



Mrs. Arlene Vanessa Ward

May 11, 1953 - December 13, 2012

The Circle of Life Musical Journey of Arlene Vanessa Ward

Arlene Vanessa Ward, 59 of 1930 N. Sheridan Road, Peoria Ill. passed this life unto another peacefully at 12:01 am on December 13, 2012 at Kindred Hospital.

Vanessa, as she was affectionately known, was born in Port Chester, New York to proud parents Sherman and Melissa Pearl (Elliott) Martin. She was born May 11, 1953. She married her college sweetheart, Kenneth "Kenny" Ward, on April 24, 1976 and to that union three (3) children were born, Terravis Lael, twins, Kennessa Marie and Kenneth Maurice, Jr. Her beloved husband, Kenneth Ward Sr. preceded her in death May 6, 1990. Vanessa is also preceded in death by her parents; four (4) brothers and two (2) sisters.

Vanessa attended schools in Port Chester, graduating from Port Chester High School. She studied 4 yrs at Bradley University where she majored in Music and Voice. She was co-founder of the Bradley University Gospel Choir. Vanessa and Kenny joined the ministry of New Hope International Ministries, under the leadership of Bishop Harold Dawson, Sr. She was a long time member of the New Hope Sounds of Deliverance, she traveled around the USA ministering in song. For many years her voice could be heard as the identifying voice of Radio and TV stating "Greetings, You are listening to the

Voice of Deliverance Broadcast emanating to you live from New Hope International Ministries.... where "One Service Could Change Your Entire Life"...

She was a member of the community gospel group "Friends" and along with her husband shared the stage with such gospel "greats " as Mattie Moss Clark and the Clark Sisters, The Winans, Jesse Dixon, Vanessa Bell Armstrong, The Tommies, Commissioned to name a few. They not only shared the stage but also shared bountiful feasts prepared in their home after ministering in music.

Her faithfulness, musical giftings, administrative expertise and commitment to excellence was evident throughout each dispensation and evolution of the ministry. She was a wise woman, perceptive and apt to teach. She was an ordained Elder in New Life Christian Church. She served in numerous capacities in ministry including Board of Directors, she was instrumental in implementing the vision of Women with a Purpose, founded by Evangelist Mattie Dawson, she was a founding member of the ecumenical intercessory prayer group, Purple Hat Brigade. She became a member of Elogeme Adolphi Christian Sorority and was appointed to the National Board in 2009. Her spiritual name, "Sakal Chazah" in the Hebrew denotes a woman of wisdom "Sakal" and vision "Chazah".

Vanessa worked as a Head Start Teacher and often shared with her unique wit, stories of her experiences with Pastor Spencer Gibson. She worked as a Project Manager for Ameritech for over 18 years, before retiring. She held the position of Intake Coordinator at Lifeline Family Services for 3 years.

Vanessa completed her cycle in the Circle of Life and leaves to cherish her memories her children; three (3) brothers, Robin and Charles Martin of Mt. Vernon, NY and William Elliott of Fayetteville, NC; one (1) sister Michelle Martin of Yonkers NY; thirteen (13) grandchildren; a host of nieces, nephews,

her New Life Christian Church family and friends.

Vanessa was a faithful member of New Life Christian Church at 2018 W. Kellogg Avenue, West Peoria, formerly New Hope International, where a two hour visitation will be held on Thursday evening, December 20, 2012 from 5-7 pm. The Funeral service will be held at 11 am on Friday, December 21, 2012 at St. Paul Baptist Church with a visitation one hour prior to the service beginning at 10 am. Pastor Deveraux Hubbard and Bishop Harold Dawson, Sr. will officiate. Vanessa will be entombed at American Mausoleum. Simons Mortuary has been entrusted with arrangements. Online condolences may be made to simonsmortuary.com website.

