



Lillian T. Ward

FEB 11, 1946 - JAN 12, 2025



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Lillian Tankersley Ward, 78, of Chattanooga, Tennessee was escorted by the angels to our Heavenly Father on Sunday, January 12, 2025, at her residence. God was able to look through the crowd and choose yet another flower for His beautiful garden. Born on February 11, 1946, here in Chattanooga, Tennessee, she was the beloved daughter of Herman and Ardie Mae Tankersley who both preceded her in death.

She was a product of Chattanooga Public Schools and a proud graduate of Riverside High School Class of 1965. Lillian embarked on a life of hard work and dedication. During her career, she was employed by The Federal Bureau of Investigation, Vulcan Materials Company and Erlanger Hospital where she worked until her retirement.

She enjoyed cooking, baking, taking walks, and spending time with her family and friends. Her favorite saying, “There it is,” captured her kind, wise and steady spirit. Lillian was a loving and caring woman who stood firmly in her faith and inspired everyone she encountered.

Lillian gave her life to Christ at an early age, a decision that became the foundation of her faith. She was a dedicated and faithful member of New Horizon Baptist Church; a charter member of Greater Second Missionary Baptist Church where she faithfully served in music, culinary, and youth ministries for each church. She visited the sick and shut-in even when she wasn't feeling well herself. Lillian was known for her unwavering faith, her love for others and her commitment to helping those in need. The songs “Stand” by Donnie McClurkin and “I Won’t Complain” by Rev. Paul Jones reflected her enduring faith and strength in life’s challenges. If you asked Lillian how she was doing, she would say definitely “I Won’t Complain” and “I’m Good.”

Lillian was preceded in death by her husband, James W. Ward Jr.; daughter, Jawanna Drew Keese; stepdaughter, Rita Ward-Johnson; and brothers, Bob and Willie Herman Tankersley. Her beautiful life will forever be cherished by her son, Cedric Drew; stepson, James Darrell (Karen) Ward Sr., both of Chattanooga; son-in-love, Paul D. (Kianna) Keese Jr. of Nashville, TN;



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granddaughter, Sayvion Drew of Chattanooga, TN; four brothers, Eddie H. Johnson of Anniston, AL, Carl R. (Barbara) Johnson of Augusta, GA, Edward G. Tankersley, and Jimmy Tankersley, both of Chattanooga, TN; three sisters, Luvenia Echols of Columbus, OH, Vivian T. Evans of Chattanooga, TN, and Martha T. Sims of Jacksonville, AL; one brother-in-law, Bennie (Sandra) Ward; three sisters-in-law, Rose Bouie, Queen A. Glass, both of Chattanooga, TN, and Gloria Ward of Dallas, GA; a host of other grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, cousins, extended family and friends. Among her treasured friends are Emma Jewel Craig, Mary Evans, Reginald & Claraniece Ferguson and family, Zabra Kirksey, Idella Jones, Valencia Martin, Glenda Morgan, and Dorothy Powell, whose lives were enriched by her love and presence.

Lillian lived a fulfilled life for Christ. She was truly a Christian woman and served the Lord in her faithfulness and commitment to His work. Her life and legacy will forever inspire those who knew her.

Lillian will lie-in-state on Saturday, January 25, 2025, at 10 a.m. at New Horizon Baptist Church. Funeral service will follow at 11:00 a.m. with Pastor Willie Paul as the Eulogist. Burial in Lakewood Memory Gardens, East.





Events


Lillian T. Ward

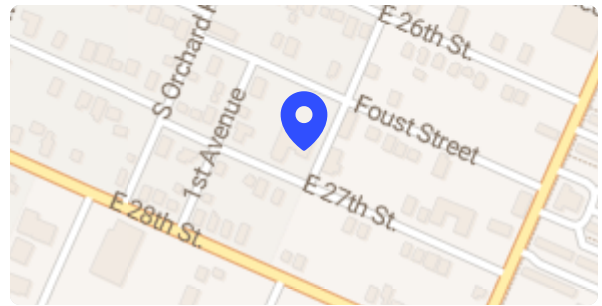
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Lie-In-State


