



## Juanita Cain

August 1, 1934 - January 31, 2026

Dateline: Godfrey

Juanita Sands Cain, a woman defined by her kindness, her sharp intelligence, and her unwavering faith, passed away peacefully with her family by her side at 4:12 p.m. on January 31, 2026.

Born August 1, 1934, in Catlin, Illinois, Juanita was the daughter of John Russell Sands and Virgie (White) Sands. A true "Coal Miner's Daughter," she carried the resilience of her roots and a lifelong love for the music that told her story. Juanita possessed a rare combination of qualities: she was well-spoken and kind, yet she held a tenacious spirit and a brilliant, inquisitive mind that she applied to every chapter of her life.

Her love of learning was a constant thread. As a young woman, her determination led her to finish high school via correspondence so she could begin working. This intelligence and "can-do" attitude carried her through a diverse career, from 11 years as a switchboard operator for Illinois Bell to managing offices in Oakland and Hindsboro, IL, and Kansas City, MO. One of her most rewarding professional accomplishments was her five years as the owner of Juanita's Restaurant in Kansas, IL. Even in retirement, she remained curious and active, managing a business with her husband and enjoying their time together as secret shoppers.

On March 8, 1985, she married Raymond Cain, beginning a partnership of over 40 years built on mutual respect and deep love.

To Juanita, family was the melody of her life. She expressed her joy through

singing and playing the trumpet. When she wasn't making music, she could often be found lost in the pages of a book, a passion she maintained throughout her entire life, or meticulously scrapbooking the memories of those she loved most. Above all, her faith guided her steps, and her heart was full of love for her family. She was a loving, witty, and resilient woman who met life's challenges with bravery and a forgiving spirit.

She is survived by her husband, Raymond Cain; her children: Renee (John) Suprenant of Kankakee, IL; Rhonda (Monie) Palmer of East Alton, IL; Tawnya (Mark) Hackler of Springfield, IL; Earla Cain of Sugar Creek, MO; and Marsha (Frank) Kent of Kansas City, KS. Her legacy further lives on through 18 grandchildren and step-grandchildren, 21 great-grandchildren and step-great-grandchildren, and her great-great-granddaughter, Willow Fern.

Juanita was preceded in death by her parents; her sister, Helen Maxine; her brother, Oscar; and her beloved daughter, Christina.

Family and friends are invited to celebrate Juanita's life on Thursday, February 5, 2026, at Gospel Tabernacle in Godfrey, IL. Visitation will begin at 1:00 p.m. with the funeral service following at 2:00 pm.

Interment will take place the following morning, Friday, February 6, at 11:00 a.m. at Oakland Cemetery in Oakland, IL.

To honor Juanita's lifelong passion for reading and her inquisitive spirit, memorials may be made through a book donation or a monetary contribution to your favorite local library.

Gent Funeral Home in Alton is in charge of arrangements. Online guestbook and information may be found at [www.gentfuneralhome.com](http://www.gentfuneralhome.com)

# Cemetery Details

## Oakland Cemetery

Oakland, IL

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB 5. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Gospel Tabernacle  
2715 St Ambrose Dr  
Godfrey, IL 62035-3342  
(618) 466-1625

## Funeral

FEB 5. 2:00 PM.

Godfrey Gospel Tabernacle  
Godfrey, IL

## Graveside Service

FEB 6. 11:00 AM.

Oakland Cemetery  
Oakland, IL

# Tribute Wall

VH

“ I have known Juanita since the mid 70's. Very dear friend and sister in Christ. Always greeted with a smile and a hug. A lot of good memories of church services at Brother and Sister May's in Hindsboro, and one time we went on a road trip together, good times and precious memories❤️🙏 Hugs and prayers to all the family.

Vickie Hayes - February 06 at 09:59 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Juanita Cain.



February 04 at 11:05 PM

DA

“ Our deepest condolences for your loss. There is nothing like a grandmother's love! We hope the cherished memories will continue to live in your heart, where she will never be forgotten! Dave & Kat Arnold

Dave & Kat Arnold - February 04 at 03:17 PM