
"Come unto me, all ye
that labour and are heavy laden,
and I will give you rest."
MATTHEW 11:28
Homegoing
CELEBRATION
FOR
Mother
Ivonnia Louise Davis
ALPHA
AUGUST 27, 1937
OMEGA
SEPTEMBER 10, 2026
A Legacy of Love, Giving & Wisdom
SHE GAVE • SHE GUIDED • SHE LOVED
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2026
VIEWING
12:00 PM – 12:50 PM
FUNERAL SERVICE
1:00 PM
SECOND BAPTIST MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH
188 MARTIN LUTHER KING AVE.
VERONA, MS 38879
REV. LARRY M. STONE, PASTOR
AGNEW & SONS FUNERAL HOME, DIRECTING



THE LIFE STORY OF

Ivonnia Louise Davis

Ivonnia Louise Davis was born on August 27, 1937, in Dorsey, MS., to the late Missouri Hussey and Pearlee Davis. She spent her early years in MS., where she received her formal education in the public schools of Pleasant Grove, MS.

As Ivonnia grew into adulthood, her journey as a mother began with the birth of her son, Gerald Wayne. She later married Robert Lee Ward, Sr., and during their union, they welcomed Robert Jr., affectionately known as "Yogi," Senecca "Nita," and Cedric "Pedro." Together with Gerald Wayne, the children were reared as a family in the Ward household.

Following the conclusion of this union, Ivonnia's family continued to grow with the births of Walter, Joe, and Henry George.

In the late 1960s, Ivonnia began a new chapter in her life when she relocated to St. Louis, MO. There, she welcomed Vernecca "Niecy," Vadie Inecca "Tisha," and Aurelias "Reco." From MS. to MO., motherhood remained one of the most meaningful parts of Ivonnia's life and legacy. Her family would grow far beyond the children she gave birth to, as throughout her life she opened both her heart and her home to many others.

A LIFE OF FAITH AND SERVICE

In 1971, Ivonnia became a member of Full Gospel Assembly Church under the leadership of Bishop Lawrence L. Maldrow in St. Louis, MO. She remained an active and faithful member, lending her voice in song and serving others through what is now known as the Culinary Ministry until her failing health in the early 80s. Her years of service reflected a faith that extended beyond the walls of the church and into the way she cared for others.

Ivonnia began her working years as a housekeeper, providing for her family through hard work and determination. In 1976, chronic asthma and declining physical health left her unable to continue working. Although her health changed the course of her working life, it certainly did not take away the personality, humor, and giving spirit that made Ivonnia who she was.

A LIFE FILLED WITH LAUGHTER

Anyone who knew Ivonnia knew that laughter was never far away. She was witty, quick with a joke, and could bring about gut-busting laughter simply by opening her mouth and saying exactly what was on her mind. Making people laugh was simply a part of who she was.

When she wasn't cracking jokes, Ivonnia could often be found watching her favorite game shows or keeping up with the latest news. She enjoyed knowing what was going on in the world and, of course, usually had something to say about it.

Yet, behind all that humor was an open and giving heart. Ivonnia opened her doors to anyone who needed a place to stay and extended a helping hand whenever she could. She gave freely, often helping others simply because there was a need. Whether it was a place in her home, something she had to give, a helping hand, or a good laugh at just the right time, Ivonnia had a way of leaving people with something they needed.

She Gave
She Guided
She Loved

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The Life Story of Ivonnia Louise Davis

A LEGACY OF AN OPEN DOOR AND AN OPEN HEART

Ivonnia leaves behind far more than names, dates, and generations. She leaves memories of a woman who loved her family, helped people when they needed her, opened her home without hesitation, and understood the gift of laughter.

She leaves the sound of jokes that will be repeated for years to come, memories of game shows and the news playing in the background, stories that will make her family laugh even while they miss her, and generations of people who are better because somewhere along the way, Ivonnia Louise Davis opened her door, or her heart, to them.



HER FAMILY, HER LEGACY

Throughout her life's journey, Ivonnia experienced both the tremendous joy of a growing family and the profound sorrow of saying goodbye to loved ones before her own passing.

