



Mrs. Wanda F. Richards-Miller

June 13, 1952 - December 16, 2019

Wanda Richards-Miller was born in Cotton Plant, Arkansas on June 13, 1952 to Hairl and Naomi (Floyd) Richards. She became an angel ancestor on December 16, 2019 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin surrounded by the people she loves.

Wanda migrated to Milwaukee with her mother as a toddler and began excelling as a student from an early age, eventually receiving an EOP scholarship to Marquette University where she earned both Bachelor and Master of Science Degrees in Communicative Disorders with a minor in Education in 1975. She also held an Administrative Leadership License Supervisory in Special Education and was in the process of completing her PhD.

Wanda spent the following decades building a family and a career as an educator, working in Milwaukee Public Schools first as a speech pathologist and later as a special education supervisor. Her unique ability to connect with students with autism and cognitive disorders made her widely respected across the school district, a legacy that continued even after her 2011 retirement. Wanda's focus on the child rather than their special education label helped changed the lives she touched. And the unconditional love they gave back changed her just as much.

During her career, Wanda was also the Milwaukee "affiliate of one" to the National Black Association for Speech-Language and Hearing (NBASLH).

After marrying Johnny Miller in 1977, the couple had three children — Tiffany, Michele and Tyrone — who also excelled in school thanks to Wanda's focus on the importance of education and the time she spent reading to and teaching them at home. No surprise, all three went on to have successful careers with a focus on teaching and helping others.

Nearing retirement, Wanda decided it was "about damn time to do me" and threw herself into the many passions she'd always wanted more time for: poetry, art, international travel and breast cancer advocacy.

Her cancer advocacy was inspired by the loss of her best friend, Marsha Blake, and eventually led her to co-found Fight for a Funky Cure — an annual breast cancer awareness fundraiser — with her daughter Tiffany. She also directly supported women going through cancer and other health issues through home care and personal bonding.

Wanda enjoyed dancing, old school music (especially Atomic Dog by George Clinton), traveling overseas to places like Paris and Russia, spending time with family and friends, looking fresh, and drinking coffee served just like she liked her men. Black.

Wanda is preceded by her father, Hairl Richards; her mother-in-law, Paris France Miller; her father-in-law, Troy Lee Miller; and her “BMW” best friend, Marsha Blake.

In addition to her husband and children mentioned above, Wanda is survived by her mother, Naomi (Floyd) Richards; her grandsons, Kweli and Treshaun Miller; her daughter-in-law, Katie Mullen-Miller; the third member of “BMW”, Barbara Bracey; and many more family and friends.

The viewing will be held on Saturday, December 28th from 11am-1pm at The New Pitts Mortuary (2031 W. Capitol Drive, Milwaukee, WI, 53206). A celebration of life party will follow; details will be available at the viewing.

In lieu of flowers, the Miller family suggests donations to Cynthia’s Breast Cancer Giving Circle either online at cbcgc.org or via check (made out to CBCGC, Inc.) mailed to: Cynthia's Breast Cancer Giving Circle, Inc., PO Box 76083, Milwaukee, WI, 53216.

Cemetery

Events

Holy Cross Cemetery

WI,

DEC 28 Family Hour 10:00AM - 11:00AM

New Pitts Mortuary
2031 W Capitol Drive, Milwaukee, WI, US, 53206

DEC 28 Visitation ONLY 11:00AM - 01:00PM

New Pitts Mortuary
2031 W Capitol Drive, Milwaukee, WI, US, 53206

Comments



“ Love and peace to you all from auntie Midgey, me, and Wanda shared many good times as kids. I knew she was going to be successful because of her determination and drive. Wanda blessings to your family, Johnny, and children God bless u all

midgey C - December 28, 2019 at 07:32 PM



“ One of my first memory is watching her jump double-dutch on the playground. Wanda jumped into the blue sky the ropes flying over her head, 10, 20, 30, 40, and continued. She turned and laughed with no intention of stopping. I think the bell rang and called the dance to an end. Another memory is playing the hand game made famous by the sisters in The Color Purple. Wanda and I sang " Oh Mary Mac Mac Mac all dressed in black" sitting on the porch filling the summer days with games. Be blessed in your journey Wanda!

Jovelyn Richards - December 28, 2019 at 06:33 PM



“ Wanda will be truly missed. So many wonderful memories.

Blessings,

Regina Shaw

Regina Shaw - December 28, 2019 at 08:57 AM



“ Wanda, will be greatly missed. Her zest for life and compassion for those with medical issues was truly a gift. An angel in heaven. My sincerest condolences to her family. I know you will all carry on her legacy.



Terri Nolan - December 24, 2019 at 02:09 PM



“ I remember her full smile and laugh, always. She was joyful and was not afraid or ashamed to show it or share it. The flower in her hair was her signal that fun and laughter and joy were the way! God loves Wanda!! I will miss the Milwaukee affiliate. Harriette from SC.

Dr. Harriette Gregg - December 24, 2019 at 01:23 PM



“ Praying that God will bring comfort and strength to my family during this most difficult time. May the memories of Wanda make you smile.

Deniseon King - December 18, 2019 at 09:59 PM



“ Ms. Wanda was an outstanding individual. Her desire to impart, celebrate, and expand the knowledge of the Afro American culture was the embodiment of who she was. She made no apologies for her beliefs; because she was passionate about being the queen that exemplified success. Wanda was full of life, love, inspiration, and she loved nice things. Speaking about love, her family was the love of her life. She loved to brag on her children and grandchildren. She made time to help others, but her family was what made it all worthwhile. Her smile and desire to have fun made the day lighter even in hard times. I will forever miss her for just being a DIVA.

Rest my dear sister. The world will never be the same.

Mrs. R. D. Shaw

Regina Shaw - December 18, 2019 at 02:58 PM