



Darla Cheree' (LALA) Ellis

June 2, 1962 - January 7, 2026

“To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the Heaven” - Ecclesiastes 3:4

On Saturday, June 2nd, 1962, Darla Cheree' Ellis' soul entered our world. She was born to her loving parents, the late Doris M. Roberts Ellis and Donald L. Ellis Sr., in Oberlin, PA.

She graduated from Central Dauphin East High School, Class of 1980, and obtained two associate degrees from Harrisburg Area Community College in Business Administration and Management and in Correctional Rehabilitation. She received her Baccalaureate Degree in Crime and Justice from Albright College in 2005.

She was employed over her lifetime by the State, County, and Public Corporations, which included both McDonald's and Dauphin County as a teen, and as an adult, PHEAA, PSECU, Wheat First Butcher Singer, Harrisburg Area Community College, the Department of Public Welfare, and the Department of Corrections.

Darla was blessed to have four wonderful children, Shaela, Darius, Savoia, and her bonus son, Jordan Connolly. She was so proud of all her children's accomplishments and would do anything to help them succeed in life. She

took immense pride in becoming a Na-Na and spent as much time with her precious grandbabies as she could.

Darla absolutely adored Adriel and Avani. She loved coloring, reading, and having dance parties with them, as well as playing special games like “Teacups” and watching Super Simple together.

Darla was the Dr. Dolittle of her family. She loved animals and endearingly called her dog, Arnold, her firstborn. Throughout her lifetime, she was the pet parent and grandparent to multiple dogs and cats. She was always willing to take in any stray animal that tugged on her heartstrings.

Her stewardship was through community service. She dedicated her professional and personal life to serving others through her work, volunteerism at her church, St. Paul A. M. E. Church, and the care she showed her family and friends. She would give the shirt off her back for her loved ones.

Darla possessed an exuberance for life. She had a deep passion for listening to music and an eclectic taste that mirrored her one-of-a-kind spirit. She loved spending quality time with her family and friends, especially her “sister-cousins.” Darla had a gift for making people laugh and smile, and her presence at any gathering was always a guarantee of a fun time.

She loved attending family reunions and cookouts, and was always ready to celebrate any occasion, especially when it meant dressing up. You could always find her on the dance floor or singing her heart out. Darla’s smile lit up every room she entered. She coined so many unique nicknames, phrases, and put her own spin on so many songs over the years, such as “buck hunting season, necklace for the 90’s, and Na Na Na Na, Na Na Na Na, Hey Hey Hey, That’s my grandmom!”

On Wednesday, January 7th, 2026, Darla returned to her rightful Father in Heaven. Her family was blessed to celebrate twenty-four Anniversaries of her thirty-ninth Birthday with her.

Darla is survived by her father, Donald L. Ellis Sr.; her children, Shaela D. Ellis (Josh Campanaro), Darius J. Solomon, Savoia D. Ellis; grandchildren, Adriel and Avani Campanaro; her sister, Donnae G. Ellis Thompson and sister in law, Jeanni E. Ellis; nieces and nephews Kellen Blair, Malika Thompson, Jabril Thompson and Jalena L. Jenkins; her special Aunt, Reverend Rosemary Mim Harvey and Matriarch of the Ellis Family, Patricia Thompson; special cousins Oliver Ellis, Cheri Ali, Yonise Roberts Paige, Stacei and Robert Roberts, and a host of other relatives and friends. She was preceded in death by her mother, Doris M. Roberts Ellis; brother, Donald L. Ellis Jr.; nephew, Donald L. Ellis III; bonus son, Jordan T. Connolly; and special cousin, Alfred "Alfie" Ellis. Darla was loved by all who knew her, and she will be missed tremendously by her family and friends.

FAMILY AND FRIENDS ARE ENCOURAGED TO CLICK ON THE SHARE A MEMORY TAB TO POST VIDEOS, SHARE MEMORIES, CONDOLENCES, REFLECTIONS OR SIMPLY LEAVE YOUR NAME.

Flower delivery, 8:30 a.m., Wednesday, February 4, at WFD.

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 4. 11:30 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Wallace Funeral Directors Inc.
106 Agnes St
Harrisburg, PA 17104
(717) 939-9950
wallacefuneraldirectors@gmail.com
<https://www.wallacefuneraldirectorsinc.com>

Service

FEB 4. 12:00 PM (ET)

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Tribute Wall



“ Wallace Funeral Directors created a Webcast in memory of Darla Cheree' (LALA) Ellis



Wallace Funeral Directors - February 04 at 09:24 AM

LT

“ Sister Darla was my dear sister friend and cousin of my bestie Sister Krista. I met Darla when she was a teenager and we also became good friends and family. I visited her often at her home and even more when she had Shaela, Darius, and Savoia. She also worked at PSECU and was a coworker. We always talked for hours on her cell until it would run out of power cutting us off. Oh, the conversations that we had, the laughter, fun, the solving the world’s problems, and sharing the love of our sisterhood. It makes me extremely misty remembering the last hug we shared was at Sister Krista’s funeral. When I heard Sister Darla passed away it hurt so badly that I couldn’t stop crying. I lost another dear to my heart Sister. Darla you are always in my heart and memories. I will always remember that beautiful laugh you had and you are truly missed. I pray prayers of love, peace, strength, comfort, inner peace, and solace for her family and friends. Shaela and family, Darius and family, Savoia and family I love you all dearly and deeply. You all are in my prayers, heart, and thoughts. Sister Darla is Resting In Peace in the peaceful and loving presence of the Lord. I hope the memories that each of us made and shared with her puts a smile on our faces that radiates from our hearts. The Peace of the Lord be with us all evermore. Shalom 🙏❤️🙏❤️🔥

LaVonne THOMPSON - February 07 at 03:27 AM

KF

“ Darla was my Mom Krista’s younger sister cousin, and to me she was the cool young cousin “Auntie”. I will forget ..I was probably 10 years old and she was like 28 or so.. she took me out window shopping in Harrisburg ...blasting “Hold on” by EnVogue and I thought she was so cool. To this day every time I hear that song I picture that memory. She was a special, fun loving person and her memory won’t be forgotten.