She was preceded in death by four of her children: Gerald Wayne, Cedric "Pedro," Walter, Henry George. Though their earthly time together ended before hers, a mother's love does not end with death. She was also proceeded in death by her parents, sisters Erdice Huddleston and Mary Lee Shumpert; brothers Henry Davis, Cleaton Davis, Erskin Davis, and Bearlee Davis.

Those left to carry forward her love and legacy include her children, Senecca "Nita" Westbrook (Twana) and Andrew "Joe" Fields of Tupelo, MS.; Robert "Yogi" Ward (Charlene) of Richmond, VA; Vernecca "Niecy" Day-Ellis (Kenneth) of Houston, TX; and Vadie Inecca "Tisha" Vaughn and Aurelias "Reco" Davis of St. Louis, MO.

Ivonnia's family was never defined by biology alone. Her heart had room for many, and she was blessed with bonus children whom she loved and embraced as family: Debra Shumpert, Jennifer Tucker (Reginald), Molitha Johnson, and Terry Ward of Tupelo, MS.; and Ametrius Ellis of St. Louis, MO.; Pamela Roberson and Kendra Kelley of Houston, Texas.

Her family circle also includes her surviving sisters, Geraldine Walker and Barbara Davis of St. Louis, MO., and Navajo Thomas of Verona, MS.

Her legacy continues through her 21 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren, each carrying a piece of the family story forward. She also shared a special bond with her nieces Nora Denman, Tara Mitchell, and Mae Wade, who held a special place in her life and heart.

And then there was her grandson, Samuel Vaughn; her "ride or die." Their bond was one all its own. Samuel was her companion, her helper, and someone she knew she could count on to be right there by her side.

Ivonnia was also blessed with the gift of true friendship in her best friend, Patsy Coleman. Their friendship held a special place in Ivonnia's life and added yet another treasured relationship to the many she held dear.

Ivonnia also leaves to cherish her memory a host of nieces, nephews, extended family members, and dear friends whose lives were touched by her presence.

Order of Service

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

Prelude

Processional

Scripture Reading

Old Testament ..... **Pastor Chris Traylor**
Little Zion M.B. Church — Corinth, MS

New Testament ..... **Rev. Michael Knox II**
Bella Vista M.B. Church — Houston, TX

Prayer ..... **Pastor Celester Davis**
New Zion M.B. Church — Plantersville, MS

Song ..... **Choir**
"Don't Worry About Me"

Words of Comfort ..... **Pastor Larry M. Stone**
Second Baptist M.B. Church — Verona, MS

Acknowledgements ..... **Sis. Almeta Trice**

Song ..... **Choir**
"I'll Be Alright"

Eulogy ..... **Rev. Dr. J. L. Tucker**
New Zion M.B. Church — Plantersville, MS

Song ..... **Choir**
"Over Yonder"

Recessional

Tributes to Mother

IVONNIA LOUISE DAVIS

FROM HER CHILDREN

Mom, you knew how to make us laugh, and you loved each of us in your own special way. You helped when you could, gave what you could, and always enjoyed when we came to visit over the years. Those visits gave us moments, stories, and laughter that we will carry with us. We will miss your humor, your words, and simply knowing you were there. We are grateful for the life we shared with you and will carry our love for you always.

We Love You Always,
Your Children

FROM HER GRANDCHILDREN

Grandma, being around you usually meant there would be laughter and something to remember. You loved us in your own way, helped when you could, and enjoyed the visits we shared with you throughout the years. We will remember your humor, the things you would say, and all the little moments that made being with you special. Those memories now mean more than ever, and we will carry them with us always.

We Love You Always,
Your Grandchildren

FROM HER GREAT-GRANDCHILDREN

Great-Grandma, we are thankful that we had the chance to know you, even if our time together was short. We are glad for the moments we were able to spend with you and for the memories we now have to hold onto. We will always be grateful that you were a part of our lives and our family story.

We Love You Always,
Your Great-Grandchildren

THREE GENERATIONS. ONE INCREDIBLE WOMAN.
A LOVE THAT LIVES ON FOREVER.

