



# Martha Pipkins

September 5, 2025

In Loving Memory of Martha Ray Pipkins (1946–2025)

On Friday, September 5, 2025, Martha Ray Pipkins peacefully departed this life at the age of 79, leaving behind a legacy of grace, devotion, and quiet strength that will echo through generations.

Martha was the cherished daughter of the late Walter Cooper, Sr. and Ida K. Cooper, born on June 9, 1946, in New Orleans, LA. She was a beloved wife to Oscar P. Pipkins and a guiding light to her daughters, Janelle James and Sharvon Kamaya, whose lives were shaped by her unwavering love and wisdom.

Martha's nurturing spirit extended far beyond her immediate family. She was a proud grandmother of six, each of whom carries a piece of her heart and her values. She also lovingly embraced two bonus grandchildren, three godchildren, and was a treasured aunt to a host of nieces and nephews who found comfort and counsel in her presence.

A graduate of Dillard University School of Nursing, Martha began her career at Mercy Hospital, where she served as a pioneering charge nurse. She later worked for the City of New Orleans Health Department as a Well Child Clinic Nurse Supervisor until her retirement in 2006.

Martha was a lifelong member of First African Baptist Church of the 6th District, baptized by Rev. Dr. C. S. Gordon, Sr. She served faithfully as a deaconess, Sunday School teacher, and Senior Choir member, dedicating her life to faith, family, and service.

Martha's life was a quiet testament to faith, resilience, and compassion. Whether offering a listening ear, a warm meal, or a word of encouragement, she gave freely and fully. Her home was a haven, her heart a sanctuary. She was preceded in death by her siblings Walter Cooper, Jr., Eddie Cooper, and Mary Ann Cooper, with whom she shared deep familial bonds and enduring memories.

Martha leaves behind to cherish her memory, her husband of 48 years, Oscar P. Pipkins; two daughters, Janelle James (Justin) and Sharvon Kamaya (Gino); four grandsons, Peter James, Mason James, Marcel James, and Ethan James; 2 granddaughters, Justine James and Ariyah Kamaya; two bonus granddaughters, Christina Agastinho and Kimorah Djoko; brother-in-law, Morris Pipkins; sister-in-law, Brenda Adams-Byrd; aunts, a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, friends, church members, and neighbors.

Relatives and friends of the family are invited to celebrate her life at a funeral service on Saturday, September 20, 2025, at Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church, 2805 General Taylor Street. Visitation will begin at 9:00 AM, followed by the service at 11:00 AM. Interment will take place at Mount Olivet Cemetery. Arrangements entrusted to D.W. Rhodes Funeral Home, 3933 Washington Ave. Please visit [www.rhodesfuneral.com](http://www.rhodesfuneral.com) to sign the online guestbook.

# Cemetery Details

## Mt. Olivet Cemetery

4000 Norman Mayer Ave.  
New Orleans, LA 70122

# Previous Events

## Visitation

SEP 20. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Fellowship M.B.C.  
2805 Gen. Taylor St.  
New Orleans, LA 70115

## Funeral Service

SEP 20. 11:00 AM (CT)

Fellowship M.B.C.  
2805 Gen. Taylor St.  
New Orleans, LA 70115

# Tribute Wall

LW

“ *Condolences to the family during this difficult time. It was a pleasure to work with Martha at the new orleans health department.*

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**Lisa Williams** - October 16, 2025 at 11:24 PM

BM

“ *To the family*

*Earth has no sorrow that heaven cannot heal. God will take care of you. Dillard University Professional Organization of Nurses(DUPON)  
Is lifting up prayers for the family and tanking of you.*

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**barbara mcclue** - September 19, 2025 at 05:08 PM

KJ

“ *To the Pipkins Family. My deepest condolences to you and your family. I'm keeping you lifted in prayer during this difficult time. My church family 🙏  
Sister Kimberly Jones*

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**Kimberly Jones** - September 19, 2025 at 11:46 AM

JB

“ Dear Oscar and Family,

*I am deeply sorry for your loss and will cherish memories of Martha for many , many years to come.*

*A fellow nursing colleague, community foot soldier, and woman of faith and family, enjoyed our precious moments together ; Martha and I enjoyed conversation with ( and about :) ) our good husbands and good friends in the community, always with an eye on helping others and also thanking those who helped others ...*

*... and together especially enjoying lifelong learning with the helpful talks organized by Oscar and other community leaders and programs at the hospital or in the neighborhoods to honor others and to highlight services to help those in need.*

*Whether inside or outside at ceremonies and community programs, we often got the chance to chat for moments, before a festivity began.*

*Martha always had nice things to say about the day, even In the rain. Martha found the rainbows and breaks in the clouds. Martha made anyone feel good and hopeful in her presence.*

*Martha was a role model of grace, her soft voice and caring, gentle manner were her strengths to me, a delicate and quiet humble force for good encouraging and inspiring those she encountered. She never missed sharing a kind word or pride in family and friends or the program at hand.*

*Dear Martha, my thoughts and prayers continue with you in your eternal rest with our Savior Jesus Christ.*

*And my thoughts and prayers are also with Oscar and your children, grands , and your entire family.*

*Much love,*

*Jennifer*

*Jennifer Steel, RN, Bourgeois  
with Dr. Lionel Bourgeois*

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**Jennifer Steel RN Bourgeois** - September 18, 2025 at 06:01 AM

DW

*Dear Uncle Peter,*

*It is our prayer that God will comfort you, Janelle, Sharvon and the entire family during this difficult time. May the Lord richly bless each of you as you mourn, and may the light of His presence be a continual source of consolation. Aunt Martha was a beautiful person inside and out.*

*Love you,*

*Debra & Trent Walker in Denver, CO*

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**Debra A Walker** - September 19, 2025 at 12:15 PM

PW

*Sending sympathy and prayers to the family of Martha ...We worked together at Mercy Hospital. (EARTH HAS no sorrow that heaven cannot heal).May God continue to bless and strengthen you during your hour of sorrow..LOVE & PRAYERS..Patsy Wells..Garland, Texas*

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**Patsy Wells** - September 19, 2025 at 05:18 PM