



Wanda Hawkins Burrell

July 17, 1950 - October 4, 2020

Wanda Hawkins Burrell was born to Bill and Rosemary Hawkins on July 17, 1950 in Camden, Arkansas. She was the youngest of four children: Willie Charles, Roselyn and La Verne. Bearing a strong resemblance to Bill, she was the apple of her daddy's eye. He affectionately called her "Puddin'". Even as child, she was an "old soul". She gravitated toward seniors and spent a lot of time visiting their homes and talking with them for hours on end. This later served her well as she became the unofficial family historian, researching genealogy and connecting her family tree long before the existence of sites like Ancestry.com.

After her sisters went off to Dallas for college, Wanda sought to forge her own path and opted to head to Nashville to attend Tennessee State University where she majored in zoology. There she was initiated into the Alpha Chi Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated in 1970, and this year she celebrated her 50th anniversary in the sisterhood.

It was also at Tennessee State that she met the love of her life, Carl A. Burrell, Sr. They met in chemistry lab her freshman year, dated throughout undergrad and then married in 1973. Their union produced a beautiful family, including sons Carl II and Samuel and daughter, Yolanda. Wanda and Carl both gave their lives to Christ at a young age, and they made sure to raise their children to love God. Knowing that God had given them the gift of children, Wanda and Carl made sure to dedicate their family back to Him.

Since 1976, they attended 15th Avenue Baptist Church (The House of Faith for the Family) and were very active in their church. Wanda and Carl both sang in the choir, but Wanda's lasting legacy on this congregation was her love for children. Even as a teenager, Wanda was a trusted babysitter in her hometown neighborhood. Likewise, at 15th Avenue, she became very involved in the Children's Ministry from its inception, teaching arts and crafts for Children's Church and serving in Vacation Bible School. For more than 30 years, she was dedicated to the Children's Ministry. Her impact stretched for generations, such that she has had the pleasure of teaching even the children of her children in the ministry.

While raising her own three children and serving the children of her church, Wanda's 40+ year career as a college professor gave her the opportunity to have a lasting impact on yet another set of young people. After finishing her Masters of Science in Public Health at Meharry Medical College in 1981, Wanda began teaching there in the pathology department. In 1990, she moved to the Allied Health Program, a joint medical technology program between Tennessee State and Meharry, where she taught for twenty years. In the last 10 years of her tenured career, Professor Burrell taught upper-level biology and chemistry, epidemiology, and intro-to-health courses at Tennessee State. Wanda was well respected by her colleagues and by her beloved students. She went above and beyond her duty as an instructor and took on the role of counselor and mentor for her students. She was loving, compassionate and fair, and she cared for her students like she would her own children. She taught them life skills that would serve them in their careers and beyond, and she was passionate about her students' success.

Wanda's entry to heaven was preceded by that of her mother, father, and brother. She is survived by her loving husband, Carl; three adoring children Carl II, Samuel (Dominique), and Yolanda; her four precious grandchildren MaKayla, Jaxson, Skylar, and Londyn; her two sisters Roselyn Barnett and La Verne Carmichael, and a host of beloved extended family and friends who will forever cherish her memory.

Public visitation Tuesday, October 13, 2020 from 1-6pm @ Highland Hills Funeral Home. Visitation Wednesday October 14, 2020 from 11am-1pm with a private service at 1pm @ Highland Hills Funeral Home, 2422 Brick Church Pike. The funeral service will be available for viewing via Facebook on the Highland Hills Funeral Home & Crematory Facebook page beginning at 12:55pm.

DUE TO COVID-19, A FACE MASK IS REQUIRED AND PLEASE KEEP SOCIAL DISTANCE IN MIND AT ALL TIMES.

