



Lela Mae Evans

June 17, 1943 - February 29, 2024

Lela Evans of Chicago, Illinois passed away on Feb 29, 2024. Her loved ones are composing her obituary, which you will be able to read [here](#).

Cemetery Details

Mount Hope Cemetery

11500 S Fairfield Ave
Chicago, IL 60655

Previous Events

Public Viewing

MAR 7. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

Calahan Funeral Home - Legacy Center
7046 S. Halsted
Chicago, IL 60621

Visitation

MAR 8. 10:00 AM - 10:30 AM (CT)

Calahan Funeral Home - Legacy Center
7046 S. Halsted
Chicago, IL 60621

Funeral Service

MAR 8. 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM (CT)

Calahan Funeral Home - Legacy Center
7046 S. Halsted
Chicago, IL 60621

Burial/Interment

MAR 8. 1:00 PM - 1:15 PM (CT)

Mount Hope Cemetery
11500 S Fairfield Avenue
Chicago, IL 60655

Tribute Wall

CL

“ 21 files added to the album Family photos



Courtney LELA - March 08, 2024 at 02:20 PM

CL

“ I’m going to brag on my grandma Lela because she loved words of affirmations (and a good gift too 😂❤️). She also loved to give those words of affirmation out and really good gifts (often gold jewelry).

Most of my best childhood memories include being at my grandparents house. There was always something cooking. There was always laughter. The jokes were endless, especially between her and my grandfather. Laying on her bed is the fastest sleep I’ve always ever gotten. The comfort she gave is priceless. At any time of the week (but especially Sunday) you would catch an old family friend or other family there. It was the place that everyone wanted to be. The holidays there were unmatched and felt magical to me. Not because of any gifts but because of the overwhelming feeling of love in there. I intentionally saw my grandparents twice a week (sometimes more) until I graduated from undergrad and moved out of town (I cried for the first 2 years about being away).

One time before I came back home for a visit, I asked my grandma Lela to sing me a lullaby she’d always sang to me. She couldn’t believe that I remembered it and she obliged when I came home. We both were tickled while I sat in her lap and she sang “my baby love shortening bread.” ☐ That’s who she was at her core. She loved to put a smile on faces. She was willing to go out of her way to do so. She REGULARLY gave many people: clothes, shoes, purses, jewelry, food, and you name it! My favorite “

Sunday best” clothes & school pictures were in the dresses she bought me. She bought me the best at boutiques and made me feel like a princess.

Growing up I truly adored my grandma Lela for so many reasons. I thought she was fabulous in every sense of the word. Her warm smile, her beautiful eyes and her style were just a few things I admired. For a big chunk of my life I was referred to as little Lela and I loved it. So much so that I got up at church during an after service event and said when I grow up I wanted to have jewelry and wear wigs like my grandma Lela 😭. I'm not the only one who thought she was fabulous, growing up many of us thought my grandparents were rich. They were not rich in funds but the home was rich in love.

I got a lot from her and she would be proud to agree. She'd say, "you get that from your grandma." Though I'm a retired "reader" I got my wit and reading capabilities from her 😭. Grandma loved to let you know that she read someone real good 😭❤️. She was small but no joke! No one messed with her!

As I was scrubbing my cabinets and walls the other day to stay distracted, I thought of how my grandma would do the same even after just having a major surgery. 2 weeks after a bad fall and one shoulder in a sling, my grandma was up scrubbing and cleaning her place. No matter how many times we asked her to stop, it's just what she ALWAYS did. Now, I find myself pushing through in similar ways. I would like to add that I have actually NEVER witnessed my grandmother's place in disarray. Even when she said it was a mess, we'd all look around puzzled.

My grandmother was soooo strong. She endured so much. She beat cancer 4-5x and so many more ailments that plagued her. She's been fighting her whole life to be here for all of us. It's what made this so tough. How could this be her end? If granddad was

still here, would it have been different? But I know better than to dwell on that.

She would always tell me that she hoped she lived long enough to see my babies and I always asked her not to speak like that. She saw them asleep in my bed the night before she went into the hospital but I resent that they will never experience her. I also know not to dwell on that.

I know that she read her Bible everyday and she prayed very specific prayers for her kids, grandkids and great grandkids. I'm grateful for my grandma's prayers over my life, for her example, for her love. I'm very proud to be Courtney Lela!

I will never be the same. I love you

Courtney LELA - March 08, 2024 at 02:17 PM

AP

“ *Our prayers and thoughts are with Lela's family and loved ones. Lela was beautiful, vibrant, and gracious and a wonderful friend to our family. She is loved and will be missed dearly.*

Love Cheryl & Ashley Payton

Ashley Payton - March 08, 2024 at 12:16 PM



“ *I have known Lela for over 40 years, her and my mother have been best friends Since I was a child. She will truly be missed. Love Andrew*

Louis Mobley - March 08, 2024 at 11:32 AM



“ *Rose Garden Heart was purchased for the family of Lela Mae Evans.*



March 05, 2024 at 08:06 PM