



## Donna Denise Ward

May 12, 1961 - August 22, 2024

Donna Denise Ward was born Friday, May 12, 1961, in Harrisburg, PA, to the esteemed Mr. and Mrs. Donald and Mildred Ann Ward. Donna transitioned peacefully from this life on Thursday, August 22, 2024, surrounded by loved ones at the Community Osteopathic Hospital in Harrisburg, PA. Donna's life was a testament to grace, dedication and love.

A proud alumna of Harrisburg High School, Class of 1979, Donna not only excelled academically but also shined as the Head Majorette of the Harrisburg High Marching Band, leading with both flair and precision. She later pursued higher education at the prestigious Vassar University and The Pennsylvania State University, laying the foundation for a life committed to excellence.

Donna's deep faith was instilled in her from a young age as she grew up attending Saint Paul Missionary Baptist Church, where she first came to know the Lord. Her spiritual journey continued throughout her life, and in 2011, she experienced a profound spiritual renewal, leading to her baptism at The Greater Zion Missionary Baptist Church. There, she became a beacon of faith and service, enriching the lives of those around her.

Her passion for nurturing young minds led her to establish and operate Storybook Daycare for over twenty-five years. Donna became a beloved and indispensable caretaker in Harrisburg, shaping the futures of countless young

lives. A devoted mother, she was also deeply involved in her children's education, serving with distinction as President of the Parent Teacher Association at Benjamin Franklin Academic Prep School for several years.

In 2019, Donna embarked on a new chapter in her professional life, joining UPMC as a Video Monitor Tech at The Harrisburg Hospital. Her work on "Main 5" was more than just a job; it was a calling. She brought comfort, care and compassion to countless patients and their families, leaving an indelible mark on all who knew her.

Donna's dedication to health and fitness was also evident in her vibrant role as a spin instructor at the YMCA. With energy and enthusiasm, she motivated and inspired many to lead healthier lives, embodying the spirit of wellness that she carried in all aspects of her life.

Further enriching her life and the lives of others, Donna was a proud member of Omnia Bona, a community dedicated to promoting the good in every aspect of life. Through her involvement, she made meaningful contributions and connected deeply with others who shared her values of positivity and service.

Yet, amidst all her accomplishments, Donna's greatest joy and pride were her family. She leaves behind a legacy of love, cherished by her children: Justin Donele Ward (Ashley) of Harrisburg, Jasmine Dior Morrison (Jamaire) of Reisterstown, MD, Jordan Dionne Kelly (Jordan) and Jade Dominique Ward (Janelle), both of Harrisburg. Her seven grandchildren, Justin, Mia, Payton, London, Carter, Cyrus and Sky were the light of her life. Donna also leaves behind her beloved sister, Linda Ward of Harrisburg, along with a host of nieces, nephews, relatives and friends who will forever treasure her memory.

She was preceded in death by her loving parents, Donald and Mildred Ann Ward.

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.

# Cemetery Details

## William Howard Day Cemetery

Lincoln and Carlisle Streets  
Steelton, PA 17113

# Previous Events

## Flower Delivery

AUG 29. 8:30 AM (ET)

Greater Zion Missionary Baptist Church  
212 N Progress Ave  
Harrisburg, PA 17109  
(717) 541-0388

## Viewing

AUG 29. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Greater Zion Missionary Baptist Church  
212 N Progress Ave  
Harrisburg, PA 17109  
(717) 541-0388

## Service

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AUG **29**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Greater Zion Missionary Baptist Church  
212 N Progress Ave  
Harrisburg, PA 17109  
(717) 541-0388

# Tribute Wall



“ My condolences to your family. May God give them strength and peace in their time of sorrow. Know that she is in a much better place now. C/O 1979...."Ain't no Stopping us Now " !  
Edith (Davis) Hill



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**Edith A. Hill** - October 21, 2024 at 11:01 AM

KS

“ Sending prayers and condolences to my sis in Law Jasmibe and family.