Previous Events

Public Viewing

OCT **13.** 1:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

Highland Hills Funeral Home and Crematory
2422 Brick Church Pike
Nashville, TN 37207
highlandhillsfh@gmail.com

Visitation

OCT **14.** 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (CT)

Highland Hills Funeral Home and Crematory
2422 Brick Church Pike
Nashville, TN 37207
highlandhillsfh@gmail.com

Tribute Wall



“ *Highland Hills Funeral Home and Crematory created a Webcast in memory of Wanda Hawkins Burrell*



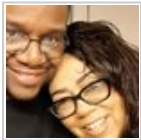
Highland Hills Funeral Home and Crematory - October 14, 2020 at 12:09 PM



“ *Highland Hills Funeral Home and Crematory created a Tribute Video in memory of Wanda Hawkins Burrell*



Highland Hills Funeral Home and Crematory - October 14, 2020 at 12:09 PM



“ *"There is no night without a dawning"
No winter without a spring
And beyond the dark horizon
Our hearts will once more sing...
For those who leave us for a while
Have only gone away
Out of a restless, care worn world
Into a brighter day.
- Helen Steiner Rice*

*My thoughts and prayers are with Mrs. Burrell's family.
Norman Reed, Sr., MPH (TSU/ Meharry)*

Norman Reed Sr. - March 22, 2021 at 10:02 PM

AA

“ Condolences to the Burrell Family. I'm a Med Tech graduate of Mrs. Burell (c/o 99'). Mrs. Burrell was such an INSPIRATION to me! She had an enormous IMPACT on my life & helped mold me into the professional woman I'm today. I'm sooo GRATEFUL to GOD for her. She was a very wise, yet kind woman! I loved her very much! I'm so saddened to hear of her passing. I continue to uplift the Burrell Family in prayer. Please know your Mother was truly a BLESSING to me. I thank GOD for allowing me to know who she was, her heart for people, her LOVE for her students. She definitely was and will continue to be a BLESSING to me.
Sincerely, Angel Alexander

Angel Alexander - October 14, 2020 at 08:13 PM

VM

My condolences to the family. This beautiful woman will be missed dearly and her hard work and compassion will never be forgotten.

Vanessa Moore

Vanessa Moore - October 15, 2020 at 10:43 AM

CJ

“ When I think of Sister Wanda, I think of friend. She showed herself to be a great friend to the late Patricia Smith. During Pat's treatments and hospitalizations, Sister Wanda cared for Pat's three young children. After Pat's death, she continued to support the children. I will admire her for all the love she gave them as well as the other children of 15th Avenue. My prayers are with the family and friends.

Carl & Betty Jones - October 14, 2020 at 05:26 PM

WB

“ The Lafayette High School Class Of 1968, Camden, Arkansas, Send our Most Sincere Sympathy And Condolences To The Family Of Mrs. Wanda Faye Hawkins-Burrell...We Pray That God Will Comfort You A You Grieve The Transition Of Your Loved One, And We Will Keep The Family In Constant Prayer...Praying For You And With You...The Class Of "68"...Ms. Mae Mason, Ruby N. Wilkins, Cecil Elliott, Coleen Burks- Frazier, Jo Ann Hurston- Walker, Linda Bivens- Carter And Mr. Lonnie F. Biven



Willie Bivins - October 14, 2020 at 03:10 PM

MH

“ *Well done thy good and faithful servant.
You will be missed greatly by many.*

Marie E. Hopkins

Marie E Hopkins - October 14, 2020 at 03:04 PM

AT

“ *Professor Burrell was one of the nicest professor I had the most pleasure of meeting at TSU. She was a beautiful spirit. Her presence will be missed. Praying for her family and friends.*



Ashley Turner - October 14, 2020 at 02:51 PM

WB

“ *" Another Eagle Has Earned Her Wings, May She Soar Above The Clouds, Watching Over Her Loved ones, Family And Friends... May You Find Eternal Peace And Rest In Your Transition...Wanda And I Were Classmates At Lafayette High School, Camden, Arkansas, Graduating Class Of 1968... To The Family I Send My Most Sincere Condolences, Asking God To Wrap His Loving Arms Around you And Comfort You In Your Time Of Bereavement.....Ms. Willie M. Bivins And The Class Of "68"*

Willie Bivins - October 14, 2020 at 02:49 PM

MJ

“ *Mary Johnson lit a candle in memory of Wanda Hawkins Burrell*



Mary Johnson - October 14, 2020 at 02:15 PM

MJ

I didn't know Wanda personally but I am acquainted with her sister Rosalyn who painted a portrait of her sister for me. You have my heartfelt prayers & thoughts that the memories & the comfort of God will abide with you all. We love you. You are sustained by the grace of God. Thank God for you all.