Cemetery Details

American Mausoleum

7911 N. Allen Rd
Peoria, IL 61615

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC **20**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

New Life Christian Church
2018 West Kellogg Avenue
West Peoria, IL 61604
(309) 681-4673
<http://nlccpeoria.org>

Visitation

DEC **21**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Paul Peoria
114 W. Forrest Hill Avenue
Peoria, IL 61604

Service

DEC **21**. 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Paul Peoria
114 W. Forrest Hill Avenue
Peoria, IL 61604

Tribute Wall



“ *Simons Mortuary created a Tribute Video in memory of Mrs. Arlene Vanessa Ward*



Simons Mortuary - December 13, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ *Mrs. Arlene Vanessa Ward*

January 29, 2023 at 06:10 AM



“ *Mrs. Arlene Vanessa Ward*

January 29, 2023 at 03:12 AM



“ *Taylor lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Arlene Vanessa Ward*



Taylor - November 27, 2020 at 09:04 PM

TA

“ Taylor lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Arlene Vanessa Ward



Taylor - July 17, 2016 at 02:03 AM

KM

“ I love you mom....I love you mom....I LOVE YOU MOM!!!



Kenessa Marie - April 09, 2013 at 07:08 AM

TW

“ Tyanna Ward lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Arlene Vanessa Ward



Tyanna Ward - March 24, 2013 at 11:54 AM

TW

“ Terravis Ward lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Arlene Vanessa Ward



Terravis Ward - March 24, 2013 at 11:50 AM

KW

“ *Kenessa Ward lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Arlene Vanessa Ward*



Kenessa Ward - January 11, 2013 at 11:22 PM

ES

“ *A great friend to know and to have during our years together in Junior and High School. I could still remember her smile and laughter. She will truly be missed. Vanessa and I and her brother grew up together in the same neighborhood ... Weber Drive. Rest In Peace Ernest Saxon*

Ernest Saxon - December 22, 2012 at 11:44 AM



“ *Albert Elizabeth Morrow lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Arlene Vanessa Ward*



Albert Elizabeth Morrow - December 22, 2012 at 09:40 AM



To the Ward Family: I grew up with your father, Kenny and met your Mom when they married in College. They were the most beautiful people anyone could have ever know. Vanessa was such a wonderful friend, mother, singer, and child of God. Bless you and your families. Barbara Green, Argo, Illinois

Barbara Green - December 22, 2012 at 03:41 PM

TW

“ *Terravis Ward lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Arlene Vanessa Ward*



Terravis Ward - December 22, 2012 at 09:31 AM

TS

“ *Teria Smith lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Arlene Vanessa Ward*



Teria Smith - December 21, 2012 at 02:08 PM

AW

“ *To the family of Vaness Ward:*

Please know that are loving thoughts are with you; may you find peace from your cherished memories. May the strength of your family and friends support you at this time.

Roland and Angela Walker

Angela Walker - December 20, 2012 at 06:58 PM

GM

“ *Gaye L Martin lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Arlene Vanessa Ward*



Gaye L Martin - December 20, 2012 at 01:12 PM

GM

Vanessa wore a set of wings here on earth. A warrior for Christ. May you rest in peace.

Gaye L Martin - December 20, 2012 at 01:15 PM

KW

“ *Mom,*

I am unable to put into words how I am feeling. I know you can see from where you are how much I truly love and adore you. I will miss your wittiness & wisdom. What a wonderful woman! I can only hope to become half of the woman you were. You left a true impact on us and this community.

Love always,

Kenessa

Kenessa M. Ward - December 20, 2012 at 10:31 AM

TW

“ *Terravis Ward lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Arlene Vanessa Ward*



Terravis Ward - December 20, 2012 at 07:48 AM

TW

“ *Terra Taylor Ward lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Arlene Vanessa Ward*



Terra Taylor Ward - December 19, 2012 at 07:31 PM

TW

“ *Grandmother you are the true meaning to this word! You showed your love to everyone you knew. Taylor and I will never forget the funny things you said and the fun times we had. I want to share some of my poem with you. Live Love and Laughter now as you look over us with our master. We are gonna miss you so much grandma!*

Love your grand-daughters,

Terra and Taylor Ward

Terra Taylor Ward - December 19, 2012 at 07:30 PM



“ *To Moma Vanessa Ward and Family:*

I am so sorry to hear about your mom passing on to be with Jesus. You have my prayers and love, if you need anything call me. You all was the joy that God gave to her and she loved you all us who came over to your house. God bless you all.



Derrick Daugherty - December 19, 2012 at 06:26 PM

JL

“ My prayers are with you at this time of great loss and grief. Losing one's mother is one of life's hardest challenges. Please know that your sixth- grade teacher still cares for each of you: Terravis, Kenessa, and Kenneth. May God bless you and comfort you now and forevermore.

