

Celebrating The Life of
Wanda M. Payne

Sunrise:
October 28, 1960

Sunset:
August 19, 2021



SERVICE:

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2021 – 11:00 AM

NEW VISION FULL GOSPEL BAPTIST CHURCH
100 Warrington Place • East Orange, New Jersey 07017

Bishop Victor D. Agee, Senior Pastor
Rev. Dana P. Owens, Officiating

Obituary

Passionate educator, devoted mother, community advocate, and lover of the people, Wanda M. Payne was born to the late Congressman Donald M. Payne Sr. and Hazel (nee Johnson) Payne on October 28, 1960. Wanda was a life-long resident of Newark's prominent South Ward. Wanda went home to be with our Lord on August 19, 2021.

Wanda always had an infectious love for children and at the tender age of twelve, she volunteered at the Chen School, Inc. The following year, she secured a summer employment position at Chen and continued to work there for the next ten summers.

As a graduate of Hillside Public Schools, she went on to graduate from Kean University where she received a degree in Early Childhood Education. After college, she was hired as a Head Teacher at the Chen School. In the following year, she was hired as an Educational Supervisor for Kiddie Academy Day Care in East Orange.

In 1986, Wanda was employed with the Newark Public Schools and taught for a total of thirty-two (32) years. For the bulk of her career, she taught at Camden Street School in grades Kindergarten and Pre-K and later taught Kindergarten and First Grade at Hawthorne Avenue School. During her tenure at Camden Street, she was actively involved with the PTA, served as Girl Scout Daisy Leader for several years, and published a magazine "Time For Kids". Finally in 2018, she stepped into a well-deserved retirement.

During her career as a teacher, Wanda presented workshops at Newark Day Center for employees seeking their Child Development Associate Credentials (CDA). She worked at the Newark Fresh Air Fund Campership Program for twenty-five years during the summer months.

Wanda credited her love of education and community involvement to her father, the late Congressman Donald M. Payne, Sr., a legendary leader and community servant.

As an active member of the community, Wanda had been a South Ward district leader for thirty-two years, served as a member of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs (NANBPWC), the NAACP, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Board Member of the New Jersey Association of Kindergarten Educators, and the Donald M. Payne Sr. Global Foundation.

As an ardent advocate for youth, Wanda was a former advisor for Youth and Government and the Model United Nations, sponsored by the YMCA. Wanda was a Youth Leader for the North Jersey Youth Club under the auspices of the NANBPWC. The young people in the group were involved in community service, life-skills development, college preparation courses and those hallmark cotillions. Wanda served many years as the Co-Chair for the "Toys For Tots" Program through the G.N.A.S.B.E.

As a servant of the community, Wanda was a participant in the "Determined to Feed the Hungry" sponsored by Masjid Darul Islam, in Elizabeth, served on the Elizabeth Juneteenth Committee, the Friends of East Orange Public Library, and the Union Chapel Community Development Corp.

Wanda was a creative spirit who shared her gifts, talents, and love for people. She could always be found planning events and parties, had an eye for decor, crocheting (especially with the Elizabeth Crochet and Knitting Group) perfecting her culinary skills, was the "Master Fundraiser", World Traveler, the life of the party, avid reader, an habitual helper and loved by many. She will be deeply missed and surely never forgotten.

Wanda was predeceased by her mother Hazel and her father Congressman Donald M. Payne Sr., left to mourn her are her son Shakir Johnson, grandchildren Samir, Max, Maya and Zac, brother Congressman Donald M. Payne Jr. (Beatrice), sister, Nicole Y. Payne, "bonus daughter" Sheena Johnson, uncles, former Assemblyman William D. Payne, Langston Johnson, Kendall Johnson, aunts, Kathleen Hayes, Annette Wilbanks, niece Yvonne Payne and nephews Donald III and Jack Payne; godson Jamiyl Peters; and special friend Dr. Jacqueline Young, a host of cousins, friends and those she touched.

Order of Service

Organ Prelude

Processional Family and Clergy

Invocation Rev. Dana P. Owens

Musical Selection..... “Wind Beneath My Wings”
Charmaine Sanders, Vocalist
Donovan Jackson, Keyboardist

Scripture Reading

Old Testament.....Quentin Washington

New Testament Craig Stanley

Prayer Of ComfortRev. Dana P. Owens

Reflections..... Wafiyyah Muhammad, Camden Street School
Latoya Boyce, North Jersey Youth Club
Jack Payne, South Ward District Leader/Nephew
Lisa Payne, Cousin
Leslie Peters, Childhood Friend
Shakir Johnson, Son

Acknowledgements and Obituary..... Dr. Jacqueline A. Young

Musical Selection..... “His Eye Is On The Sparrow”
Charmaine Sanders, Vocalist
Donovan Jackson, Keyboardist

EulogyRev. Dana P. Owens

RecessionalClergy & Family

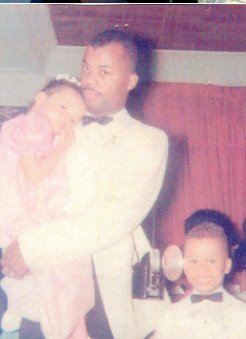
Interment

Glendale Cemetery
Bloomfield, New Jersey

Precious Memories









Pallbearers

Herman Johnson
Marvin Johnson
Eric Payne
Jazz Rogers
Craig Stanley
Rick Thigpen

To Those I Love

When I am gone, release me, let me go.
I have so many things to see and do,
You mustn't tie yourself to me with too many tears,
But be thankful we had so many good years.
I gave you my love, and you can only guess
How much you've given me in happiness.
I thank you for the love that you have shown,
But now it is time I traveled on alone.
So grieve for me a while, if grieve you must,
Then let your grief be comforted by trust.
It is only for a while that we must part,
So treasure the memories within your heart.
I won't be far away for life goes on.
And if you need me, call and I will come.
Though you can't see or touch me, I will be near.
And if you listen with your heart, you'll hear,
All my love around you soft and clear.
And then, when you come this way alone,
I'll greet you with a smile and a 'Welcome Home'.
-Author unknown

Acknowledgement

The family wishes to express their sincere appreciation for the many acts of kindness and expressions of sympathy shown during this time of bereavement. The outpouring of support has been overwhelming. May God richly bless each of you.

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