



ORDER OF SERVICE

Processional
“Jesus Is Love” - The Commodores

Scripture
Romans 8:16-39

Prayer of Comfort
Psalms 23:1-6

Musical Number
“Never Would Have Made It” by Marvin Sapp

Obituary Reading
Harris Funeral Directors

Acknowledgments

Special Tribute
Ken Riggs

Video Tribute

Reflection and Remembrance
2 minute limit

Musical Number
“Thats The Way of the World” By Earth Wind and Fire

Eulogy
John Chapman III

Benediction

Recessional
“Stairway to Heaven” by O'Jays

I'm Free

by Anne Lindgren Davison
Don't grieve for me for now I'm free,
I'm following the path God laid for me
I took his hand when I heard him call,
I turned my back and left it all
I could not stay another day,
To laugh, to love, to work or play
Tasks left undone must stay that way,
I've found that peace at the close of day
If my parting has left a void,
Then fill it with remembered joy
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss,
Ah yes, these things I too will miss
Be not burdened with times of sorrow,
I wish for you the sunshine of tomorrow
My life's been full, I've savored much,
Good friends, good times, my loved one's touch
If my time seemed all too brief,
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief
Lift up your heart, rejoice with me,
God wanted me now, He set me free.

Active Pallbearers

D-Adrian Hill	Keino Coleman
Mar'Jae Hill	Charles Ward III
Chauncy Ward	Ta'Ken Riggs

Honorary Pallbearers

D-Adrian Hill, Jr.	D'Vontae Hill
Kenneth Riggs	James M Williams
Matthew J. Williams	

Interment

Fort Logan National Cemetery
4400 W Kenyon Avenue, Denver, CO 80236

Acknowledgements

The family acknowledges and appreciates the many expressions of kindness, concern, support and comforting expressions of sympathy, generosity and support extended during our time of sorrow. May God continue to bless you and please continue to keep us in your thoughts and prayers.



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harrisfuneraldirectors.com



CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF

CHARLES RAY WARD, SR.

January 6, 1952 — June 12, 2026

Thursday, June 25, 2026 | 10:00 AM
SHILOH BAPTIST CHURCH
3301 Leyden Street, Denver, CO 80207



It is with a heavy heart that we announce the passing of Charles Ray Ward Sr., known fondly to many as, Brother, "Unc", Rap and Ray. If you'd known him, you'd know not to call him "Charles, Chuck, or Charlie". Born on January 6, 1952, in Lubbock, Texas, Charles Ray Ward was a beacon of resilience and generosity. He was a smart, loving man whose spirit was infused with a joy for life that was truly captivating. Ray was someone who loved to laugh, and he had an uncanny ability to make those around him do the same. His zest for life was evident in everything he did, from his passion for sports, which began in his high school football days at Dunbar and Estacado High School, to his love for music, which led him to be in a singing group in the mid-1970's.

Leaving home, Ray moved to Colorado in the early 70's, where he met the love of his life, Fannie P. Ward. They were married on July 30th, 1972, at Zion Temple Church in Denver. They celebrated the birth of their first child in 1975, his babygirl Tasha Ward. Their second born, his son Charles Ray Ward Jr., followed in 1979.

Ray was a man of many talents. He served in the Navy during the Vietnam War, displaying admirable courage and dedication. After his military service, he continued to contribute to his community as a Journeyman Roofer until an on-the-job injury in 1988. Despite these obstacles, Ray remained resilient, finding joy in other pursuits such as cooking, which began as a young child and developed during the time he worked at a Country Club in Texas during his younger years. He was a true lover of life, always finding time to enjoy his family, fishing, Sci-fi movies, wrestling, and sports. His love for cooking and hosting get-togethers was a testament to his generous nature, as he believed in the power of love and time shared, to create strong bonds among family and friends.

Although Ray loved having a good time, he was a man deeply rooted in his faith. He studied to be a preacher in the 1970's. His life mirrored the words of Proverbs 3:5-6, "Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight." Ray's faith was the compass that guided him and the source of his strength.

Ray was truly one of a kind and had a heart of gold. He was the kind of person who would literally give you the shirt off his back and always looked out for everyone he considered family. He was also witty and always had a comeback. He somehow always knew the right thing to say. Ray passed down his wisdom to his children and grandchildren through the words he lived by: "I might give up, but I won't give in. I might give in, but I won't give out," and "Ain't no dummies in our family." But the words we will hold closest to our hearts are the ones he shared whenever we parted ways: "LOVE, LOVE ALWAYS, ALWAYS LOVE, AND FOREVER LOVE." Goodbye was never his way, because his love was forever. "GO WITH GOD" was his latest saying, and now Daddy, it is your time to "GO WITH GOD." Your love, wisdom, and spirit will forever live on in all of us.

Charles Ray Ward Sr. is survived by his children, Tasha Ward and Charles Ray Ward Jr., his grandchildren, Charles Ray Ward III, Chazmin Ward, Chauncy Ward, Ta'Ken Riggs, Kenasha Riggs, Savannah O'Brien, Cy Ward, and Jaliyah Ward, and his siblings, Donald Ward, Wallace Coleman, Elnora Coleman, Darren Ross, Jennifer Ward Chapman, and Dorothy Sewell and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his grandparents Willie Coleman and Elnora Coleman, his father, Roger Sewell, his mother, Annie Oretha Ward, his sisters, Sheila Hollie, and Leisha Ward, his aunt Hannah (Elsie) Hollie, his uncles Willie (Ernestine) Coleman Jr., Tarter (Urma) Coleman, and Wash (Rebel) Coleman.