Love,
Johnnie Locker

Johnnie M. Locker - December 19, 2012 at 04:41 PM

SD

“ I have so many memories of you since I was a little girl but you have been a confidant, counselor and mentor. We had so many conversations too many to count but I thank you for all of your wisdom and I appreciated your wit (I love laughing with you). You are family and you always will be. I love you so much and I miss you terribly! But God definitely knows what's best.

Shannon Dawson-Galloway

Shannon Dawson~Galloway - December 19, 2012 at 12:50 PM

RB

“ Renetta Billups lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Arlene Vanessa Ward



Renetta Billups - December 19, 2012 at 10:51 AM



“ To Mrs. Arlene Vanessa Ward Family:

There is so much trouble in our heart, trouble that we cannot control. Always remember that whatever betides you, you are never alone; for God is beside you. "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." Psalm 46:1



Matilda Daugherty - December 19, 2012 at 10:00 AM

RS

“ To The Arlene Vanessa Ward Family:

The love and pain we have at the same time, only the love of God can see you through. John wrote these words of Jesus in John 14:27: "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you; not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." God will see you through because He love you, God bless you.



Rev. John H Lee Sr - December 19, 2012 at 09:20 AM

MW

“ *" I love you Grandmother. You will be in my heart forever, I will miss all of the great things you did for all of your friends and family. May God bless you and you are now in heaven resting and wathing over all of us. THANK YOU! <3 O:-) R.I.P!! I LOVE YOU. AMEN." Love moriah.*

Moriah Ward - December 18, 2012 at 09:18 PM

TW

“ I love you with all my heart and now you can always see what i'am doing because you are in heaven....Everyone will miss you.....love your grand-daughterTyanna

Tyanna Ward - December 18, 2012 at 09:07 PM

TW

“ Terravis Ward lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Arlene Vanessa Ward



Terravis Ward - December 18, 2012 at 08:55 PM

TW

“ Terravis Ward lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Arlene Vanessa Ward



Terravis Ward - December 18, 2012 at 08:54 PM

CM

“ Charles A. Martin lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Arlene Vanessa Ward



charles a. martin - December 18, 2012 at 06:50 PM

TW

“ *Terravis Ward lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Arlene Vanessa Ward*



Terravis Ward - December 18, 2012 at 01:38 PM

MC

“ *Taravis, Kenny and Kanessa,
You are in our thoughts and prayers.
Rev. Caruth and Sister Melanie*

melanie caruth - December 18, 2012 at 08:23 AM

JM

“ *Jacque McCullum lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Arlene Vanessa Ward*



Jacque McCullum - December 18, 2012 at 06:31 AM



“ *Nora Wilburne lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Arlene Vanessa Ward*



Nora Wilburne - December 18, 2012 at 12:57 AM

JD

“ *Jaquan Davenport lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Arlene Vanessa Ward*



jaquan davenport - December 17, 2012 at 08:19 PM

MB

“ *You are in my thoughts and prayers.*



Mollye Bright - December 17, 2012 at 08:46 AM

TM

“ *Tanya Mack lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Arlene Vanessa Ward*



Tanya Mack - December 17, 2012 at 08:28 AM

MH

“ *Michael Hurt lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Arlene Vanessa Ward*



Michael Hurt - December 17, 2012 at 07:44 AM

CA

You are love and will surely be missed big V

Charles A.Martin - December 17, 2012 at 12:23 PM

NB

I pray peace and comfort at this special time of bereavement. Rest in peace!

Nilija Bailey - December 18, 2012 at 11:13 AM

RJ

TO THE FAMILY I WILL KEEP YOUR FAMILY IN MY PRAYERS AND PRAY FOR PEACE WITHIN.

ROBIN JOHNSON

ROBIN JOHNSON - December 19, 2012 at 08:05 PM

AJ

In the almost 20 years that i have had the pleasure of knowing you, you bring new meaning to being a Mother of the Church. Where are all the Fathers at. I don't know but our ministry has not had enough Elder Vanessa Wards. Thank You for the many blessings and words of wisdom you've shared with me. You used to always ask me when was i going to get married. And after 16 years, "I's married now!" May Heaven receive you and we shall rejoice in God giving you to us for such a time is this. To the Ward Family, "Be strong and Keep the Faith!"

from Bro. Albert & Sis. Elizabeth Morrow

Albert Morrow Jr - December 22, 2012 at 01:48 AM

AJ

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Albert Morrow Jr - December 22, 2012 at 01:48 AM