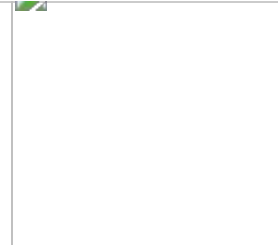
“ *Credo Operation Team purchased the Pretty Plea
se for the family of Lee Hawkins.*



Credo Operation Team - January 24 at 06:33 PM

JS

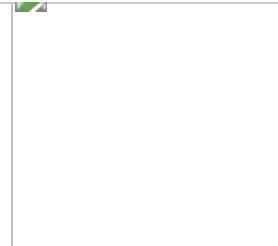
“ *Joyce Smith lit a candle in memory of Lee
Hawkins*



Joyce Smith - January 24 at 05:17 PM

N

“ *As long as I can remember, our greeting has
always been "What's Up CUZ!" On January 4,
2026, I entered your room with the same...
What's Up CUZ!" I received a reality check
"SILENCE"
Rest In Peace,
Lisa*



Natasha C - January 22 at 06:51 PM



“ This is our last group picture with us all. 🍷 Lee will be miss by Gamma Theta Sigma Philo. Condolences and prayers to her children and family.



Anita Leath Jones - January 21 at 07:19 PM



“ Rest in peace Cuz. You will be greatly missed.
--Skip

AnthonyGwyn Crutcher - January 19 at 12:50 AM



“ Valery Norwood lit a candle in memory of Lee Hawkins

Valery Norwood - January 17 at 05:16 PM



“ Sending waves of comfort and peace to the Hawkins family. She will be missed!

Gwyn Crutcher - January 16 at 03:46 AM



“ *Lee will surely be missed by the Gamma Theta Sigma Philos of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc.*

Lee was a longtime, faithful member and officer.

May she rest in peace.

We send our heart felt condolences to the family.

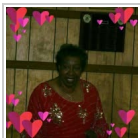
Ethel Jones

Ethel Jones - January 10 at 11:09 PM



“ *You will be missed cuz,my heart is heavy to hear that you have left us.RIH 💔*

Beverly Baker - January 10 at 05:40 PM



“ *Lee was one of a kind. She will be missed, Rest in peace classmate.*

Deborah L. Ragland, Howard class of 1963

Deborah Ragland - January 10 at 02:42 AM

EC

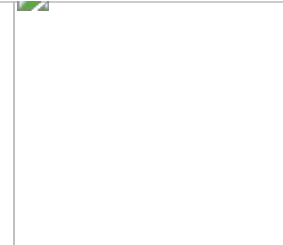
“ My Heart is really heavy right now rest in peace Cuz , love you much.
DemInger 🙄



Eugene Crutcher - January 08 at 09:57 PM

JB

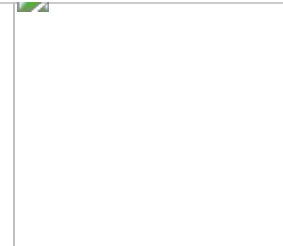
“ Members of Gamma Theta Sigma Chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. send prayers and love.



Jocelyn Bryant - January 08 at 06:12 PM

JB

“ Members of Gamma Theta Sigma of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. send our prayers



Jocelyn Bryant - January 08 at 06:09 PM

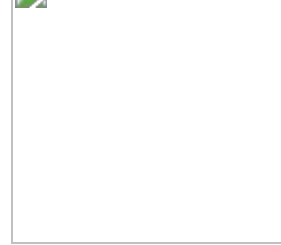
JS

“ You will be missed my friend and class mate.

Joseph Seay - January 08 at 05:28 PM



“ *My condolences to Lee’s family and friends.*
LindaLeak



Linda Leak - January 08 at 05:18 PM



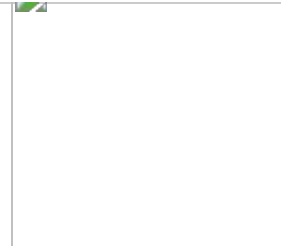
“ *You are definitely one of a kind. We will miss you.*



Rekita Blackmon - January 08 at 02:19 AM



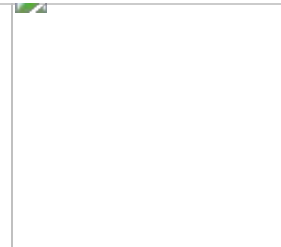
“ *My condolences and prayers are with the family.* 🙏🙏



Patricia Akins - January 08 at 12:04 AM



“ *So sorry for your loss. She will be missed.*



Marcia Smith - January 07 at 08:52 PM

GM

“ *Gloria McClendon lit a candle in memory of Lee Hawkins*



Gloria McClendon - January 07 at 02:49 PM

JK

“ *Jacqueline Knight lit a candle in memory of Lee Hawkins*



Jacqueline knight - January 06 at 10:42 PM

JB

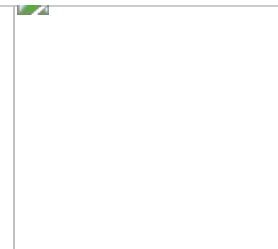
“ *Gamma Theta Sigma Chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc.*



Jocelyn Bryant - January 06 at 10:32 PM

CB

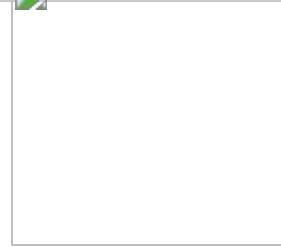
“ *CAROLYN BAILEY lit a candle in memory of Lee Hawkins*



CAROLYN BAILEY - January 06 at 07:59 PM



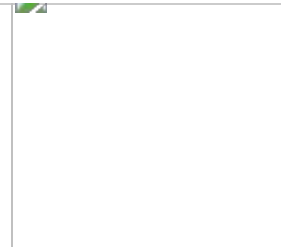
“ Anita Leath Jones lit a candle in memory of Lee Hawkins



Anita Leath Jones - January 06 at 04:40 AM



“ Ethel Jones lit a candle in memory of Lee Hawkins



Ethel Jones - January 06 at 12:55 AM



“ Gloria Patton Griffin lit a candle in memory of Lee Hawkins



Gloria Patton Griffin - January 05 at 05:26 PM



“ Marilyn Brown lit a candle in memory of Lee Hawkins



Marilyn Brown - January 05 at 12:38 PM