

"Our Nana"

Our Nana was a gentle soul,
With kindness in her heart,
She gave her love so freely,
And played life's sweetest part.
Her smile could light a room,
Her touch could calm our fears,
She filled our lives with laughter
And wiped away our tears.
She loved us without measure,
With a warmth so deep and true,
In every hug and every word,
Her love forever grew.
Being Nana was her joy,
Her pride, her shining light,
She cherished every moment,
From morning until night.
Though we must say goodbye for now,
Her love will always stay,
In every heart she's touched,
She lives with us each day.
-Kenyah, Mani, Carter, Din



Dear Mama



I still reach for you in the quiet of my days, like you're just in the next room, like your voice is still warming the air.
I talk to you in moments I don't understand, in laughter that still sounds like yours, in tears I try to hide but can't hold back.
You were my first home, my first lesson in love, my first example of strength even when you were tired.
But I carry you, Mama – not just in memory, but in the way I try to the way I keep going, in the way I love.
And even though I can't see you, I still feel you in everything I do.
So I'll keep talking to you, Mama, like you never left, because love like yours doesn't know how to.

Dear Mama...
I miss you.

Mama I love you
Your loving son

Acknowledgements

The family of Deborah Payton would like to express our heartfelt gratitude for the love, prayers, and support we have received during this difficult time. We offer a special thank you to Pastor KZ Smith, Walker Funeral Home, and the staff of Hospice of Cincinnati, Blue Ash, for the compassionate and dedicated care they showed Debbie each and every day. Your kindness and support will never be forgotten.



Known for Excellence. Trusted for Value.

In Loving **MEMORY**



Deborah Payton

January 18, 1957 - May 1, 2026



Saturday, May 16, 2026

Visitation: 10:00 AM - Funeral Service: 11:00 AM

Walker - Walnut Hills

2625 Gilbert Avenue | Cincinnati, Ohio 45206

Pastor KZ Smith, Officiating

Obituary

The Life of Deborah “Debbie” Payton. Deborah “Debbie” Lynn Payton peacefully passed away on May 1, 2026.

Born on January 18, 1957, in Cincinnati, Ohio, Deborah was the beloved daughter of Ruth Miller- Johnson and Willie Johnson. She was a proud graduate of Withrow High School, Class of 1976, and later attended the University of Cincinnati, where she studied Administration.

Deborah dedicated her entire professional life to the City of Cincinnati, a city she deeply loved and never left. She began her career in Recreation and went on to serve in Administration, retiring after 30 years of faithful service. Throughout her career, she was known for her professionalism, reliability, and quiet strength.

She was a loving and devoted mother to her children, Nakia Bedgood (Ian Sr.) and Carl Payton Jr., and a proud Nana to Kenyah Bedgood, Ian Bedgood Jr., Carter Payton and her great grandson, Ian Bedgood III. Deborah especially cherished her role as “Nana,” a title she wore with great joy and pride. Being a Nana brought her immense happiness, and she found her greatest fulfillment in loving, nurturing, and spending time with her grandchildren and great-grandson.

Deborah leaves behind her cherished siblings, her brother Charles Miller and sister Melinda Johnson, along with many loving nieces, nephews, cousins, and dear friends.

Deborah was preceded in death by her husband, Carl Payton Sr.; her parents, Ruth Miller-Johnson and Willie Johnson; her grandmother, Emma Smith; her siblings, Regina Jones, Joyce Jacobs, Emma “Squeaky” Johnson, Brenda Johnson, David Johnson; and her beloved niece Tawana Jones and nephew Burldon “Man” Jones.

Those who knew Deborah will remember her above all for her sweet spirit. Again and again, people described her as “the sweetest lady” Her gentle heart, kind nature, and quiet grace touched everyone she encountered, leaving a legacy of love that will forever remain in the lives she warmed.



Order of Service

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| Musical Prelude | |
| Parting View | Immediate Family |
| Prayer | Pastor KZ Smith |
| Scripture | Tahnaya McCloud |
| Selection | Queen Destiny |
| Video Tribute | |
| Reflections | 2 minutes please |
| Reading of the Obituary | Silent Reading |
| Selection | Queen Destiny |
| Eulogy | Pastor KZ Smith |
| Benediction | Pastor KZ Smith |
| Recessional | Clergy, Family & Friends Song “Goin’ up Yonder” |

23rd Psalm

The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want.
 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures,
 He leadeth me beside the still waters.
 He restoreth my soul.
 He leadeth me in the paths of
 righteousness for His name's sake.
 Yea, though I walk through the
 valley of the shadow of death,
 I will fear no evil; for thou art with me;
 Thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.
 Thou preparest a table before me
 in the presence of mine enemies;
 Thou anointest my head with oil;
 my cup runneth over.
 Surely goodness and mercy shall
 follow me all the days of my life;
 And I will dwell in the house
 of the LORD forever.