



Molly Virginia Earley

February 4, 1937 - August 16, 2025

“Who may ascend to the mountain of Jehovah, and who may stand up in his holy place? Anyone with innocent hands and a pure heart.” PSALMS 23: 3-4

Molly Virginia Earley, devoted sister, mother, grandmother, and great grandmother passed away peacefully on August 16th, 2025, at OSF St. Mary Medical Center in Galesburg, Illinois.

She was born on February 4th, 1937, in Arkadelphia, Arkansas to Jacob McClanahan and Veledes Williams McClanahan-Mitchell. Molly graduated from Drake High School in 1956. She went on to marry Gaylon Payne, Sr and they reared two sons, Anthony Payne, Sr, and Gaylon Payne Jr. She later married John W Earley of Galesburg, Illinois. She went on to pursue a career as a bookkeeper at Farmers & Mechanics Bank where she retired after 25 years of service. Molly spent her leisure time gardening and bowling. She was especially known for her exceptional cooking. She was a dedicated Jehovah Witness in Galesburg and Peoria, Illinois.

Molly is survived by her two sons, Anthony Payne, Sr (Denise) of Galesburg, Illinois, Gaylon Payne Jr (Tina) of Peoria Heights, Illinois, a brother Gurley Mitchell (Delores) of Las Vegas, Nevada, six grandchildren, Tony Payne Jr, Kylee Payne, Aubrey Payne, Brooks Payne, Jordan Payne, Christian Payne, and four great grandchildren Rylie Chezum, Kendall Klinck, Kaia Gibson, and

Reign Gibson.

Molly was preceded in death by her parents, brother (Jack McClanahan Sr), four sisters (Katherine Mitchell, Mary Mitchell, Lula Mitchell, and Sara Jackson).

We are respecting Molly's wishes for cremation and will always remember the loving legacy of one of GOD's creations.

Tribute Wall

AD

“ *Gaylon and Tony,*

Extending our deepest sympathy in the transition of your wonderful mother. I will always remember her loving spirit and delicious meals. No matter where I encountered her, she would always wrap me in her arms and call me her boy. Praying that your memories bring you comfort.

Adrian Duckworth - August 18, 2025 at 10:20 PM

GP

Thank you my brother...

Gaylon Payne - August 22, 2025 at 10:58 PM