



## Wanda Elizabeth Burwell

October 28, 1935 - July 4, 2020

Wanda Elizabeth Burwell affectionately known as "Sisty" was born on October 28, 1935 at Homestead Hospital to the late Alfred R. Burwell and Sarah (Logan) Burwell. She was called home and left earth for glory on July 4, 2020. She graduated from Homestead High School and attended the University of Pittsburgh where she received her Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) Degree in Social Work (Cum Laude) along with a Masters of Social Work Degree. Many years ago, Wanda was elected the first African American woman to the Homestead Borough Counsel. She was serving her second term of service at the time of her death. She was employed at Barrett Elementary School for Steel Valley School District as well as the After School Program. Wanda was employed by the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission as an Investigator for 20 years and retired in 1999. Wanda worked at the South Hills Health System in West Mifflin, Pennsylvania as a Community Organizer/Counselor/Therapist. She was Program Director for the Homestead Salvation Army and was a Supervisor/Counselor for the St. Clair Social Center. "Sisty" accepted Jesus Christ as her Lord and Savior and was baptized at an early age at Second Baptist Church of Homestead, Pennsylvania. She was a longtime faithful member where she served on the Trustee Board, The Hallelujah Gospel Chorus, the Benevolence Committee, the Kitchen Committee, the Audio/Visual Ministry, Van Driver for Second Baptist, Advisor the the teens for Christ, and Vacation Bible School volunteer for Clark Memorial Baptist Church. The Burwell Family are the longest living members of Second Baptist

Church in Homestead, PA. Wanda had numerous amount of affiliations, being member of the Homestead Voters League, Steel Valley Community Action, National Association of Social Workers, Order of the Eastern Star, Coordinator/Supervisor of the Summer Free Lunch Program, Co-founder/Coordinator of Steel Valley Youth Business Orientation Program Jericho Road (church conglomerate Community Group), Homestead Bowling League, Pittsburgh Hands of Faith Action Group, Amachi Mentoring Program, Founder of the Nation Youth Program using Mini Bikes (NYPUM), Girl Scout Troop Leader out of Second Baptist Church, Homestead Paramedics, Homestead Paramedics; she was also affiliated with the Foreign Exchange Student Program where she housed a student from Jakarta, Indonesia for one (1) year. "Sisty was a softball player where she played second base for the Homestead "Jets". She organized/coached Girls Softball for the Jets, the Tipperettes, the Stars and My Brother's Head. She was also a softball Umpire for, and retired from, the Western Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic League (WPIAL). In addition to umpiring, she was a Basketball Referee for the State of Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA). Wanda loved all sports, but she was a diehard Steeler's fan. In quiet times two of her hobbies that she enjoyed was fishing and "going up the way". Wanda received the Humanitarian Award from the Steel Valley NAACP, "Who's Who of American Women". She was selected as one of the 100 Influential Pennsylvania African American Women by Talk Magazine in 2019. Sisty was a world traveler..Some of her travels took her to London, England, Paris, France, Egypt, Switzerland, Germany, Morocco, North Africa, and Scotland; but her favorite place was Hawaii.

Wanda was part owner of the "Burwell Variety Store" that was located on West Street in Homestead, PA. She was an Aluminum Can Entrepreneur. In addition to all of her numerous achievements/accomplishments, she always gave thanks and praise to her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Wanda Elizabeth Burwell is preceded in death by her mother and father, her son Eugene C. Burwell; great grandson Jaydon Burwell; brother Alfred R.

Burwell, Jr.; sisters Irene Johnson, Patricia M. (Ordlee) Felder, Barbara M. Broadwater, Brenda O. (Alexander) Scales; nieces Charlotte Johnson and Yvonne Young; nephews; Vincent Felder, Gregory Harris, Sr., and Michael Young.

She leaves a rich legacy of memories to be cherished by her son Minister John M. (Angie) Burwell; three grandsons; Tyler, Terrell and Travis Burwell; seven great-grandchildren; Jaylyn, Tyler Jr. (TJ) Dorian and Zayden Burwell, Caydence Burwell, Cassidy Weaver, Malia Burwell, nieces and nephews; Charlene Hester, Mary (Peach) Harris, Rev. Bruce (Rev Dr. Monoseta C.)Burwell, Robyn Guy, Esq., Deirdra Burke, Bayyinaa Gilchrist, Rev. James (Min. Jou-Al) Burwell, Min. Connie Burwell, Aaron Felder, deVaughn (William) Baker, III, William E. Felder, Deborah Williams, Donna Augustine and Sarah Scales, Tammy (John) Proctor, Cornell J. Broadwater Jr., along with fifteen great nieces, twenty great nephews, forty-one great great nieces and nephews, goddaughter, Sharon Ford; and a host of cousins and dear friends.

