



Lillian T. Ward

February 11, 1946 - January 12, 2025

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 Keesee; 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-law, Paul D. (Kianna) Keesee Jr. of Nashville, TN; 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.

Previous Events

Lie-In-State

JAN **25**. 10:00 AM (ET)

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

Service

JAN **25**. 11:00 AM (ET)

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

Tribute Wall

LR

“ *Lera Richmond lit a candle in memory of Lillian T. Ward*



Lera Richmond - January 26, 2025 at 01:05 AM

CM

“ *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)*



Countess Marshall - January 25, 2025 at 12:33 PM

PM

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

Phyllis Mims - January 25, 2025 at 05:25 PM

JW

“ *Joann Whitlock lit a candle in memory of Lillian T. Ward*



Joann Whitlock - January 23, 2025 at 10:55 PM

WW

“ Winnie& Louis and your Prayer Team WAIO purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Lillian T. Ward.



Winnie& Louis and your Prayer Team WAIO - January 23, 2025 at 07:48 PM

WW

“ Winnie& Louis and your Prayer Team WAIO planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Lillian T. Ward.

Winnie& Louis and your Prayer Team WAIO - January 23, 2025 at 07:48 PM

MG

“ Michelle Goines lit a candle in memory of Lillian T. Ward



Michelle Goines - January 23, 2025 at 01:16 PM

CG

“ 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

Christine Goldthreat - January 22, 2025 at 10:32 PM

SS

“ *Sylvia A. Stamper lit a candle in memory of Lillian T. Ward*



Sylvia A. Stamper - January 22, 2025 at 04:06 PM

LW

“ *Louvenia Watkins lit a candle in memory of Lillian T. Ward*



louvenia watkins - January 22, 2025 at 02:36 PM

RH

“ *Ruby Hambrick lit a candle in memory of Lillian T. Ward*



Ruby Hambrick - January 22, 2025 at 09:01 AM

BD

“ *Betty Lindsey Doyle lit a candle in memory of Lillian T. Ward*



Betty Lindsey Doyle - January 22, 2025 at 08:45 AM

“ 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

Regina Patten Hickman - January 22, 2025 at 01:01 AM

FC

“ *Francine Cunningham lit a candle in memory of Lillian T. Ward*



Francine Cunningham - January 21, 2025 at 02:29 PM

JE

“ *Jackie (Davis) Edwards lit a candle in memory of Lillian T. Ward*



Jackie (Davis) Edwards - January 21, 2025 at 10:42 AM

BM

“ *Barbara Miller lit a candle in memory of Lillian T. Ward*



Barbara miller - January 20, 2025 at 07:14 PM

MF

“ *Marilyn Littlepage and Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Lillian T. Ward.*

Marilyn Littlepage and Family - January 20, 2025 at 05:45 PM

MF

“Marilyn Littlepage and Family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Lillian T. Ward.



Marilyn Littlepage and Family - January 20, 2025 at 05:45 PM

LJ

“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.



Lakeya Jones - January 20, 2025 at 12:31 PM

TS

“Terry Moore Smith lit a candle in memory of Lillian T. Ward



Terry Moore Smith - January 20, 2025 at 12:27 PM

TF

“The Hudson Family lit a candle in memory of Lillian T. Ward



The Hudson Family - January 19, 2025 at 08:03 PM

RR

“ Robert@Catrina Rice



Robert Rice - January 19, 2025 at 05:21 PM

GS

“ GSMBC lit a candle in memory of Lillian T. Ward



GSMBC - January 18, 2025 at 10:12 PM

DC

“ Dr. Steve A Caudle lit a candle in memory of Lillian T. Ward



Dr. Steve A Caudle - January 18, 2025 at 10:10 PM

BM

“ I will miss you, my sister, but you will forever be in my heart. You are truly healed!

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. II Timothy 4:7

Glenda & Ben Morgan ❤️



Ben & Glenda Morgan - January 18, 2025 at 04:31 PM

ML

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



Marilyn Littlepage - January 18, 2025 at 03:15 PM

JT

“ Joan Tanksley lit a candle in memory of Lillian T. Ward



Joan Tanksley - January 17, 2025 at 11:11 PM

ST

“ Sindy Tankersley lit a candle in memory of Lillian T. Ward



Sindy Tankersley - January 17, 2025 at 03:58 PM

NC

“ New Horizon Baptist Church lit a candle in memory of Lillian T. Ward



New Horizon Baptist Church - January 15, 2025 at 12:23 PM

NF

“ *New Horizon Baptist Church Family lit a candle in memory of Lillian T. Ward*



New Horizon Baptist Church Family - January 15, 2025 at 12:22 PM

MM

“ *Mary P Matthews lit a candle in memory of Lillian T. Ward*



Mary P Matthews - January 15, 2025 at 09:03 AM

BD

“ *Betty Lindsey Doyle lit a candle in memory of Lillian T. Ward*



Betty Lindsey Doyle - January 15, 2025 at 06:36 AM

CB

“ *Comm. Greg And Pat Beck lit a candle in memory of Lillian T. Ward*



Comm. Greg and Pat Beck - January 14, 2025 at 10:57 PM

SS

“ Sylvia A. Stamper lit a candle in memory of
Lillian T. Ward



Sylvia A. Stamper - January 14, 2025 at 10:31 PM

CH

“ 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

Claraniece Hogan-Ferguson - January 14, 2025 at 09:37 PM

AC

“ April Crenshaw lit a candle in memory of
Lillian T. Ward



April Crenshaw - January 14, 2025 at 09:01 PM

MJ

“ MICHAEL A JACKSON lit a candle in memory
of Lillian T. Ward



MICHAEL A JACKSON - January 14, 2025 at 04:53 PM

AB

“ 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

Angela W. Bush - January 14, 2025 at 04:16 PM

CL

“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



Carol Loveless - January 14, 2025 at 12:59 PM

DB

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

Delma Jean Brooks - January 21, 2025 at 12:57 PM

LC

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



Linda c Carter - January 14, 2025 at 12:08 PM

TW

“ 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.

Thomas Woods - January 13, 2025 at 02:21 PM

MD

“ Min Rosalyn Dodson lit a candle in memory of Lillian T. Ward



Min Rosalyn Dodson - January 13, 2025 at 02:08 PM