Mary Johnson - October 14, 2020 at 02:21 PM

DO

“ *Doreen lit a candle in memory of Wanda Hawkins Burrell*



Doreen - October 14, 2020 at 02:05 PM

SH

“ *In the fall of 2003, I arrived at TSU to drop my daughter off for her first year of college. When I discovered that Wanda was my soror I said, "Take care of my baby for me." To my surprise she put away what she was doing and came over to make sure my daughter signed up for the classes she needed to be successful. Four years later when my daughter graduated she said, "I took care of your baby." Thank you again soror. Rest in eternal peace.*

Sonya Hill - October 14, 2020 at 01:25 PM

NS

“ *Love and miss you Aunt Wanda. You were truly a motivation for me.*

Nikia Smith - October 14, 2020 at 12:47 PM

IF

“ *Mrs. Burrell was one of my favorite professors her spirit always lit up the classroom. I'll never forget all the information she had us store in those binders. She will be truly missed by so many. Thank you to the Burrell family for sharing her <3*

Iman Frazier - October 14, 2020 at 10:38 AM

EW

“ *Elizabeth Williams lit a candle in memory of Wanda Hawkins Burrell*



Elizabeth Williams - October 13, 2020 at 10:37 PM

EW

“ To the family of Professor Wanda Burrell, you have my sincerest condolences. Thank you for sharing Professor Burrell with us. Professor Burrell was a beautiful person. I was blessed to be one of her colleagues at Tennessee State University. I learned so much about being a professor, teacher and person by her example. Professor Burrell once gave me lapel pin with sheep on it that I cherish to this day. She gave it to me to remind me of how important it is to be a good shepherd to our students and in the work we are called to. That is just one example of how thoughtful she was. Professor Burrell always had a kind word to say and went out of her way to support her students, colleagues, and anyone who needed help. She had an amazing spirit and I will truly miss her.

Sincerely,
Dr. Elizabeth Williams

Elizabeth Williams - October 13, 2020 at 10:36 PM

DM

“ Danielle Moore lit a candle in memory of Wanda Hawkins Burrell



Danielle Moore - October 13, 2020 at 02:02 PM

DT

“ To: The Family
"Through God's love, We pray that He grant you the comfort that He alone can give. We that are Christians know that we will see each other again before the Throne of God" and what a Time that will be.

Deacon Darrel and Lonna Traynor

Darrel Traynor - October 13, 2020 at 11:27 AM

DT

“ Darrel Traynor lit a candle in memory of Wanda Hawkins Burrell



Darrel Traynor - October 13, 2020 at 11:19 AM

DC

“ You were a kind and loving person who cared about people. May God grant you peace and rest. Dr. Diane Campbell



Dr. Diane Campbell - October 13, 2020 at 10:09 AM

RW

“ I thank God for you and the impression you have left upon my life. you are loved and missed dearly.



Renee Williams - October 13, 2020 at 06:49 AM

EF

“ Eddie And Linda Booth And Family lit a candle in memory of Wanda Hawkins Burrell



Eddie and Linda Booth and Family - October 12, 2020 at 11:52 PM

RB

“ I am saddened to hear of Prof. Burrell's passing. She was a wonderful colleague who has touched the lives of students, faculty, and staff. I will always remember her quiet strength, unwavering dedication, and professional demeanor. To the family of Prof. Burrell, please accept my deepest sympathy during this difficult time.