With Love, Cousin Kaleisha

Kaleisha Flythe - February 04 at 10:58 AM

YF

“ Your father Donald Ellis Sr. And family purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Darla Cheree' (LALA) Ellis.



Your father Donald Ellis Sr. And family - February 04 at 07:30 AM

YF

“ Your father Donald Ellis Sr. And family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Darla Cheree' (LALA) Ellis.

Your father Donald Ellis Sr. And family - February 04 at 07:30 AM

YF

“ Yasir F. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Darla Cheree' (LALA) Ellis.

Yasir F. - February 03 at 10:38 PM

YF

“ My condolences to the family, Darla showed me kindness and understanding during times I truly needed it. She cared for me with real compassion, beyond obligation, and helped me in ways I could never repay. I'm forever grateful for who she was, and I will miss her deeply.



Yasir Fisher - February 03 at 10:35 PM

LS

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Laurie Stroble - February 03 at 10:10 PM

LS

“ My condolences to the family and friends.
Keeping everyone in my prayer. 🙏🙏

Heartbroken 💔 is an understatement. Darla was my sister from another mister. Darla, Cheri (my bonus sister) and I would talk late at night until I would fall asleep. 😴 Darla, Cricket, Cherie, Stacei, Brenda and I shared so many laughs, giggles, support, words of wisdom and love 💕💕 I will cherish all of these memories because no one can take that from me.

Rest In Heavenly Peace my sister/friend. You are loved and will be missed by many.



Laurie Stroble - February 03 at 10:07 PM

KF

“ Kym Ferrell lit a candle in memory of Darla Cheree' (LALA) Ellis



Kym ferrell - February 03 at 08:20 PM

WF

“ Whitney Michael and family purchased the Sweet Sincerity for the family of Darla Cheree' (LALA) Ellis.



Whitney Michael and family - February 03 at 04:29 PM



“ Forever in my heart



Cherelle Harvey - February 03 at 03:35 PM

VM

“ Condolences and prayers for the family 🙏 so sorry for your loss. I went to east high with Darla. I haven't seen Darla since our 2021 class reunion. It was definitely nice to see her and others. Darla always had a smile on her face. SIEP Darla ☐🕊☐🙏❤️

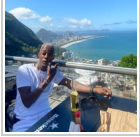
Valerie J Mosten - February 03 at 02:50 PM

MB

“ Rest in peace cousin. My condolences to your children and the family.



Michele Branch - February 03 at 01:34 PM



“ Sleep well in Paradise Darla 🖤❤️

DeMarko Malachi - February 03 at 12:12 PM



“ RIP MY FRIEND ALWAYS A VERY BEAUTIFUL PERSON MY CONDOLENCES PRAYERS AMEN LOVE YOU ❤️!!

Derek Palm - February 03 at 10:59 AM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Karen McCullough - February 03 at 10:59 AM



It breaks my heart hearing that Darla has passed away. She was one of the best friends I had when we moved from the Hill to Oberlin Gardens. She and her whole family welcomed me into their home and Darla included me in things when others wouldn't. I am so thankful that I was able to see her, sit and talk with her and Natalie at the class reunion in 2021 because I live in Texas and don't get home much. My heart breaks for Mr. Ellis losing his son, grandson and now baby girl. I am sending prayers to her family, her children and all who loved her through this difficult time. I know she will be missed so much. Rest in Peace Darla.

Karen McCullough - February 03 at 11:05 AM



Karen McCullough, Darla Ellis and Natalie Harris-Slade

Karen McCullough - February 04 at 10:36 PM

TR

“ *The Connolly's. Bernie Bernadette Renee purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Darla Cheree' (LALA) Ellis.*



The Connolly's. Bernie Bernadette Renee - February 03 at 10:14 AM

TR

“ *The Connolly's. Bernie Bernadette Renee planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Darla Cheree' (LALA) Ellis.*

The Connolly's. Bernie Bernadette Renee - February 03 at 10:14 AM

CE

“ *Cousin Stacey Ellis purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Darla Cheree' (LALA) Ellis.*



Cousin Stacey Ellis - February 03 at 04:06 AM

CE

“ *Cousin Stacey Ellis planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Darla Cheree' (LALA) Ellis.*

Cousin Stacey Ellis - February 03 at 04:06 AM

SO

“ To the Roberts-Ellis Family: I am sorry for the loss of your loved one. Darla always possessed a beautiful spirit and positive energy, as well as inward and outward beauty. She will be missed. I hope you all find strength during this challenging time. ~S. Ogden

S. O. - February 02 at 07:18 PM

LT

“ Rest in Heaven and blessings to the family.

Lisa Tate - February 02 at 12:43 PM