"Come unto me, all ye
that labour and are heavy laden,
and I will give you rest."
MATTHEW 11:28

What Mother Taught Us



Keep your door open.
Give when you can.
Help when there is a need.
Speak your mind.
Laugh often.
Keep your family close.
Trust God through the journey.

And never forget
where you came from.

She Gave • She Guided • She Loved

Her earthly door has closed,
but the love she gave us will remain open forever.

A MESSAGE FROM

Mother

Ivonnia Louise Davis



"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."
MATTHEW 11:28

My Dear Family,

Don't worry about me.
I know you're going to miss me, and I know there will be tears.
Cry when you need to cry, but don't let your hearts stay heavy worrying about me.
I'm all right. I've taken my rest.

I've raised my children, watched my family grow, opened my door to many, helped when I could, laughed plenty, spoke my mind, and loved you in the way that only I could.

Now, I want you to take care of each other. Keep the family together. Check on one another. Help when you can. And please, keep laughing. Tell the stories, remember the good times, and when somebody says something I would have said, smile and say, *"I know what Mama would have said!"*

God carried me through a long journey, and now I have found my rest.
So don't worry about me.
I'm all right.

Keep living. Keep loving. Keep laughing.
And always look out for one another.

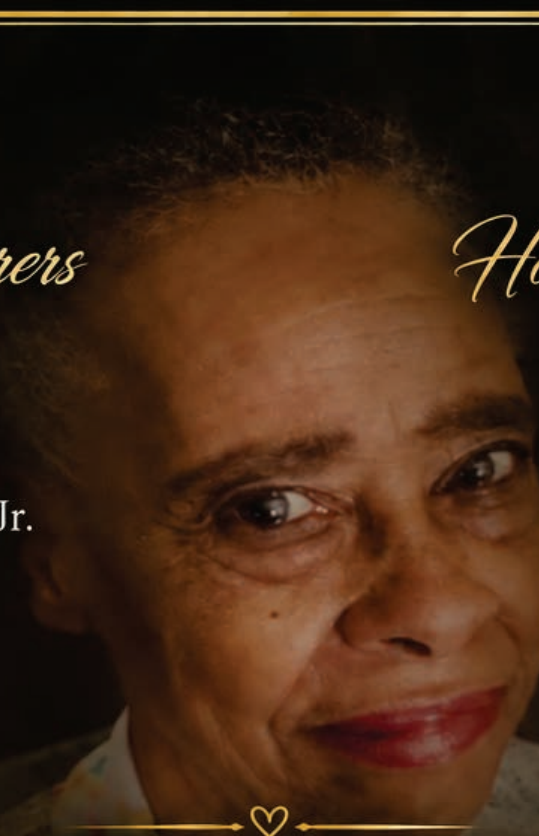
I gave. I guided. I loved.
And I knew that I was loved, too.

Love Always,

Mother
Ivonnia Louise Davis

SHE GAVE • SHE GUIDED • SHE LOVED

Forever in Our Hearts



Active Pallbearers

Aurelias Davis II
Auri Davis
Dontrell Vaughn
Kenneth “Kenny” Ellis, Jr.
Leondra Thomas
Mark Thomas

Honorary Pallbearers

Twana Westbrook
Kenneth Ellis
Titus Penro
Emanuel Gilleylen
Samuel Lucas
Mario Lucas

Flower Bearers

Nieces

Message of Our Sincerest Thanks

The family would like to express their sincere appreciation for the many prayers, cards, flowers, food, calls, visits and other acts of kindness and concern shown during the passing of our loved one. Through these deeds, you helped lighten our burdens. We are grateful for you and your many expressions of love. Your love and kindness will never be forgotten. We would like to thank the members of St. Mary’s SSM Hospital and care team Blair, Lashonda, Marquita, and Lauren for all that they have done in caring for our mother.

She Will Rest Peacefully at

Pine Grove Cemetary

Final Funeral Arrangements Entrusted To:

Granberry Funeral Home
Agnew & Sons Funeral Home