Ronald Barredo - October 12, 2020 at 11:29 PM

JR

“ I will always be indebted to Mrs. Burrell for taking my daughter Vanessa Edwards under her wings and treating her like her own. As a mother I always wanted my children to go where ever their careers would take them. I made it my goal to raise children that others could love. However, I prayed that where ever they went that God would bless them with someone who would be like a mother to them. Mrs. Burrell was that person God chose for my daughter along with her entire family, when Vanessa made her way to Meharry. When I met her we hit it off immediately and I knew my daughter was in good hands. Mrs. Burrell was a rare jewel. She was such a loving and caring person and I will never forget her.

To the family know that James and I share in your sorry and we are praying for you during this difficult time. Take as long as you need to grieve but do not grieve like those who have no hope. Remember that weeping endures for a night but joy, sweet joy, will come in the morning. Those memories that bring you to tears now will cause you to smile later.

With Our Deepest Sympathy,
James and Patricia Roberts

James Roberts - October 12, 2020 at 08:20 PM



“ Pinky Noble-Britton lit a candle in memory of Wanda Hawkins Burrell



Pinky Noble-Britton - October 12, 2020 at 02:49 PM



May God provide peace and comfort to all the family and friends of Professor Wanda Burrell. She was a great colleague! May her soul rest in eternal peace.

Pinky Noble-Britton - October 12, 2020 at 02:54 PM

SB

“ Wanda was full of God's love and she shared it with her family, her students, her friends and her community. With Wanda, there was no pretending. She was real, confident and definitely wise beyond her years. I will miss her. Sandy Burrell

Sandra Burrell - October 12, 2020 at 10:31 AM

GM

“ Gwendolyn Murphy-Garner lit a candle in memory of Wanda Hawkins Burrell



Gwendolyn Murphy-Garner - October 11, 2020 at 08:35 PM

GM

Sending much love and prayers to the family of Wanda Hawkins Burrell. Family, I know you will think of her often with a smile as you remember some of the precious and cherished moments that you all got to spend with her before her heavenly home-going.

Gwendolyn Murphy-Garner - October 11, 2020 at 08:41 PM

RM

Death leaves such a heartache that no one can heal; but, love leaves memories no one can steal. We all have great memories of Mama Burrell. She was so loving. Praying that God will give your family comfort and peace during this time and in the days ahead.

*With deep sympathy
Ruby Moore*

Ruby Moore - October 13, 2020 at 12:16 AM

LF

“ LindaMoore And Family lit a candle in memory of Wanda Hawkins Burrell



LindaMoore and family - October 11, 2020 at 04:52 PM

JJ

“ Jennifer “JJ” Jones lit a candle in memory of Wanda Hawkins Burrell



Jennifer “JJ” Jones - October 10, 2020 at 06:19 PM

AM


“Mrs. Burrell will be remembered as one of the sweetest women I met during my college graduate career. I would do random pop ins, just to talk and get candy. ☐ Even upon graduation, I made sure to check in..Just to make sure she was in good spirits. May her sweet, peaceful soul Rest In Peace. 🙏 Sending an abundance of prayers and my condolences to the family.

A. Michelle - October 10, 2020 at 04:06 PM

PS

“My sincerest prayers and condolences to her family. She was an amazing person, Professor and woman of God. She taught me so much inside and outside of the classroom. Rest in him Soror Professor Burrell.

Pamela Sims - October 10, 2020 at 06:06 AM

 Angelique Howse

“Mrs. Burrell taught me several classes at Tennessee State University. She encouraged me to research the intersectionality between public health, epidemiology and spirituality and ministry. She is one of the reasons I decided to pursue my DMin. She was the sweetest soul. I genuinely loved her. Thank you, Mrs. Burrell for everything you taught me. Rest in Him.

Angelique Howse - October 09, 2020 at 10:37 AM

RW

“I will always remember you for your worship. It was authentic and came from from the depths of your soul. Prayers to you and your beautiful family who will always be forever cherished and beloved at the the House of Faith for the Family. 🙏🙏

Rev. CJ White - October 09, 2020 at 09:50 AM

NB

“Pleading the blood of Jesus over the family.
Deacon Wenford & Nettie Barnes
Fifteenth Avenue Baptist Church



Nettie Barnes - October 07, 2020 at 05:33 PM