 **Saturday**, January 25, 2025

 10:00 AM ET


 **New Horizon Baptist Church**
2007 East 27th Street , Chattanooga TN 37407

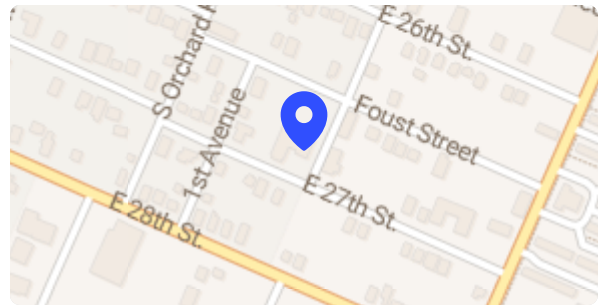


Service

 **Saturday**, January 25, 2025

 11:00 AM ET

 **New Horizon Baptist Church**
2007 East 27th Street , Chattanooga TN 37407





Tribute Wall

Lillian T. Ward

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Lera Richmond lit a candle in honor of Lillian.

January 25 at 9:05 PM



Countess Marshall lit a candle in honor of Lillian.

My condolences to the family Lillian always made sure to get me for church every Sunday she and her daughter Jawanna never missed a beat she will forever be missed. Sending love and prayers from Countess Marshall (princess)

January 25 at 8:33 AM



Phyllis Mims January 25 at 1:25 PM

My sincere condolences to the family. It was a joy to see her at the family reunion last year in Atlanta.



Joann Whitlock lit a candle in honor of Lillian.

January 23 at 6:55 PM



Winnie& Louis And Your Prayer Team Waio sent a Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum to the Ward family.

January 23 at 3:48 PM



Winnie& Louis And Your Prayer Team Waio planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Lillian.

January 23 at 3:48 PM





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MG

Michelle Goines lit a candle in honor of Lillian.

January 23 at 9:16 AM



CG

Christine Goldthreat posted:

To the family of Lillian Tankersley Ward, sending our deepest condolences to all of you during this difficult time. Praying the Lord will give you comfort and peace. The Goldthreat Family

January 22 at 6:32 PM

SS

Sylvia A. Stamper lit a candle in honor of Lillian.

January 22 at 12:06 PM



LW

Louvenia Watkins lit a candle in honor of Lillian.

January 22 at 10:36 AM



RH

Ruby Hambrick lit a candle in honor of Lillian.

January 22 at 5:01 AM



BD

Betty Lindsey Doyle lit a candle in honor of Lillian.

January 22 at 4:45 AM





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RH

Regina Patten Hickman sent a virtual gift in honor of Lillian.

Steadfast Love
By Thomma Lyn Grindstaff
Steadfast Love is appropriate for a woman who, while she was alive, filled multiple roles in the lives of her family and friends and brought joy through the sharing of her talents. Love and gifts shared have ripple effects that continue to spread outward and enrich people's lives even after a loved one is gone. You were mother, wife, and friend, Sister, daughter, grandma, Artist, adventurer, dreamer. Since love is forever, You'll always be here, Holding our hands As we journey onward Along life's winding roads, Carrying forward your gifts As lamps to light our way: Your compassion and humor, Your luminous creativity, The light in your eyes, Your caring touch, Your musical laugh, And the sterling example Of your steadfast love. With Heartfelt Sympathy Van E. and Regina Patten Hickman



January 21 at 9:01 PM

FC

Francine Cunningham lit a candle in honor of Lillian.



January 21 at 10:29 AM

JE

Jackie (Davis) Edwards lit a candle in honor of Lillian.



January 21 at 6:42 AM

BM

Barbara Miller lit a candle in honor of Lillian.



January 20 at 3:14 PM

MF

Marilyn Littlepage And Family sent a Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum to the Ward family.



January 20 at 1:45 PM



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MF

Marilyn Littlepage And Family planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Lillian.



January 20 at 1:45 PM

LJ

Lakeya Jones lit a candle in honor of Lillian.

She was so sweet and used to give me advice on how to deal with what I was struggling with. I'm going to miss you and I will always remember what you told me.



January 20 at 8:31 AM

TS

Terry Moore Smith lit a candle in honor of Lillian.



January 20 at 8:27 AM

TF

The Hudson Family lit a candle in honor of Lillian.