# Cemetery Details

## Homestead Cemetery

Homestead, PA

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUL 18. 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Second Baptist Church  
108 W 12th Avenue  
Homestead, PA

## Service

JUL 18. 1:00 PM (ET)

Second Baptist Church  
108 W 12th Avenue  
Homestead, PA

## Interment

JUL 18. 2:00 PM (ET)

Homestead Cemetery  
Homestead, PA

# Tribute Wall

AS

“ In 1979 I recruited Wanda to run as a teammate with Betty Esper for Homestead council. What a great civil rights team, Wanda, & Betty who dedicated her service to civil rights. In 1974, Kermit White, Steel Valley NAACP president, asked my mother Marcella Palucis Schultz, to run for Committeewoman. Of all the NAACP recruited candidates, my mother Marcella was the only person to win. Losing a council seat to fraud in 1975, my mother Marcella was our only NAACP backed candidate to win Council in 1977. (I lost Homestead Controller 782 to 771) . Around 1978 Wanda, Kermit White and others elected me President of the Steel Valley Community Action Committee. I applied for IRS tax exempt status, and we obtained a County grant and hired Margaret Chapman as our community organizer. In the 1979 council election, with Wanda, Neil Allen, who I also recruited and campaign I managed, and incumbent William Washington, full minority representation was reached on Homestead Council. How many municipalities in the US can claim that back in 1979? I had to endure the charge that I was an “N..... lover ” because I was backing Wana and Neil Allen. My late brother bore the brunt of the harassment, but I was not I was not going to cave to he racists. On the January 1980 vote for President of Council, opposition council incumbent William Washington voted for me. At the end of the vote Mr. Washington said “I believe in what you are fighting for.” Wanda, William Washington, and Neil Allen may have been one of the firsts in the US to receive full minority by 1980. Wanda, Kermit White, Rev. Donald Turner, Garth, Dorothy Lance (Streel Valley School Board Candidate), and many other associates of Kermit White, were minority pioneers. One of my biggest regrets is that Kermit White did not make it to Homestead Council. I declined Steel Valley NAACP man of the year for 1981, feeling that it was best for me to step away from Homestead politics, and let the likes of Betty Esper and Wanda to carry on the management and equality goals we partnered on starting in the early Winter of 1974.

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Alexander Order by Schultz000 - August 02, 2023 at 06:14 AM



“ Wanda Elizabeth Burwell

January 29, 2023 at 12:45 PM



“ Wanda Elizabeth Burwell

January 29, 2023 at 10:10 AM



“ Wanda Burrell was a Champion for children in the Homestead Community. It takes a Village to raise our children and Wanda played an integral part in the lives of hundreds of children in the Homestead Community over the span of her life. Her Leadership and Mentoring skills in countless programs and activities involving the Youth at Barrett School, Second Baptist Church and The Homestead Community Center, was a testament to this Phenomenal woman. Wanda now joins her fellow community peers who have gone home before her. They, with Wanda, helped to mould and shape our lives and our children’s lives in the Homestead Community. Rest In Peace Phenomenal Women, WANDA BURWELL, EVELYN BROOKS, HATTIE THOMS, and LAVERNE FREEMAN. We will cherish your memory. Thanks for the memories. Respectfully submitted, with love, Curtis and Sharon Russell



Sharon Russell - July 18, 2020 at 11:15 PM

LC

“ I have known, grown to love Wanda since first working with her on MUSA, Young Life, Mini-Bikes, basketball and politics to support the people and mostly children of our community. She will be missed and leaves a big void for people to step up to fill. She will be especially missed by the students of Barrett!  
My sincere sympathies to her extended family.



lloyd cunningham - July 18, 2020 at 01:05 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Wanda Elizabeth Burwell.



July 16, 2020 at 11:58 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Wanda Elizabeth Burwell.



July 15, 2020 at 09:14 AM

BL

“ Wanda was a wonderful chess player and enjoyed sharing her skills with the Barrett after school program. The students learned so much about chess from her. She helped the Barrett students at lunch and the lunchroom will never be the same. My thoughts and prayers go out to her family. Rest In Peace!!!

Betty Lyons - July 14, 2020 at 10:50 AM

GR

“ *The Burrell family lived around the corner for years from my family. Will miss you Wanda at the Robinson Family reunions calling the bingo games. My condolences to the family.*

*Geraldine Hill Robinson  
Arlington Texas*

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**G. Robinson** - July 13, 2020 at 07:00 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Wanda Elizabeth Burwell.*



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July 08, 2020 at 09:16 AM