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**Kershema Stevenson-Butler** - August 29, 2024 at 05:09 PM

DT

“ I will miss my friend Donna Ward. She was a sweet and wonderful person. Praying for her family during this difficult time.  
David Thomas



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**David Thomas** - August 29, 2024 at 04:22 PM

J(

“ To Linda and the Ward family. Thinking back to Harrisburg High School Class of '79 and “BOAS” Center for the Arts. Donna was a talented young lady.



Joyce (Roland)Ashe - August 29, 2024 at 12:42 PM

SW

“ Donna was such a loving mother, grandmother, and friend. She made sure she made it to every special occasion and event until she couldn't. That's a mother's love. That's what we do. 😭 To the family you will always be apart of our family, we will always be there for each other Donna would have it no other way. She may be gone in body but she remains in our hearts and memories.  
Love aunt Steph

Stephanie Wilkerson - August 29, 2024 at 12:07 PM

GE

“ G. Alice East lit a candle in memory of Donna Denise Ward



G. Alice East - August 29, 2024 at 11:03 AM

AC

“ Sending my most heartfelt condolences to Linda and the children and grandchildren of Donna. Memories go from early childhood and through the years. Praying for you all. May the Peace of God be ever so close. ❤️

Amanda Colbert - August 29, 2024 at 10:17 AM

JA

“ Jordan and Family you are in my Prayers during this Difficult time! I attended Ben Franklin Academic Prep with Jordan and Ms Donna was the Best! Always kept us in line 😊 Rip Beautiful

Jamilah - August 29, 2024 at 07:25 AM

L1

“ Linda Jackson/Harrisburg High C/O 1979 lit a candle in memory of Donna Denise Ward



Linda Jackson/Harrisburg High C/O 1979 - August 28, 2024 at 02:48 PM

NM

“ Jasmine sending condolences to you J P and L keep the precious memories in your heart. Praying for your entire family. GIGI



N Mosley - August 28, 2024 at 02:44 PM

TF

“ Trutt & Seeger Family purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of Donna Denise Ward.



Trutt & Seeger Family - August 28, 2024 at 02:17 PM

MA

“ *Michelle Aikens lit a candle in memory of Donna Denise Ward*



Michelle Aikens - August 28, 2024 at 09:34 AM



“ *Rose Garden Heart was purchased for the family of Donna Denise Ward.*



August 28, 2024 at 08:30 AM

JA

“ *Jennifer Ross Business Affairs purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Donna Denise Ward.*



Jennifer Ross Business Affairs - August 27, 2024 at 09:19 PM

DR

“ *Dawn Reeves lit a candle in memory of Donna Denise Ward*



Dawn Reeves - August 26, 2024 at 11:19 PM

SL

“ Rest peacefully in Heaven my friend!

*Linda, may God's loving arms surround you  
and the family now and always.*

*Lovingly,  
Stacey Logan-Kent*



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**Stacey Logan-Kent** - August 26, 2024 at 09:07 PM

BO

“ Bobby purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Donna Denise Ward.



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**Bobby** - August 26, 2024 at 05:15 PM

RJ

“ Rest Peacefully Donna.... comfort and condolences to your children and grands.



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**Rev. Dr. Paula Jackson** - August 26, 2024 at 04:43 PM

LR

“ Lucille Ray lit a candle in memory of Donna Denise Ward



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**Lucille Ray** - August 26, 2024 at 03:20 PM

PR

“ Linda, I am so sorry to hear of your loss. Condolences to you and your family.

*Phyllis Brown Robinson*

Phyllis Brown Robinson - August 26, 2024 at 11:15 AM

WE

“ My prayers and condolences go out the entire Ward family 🙏🌹  
Donna was truly loved❤️

Wanda Epps - August 26, 2024 at 09:58 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of  
Donna Denise Ward.