January 19 at 4:03 PM

RR

Robert Rice lit a candle in honor of Lillian.

Robert@Catrina Rice



January 19 at 1:21 PM

GS

Gsmbc lit a candle in honor of Lillian.



January 18 at 6:12 PM



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DC

Dr. Steve A Caudle lit a candle in honor of Lillian.

January 18 at 6:10 PM



BM

Ben & Glenda Morgan lit a candle in honor of Lillian.

I will miss you, my sister, but you will forever be in my heart. You are truly healed!! have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. II Timothy 4:7Glenda & Ben Morgan ❤️

January 18 at 12:31 PM



ML

Marilyn Littlepage lit a candle in honor of Lillian.

My sincere condolences for the Ward and Tankersley Family. Prayers 🙏

January 18 at 11:15 AM



JT

Joan Tanksley lit a candle in honor of Lillian.

January 17 at 7:11 PM



ST

Sindy Tankersley lit a candle in honor of Lillian.

January 17 at 11:58 AM



NC

New Horizon Baptist Church lit a candle in honor of Lillian.

January 15 at 8:23 AM





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New Horizon Baptist Church Family lit a candle in honor of Lillian.

January 15 at 8:22 AM



Mary P Matthews lit a candle in honor of Lillian.

January 15 at 5:03 AM



Betty Lindsey Doyle lit a candle in honor of Lillian.

January 15 at 2:36 AM



Comm. Greg And Pat Beck lit a candle in honor of Lillian.

January 14 at 6:57 PM



Sylvia A. Stamper lit a candle in honor of Lillian.

January 14 at 6:31 PM





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CF

Claraniece Hogan-Ferguson lit a candle in honor of Lillian.

Words cannot express how I'm going to miss my "Ma Lillian" as she was affectionately called and will always be in my heart. She and I had a very special bond that no one else could fathom...during her most difficult days, she stood on her feet and blessed me with a punch bowl cake during the Christmas holidays because she knew that Mom and I were ill...she was my walking partner, where we shared some of the most intimate moments; whether happy, sad, difficult, etc.; but at the end of the day, she would tell me to do what she does, "Just turn it over to Jesus, just put it in God's Hands and He will make everything alright!" ~ UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN, MA...to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord. GONE, BUT WILL NEVER BE FORGOTTEN....FROM THE ENTIRE HOGAN & FERGUSON FAMILY



January 14 at 5:37 PM

AC

April Crenshaw lit a candle in honor of Lillian.

January 14 at 5:01 PM



MJ

Michael A Jackson lit a candle in honor of Lillian.

January 14 at 12:53 PM



AB

Angela W. Bush posted:

My fondest memories of Lillian was to make her favorite desert [Rice pudding]. She enjoyed it very much and I enjoyed making it for her and others. She was there for myself and my family for many years, and knowing her even in death she is serving others. Rest in Heaven until we meet again your dearest friend. Angela

January 14 at 12:16 PM



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Carol Loveless lit a candle in honor of Lillian.

"Blessed are they who mourn, for they shall be comforted." Praying for friends to comfort you, faith to uphold you, and loving memories to help you smile again during this difficult time. Remembering the Ward and Tankersley family in prayer. Carol Loveless Howard Class of 1965



January 14 at 8:59 AM



Delma Jean Brooks January 21 at 8:57 AM

To the Ward and Tankersley family My condolences and love goes out to you. May God Bless and keep you during your time of sadness and sorrow. Lillian was a very soft spoken person, and I will remember her from church and our class functions. Sleep on my friend and take your rest. One day all of us must pay that price 🙏❤️ Love Delma J. Brooks Howard Class of 65



Linda C Carter lit a candle in honor of Lillian.

With a Heartfelt Sympathy & Prayers - Linda Cox Carter - Trojan Forever



January 14 at 8:08 AM



Thomas Woods posted:

We are sending our deepest sympathy to the Ward and Tankersley family at there time of grief, Weeping may endure for a night but joy comes in the morning , Love and care from the Entire Woods family To God be the Glory.

January 13 at 10:21 AM



Min Rosalyn Dodson lit a candle in honor of Lillian.



January 13 at 10:08 AM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Lillian by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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