August 26, 2024 at 07:30 AM

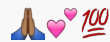
DB

“ Sending lots of hugs and prayers to Jazz and Payton and the entire family . Beautiful obituary for a beautiful person.

Denise Z Beveridge - August 26, 2024 at 07:16 AM

CH

*Ms Donna Ward was a wonderful daycare operator, she cared for my 2 youngest grandkids, loved her children she cared for... they are young teens now...she had a beautiful smile & loving personality... she will be deeply missed... praying for her family, her sister Linda were classmates of Hbg High 1980... God's strength & prayers to you all.  
Ms Cathy Hollis & Family*



Catherine Hollis - August 26, 2024 at 10:39 AM

TA

“ My deepest sympathy. My Holly St. big sister will be missed. 🕊️🙏🏻👤



Tammy - August 25, 2024 at 10:57 PM

PQ

“ I have such precious memories of Donna, you will be missed. My deepest sympathies to the family.

Pamela Queeley - August 25, 2024 at 04:59 PM

PA

“ There will never be words to say I am going to miss my sister friend cousin. She loved her family and would go to the end of the world for them. Donna love you much may your journey continue in Gods Loving Arms 🙏🏻❤️🙏🏻🌸

Paula - August 25, 2024 at 02:07 PM

CL

My condolence to the family 🙏🏻🙏🏻

Cheryl Lewis - August 25, 2024 at 04:14 PM

CS

“ My deepest condolences to her family. May God wrap his loving arms around you and comfort you during your time of sorrow.

Charlyn Sellers-Jones - August 25, 2024 at 01:51 PM

CM

“ *Rest In Peace Classmate* 🙏



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**Carol McLamb-Bair** - August 25, 2024 at 10:13 AM

LB

“ *Sending love and prayers*

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**Lance Burgess** - August 25, 2024 at 07:43 AM

EL

“ *My condolences the Ward family. May you find comfort during this time of loss.*

*Elaine Lumpkin*  
*Harrisburg High School, Class of 1979*



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**Elaine Lumpkin** - August 25, 2024 at 06:33 AM

VC

“ On behalf of the Harrisburg High Class of 1979, we extend our deepest condolences to the family of Donna Ward during this time of profound loss. Donna's vibrant spirit and boundless enthusiasm for life touched many hearts and her legacy will continue to inspire all.

*May you find peace in knowing that her spirit will forever resonate in the community and beyond.*

*Rest in Heavenly Peace Donna, and May God Continue to Bless and Keep your Family always!*

*Virginia A. (Lemons) Carter, Harrisburg High Class of 1979*

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**Virginia A. (Lemons) Carter** - August 24, 2024 at 09:24 PM

EL

*My condolences to the Ward family. May you find comfort during the time of loss.*

*Elaine Lumpkin  
Class of 1979*

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**Elaine Lumpkin** - August 25, 2024 at 06:29 AM

M(

*Rest in Heavenly Peace, God Has Received A Beautiful Angel. My Condolences To The Family, And May God Comfort You All .*

*Classmate Of 1979*

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**Murlain. McKinney (Dawson)** - August 25, 2024 at 02:40 PM

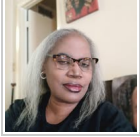
BP

*My condolences to the family in your hour of bereavement. Praying for comfort for my classmate and friend. Rest in glory Donna 🙏*

*Class of 1979*

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**Brian K Patterson** - October 26, 2024 at 09:55 PM



“ *Rest in Heavenly Peace Classmate, to the family, I send my sincere condolences.  
Stephanie Williams, Harrisburg High Class of 1979*



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**Stephanie Williams** - August 24, 2024 at 09:08 PM

CH

*To Ward Family:  
Ms Donna was loving, kind, caring person & daycare provider... always greeted you with a warm friendly smile & nice conversation... Praying for you all God will strengthen during your loss.. She will be dearly missed..  
Ms Cathy Hollis & Family*

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**Catherine Hollis** - August 28, 2024 at 11:23 AM