

Pallbearers

*Christopher Walls ~ Donovan Hill ~ Brannon Walls
Reon Dawson ~ Ryan Dawson ~ Ryland Dawson*

Honorary Pallbearers

*Derrick Franklin ~ Ferman Brown, III ~ Jason Hall ~ Don Scott
Harold Hagwood ~ Clarence Walls ~ Mark Applin*

Flowerbearers

*Janice Franklin ~ Janice Hubbard ~ Cynthia Franklin ~ Pamela Jones ~ Jacqueline Brown
Faye Hawthorne ~ Angela Rice ~ Yolanda Harris ~ Anita Cannon ~ Cheryl Muse
Dionne Mayes ~ Francine Scott ~ Theresa McKenzie ~ Sandy Scott*

Our Thanks To You...

*All who have shown acts of kindness, sent flowers, food, cards and other expressions of love
and concern to us during this time.*

*Dr. Cassandra Suggs Williams, her primary care physician for over 20 years, for compassionate
medical care and expertise.*

*East Second Street First Church of God, Xenia Ohio congregation for being the sweetest and
kindest saints around and always showing love to Lady Donna and celebrating her annually.*

*Bro. Derrick Franklin for making sure Lady Donna made it from the vehicle to her church pew
and back every Sunday.*

*Bishop Timothy J. Clarke and the First Church of God, City of Refuge for the encouragement,
support, prayers and generosity during this difficult time.*

*The nursing staff and aides at Brookdale Lakeview Crossing of Groveport, for their loving care
with special thanks to Yama, Amber, Yar, Trish, and Anna.*

The staff of Marlan Gary Funeral Home for their care, professionalism and sensitivity.



**MARLAN GARY
FUNERAL HOME**

1 FUNERAL HOME | 4 LOCATIONS

MINISTRY OF COMFORT ENTRUSTED TO:

NORTH CHAPEL
2500 CLEVELAND AVE.,
COLUMBUS, OH 43211
614-267-8310

EAST CHAPEL
5456 LIVINGSTON AVE.,
COLUMBUS, OH 43232
614-604-8774

MANSFIELD CHAPEL
753 MCPHERSON ST.,
MANSFIELD, OH 44903
419-524-6999

SPRINGFIELD CHAPEL
823 SOUTH YELLOW SPRINGS ST.,
SPRINGFIELD, OHIO 45506
937-325-1447

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The Celebration Service
HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF

*FIRST
LADY*

*DONNA M.
WALLS*

NOVEMBER 21, 1931 ~ JULY 23, 2025

"YOUR LIFE WAS A BLESSING, YOUR MEMORY A TREASURE"

Her Life Reflections

Donna Marie Hughes Payne Walls was born on November 21, 1931, in Columbus, Ohio, as the only child of the late Edward Lyle Payne and Jessie Ardella Hughes Payne. She was blessed to have two older and dear siblings from her father's former marriage to his late wife: Melvin Eugene Payne and Verna Mae Payne Bozeman.

She attended public school and graduated from South High School, and was a model student. She had aspirations of becoming a physician, but she pursued a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education with a minor in Social Work from The Ohio State University, fulfilling her mother's desires for her. After graduating, she taught public school for two years and decided it wasn't her cup of tea. She pursued social work and was employed at the Franklin County Department of Human Services and retired after 35 years of faithful and dedicated service.

She married James Douglas Walls, a native of Washington, DC, in 1962, having met him while he was serving as evangelist at Wayne Avenue Church of God in Columbus, Ohio. To this union were born Quentin Douglas and Janice Marie. She was a loving mother and an equally caring grandmother to her grandsons Darius, Ross, Caleb, Christopher, Donovan, and Omar-Zaccai. She was thrilled when her granddaughter, Serenity, arrived. Lady Donna enjoyed knitting, reading, and clipping coupons until she was diagnosed with macular degeneration and was no longer able to.

Since 1968, when her husband accepted the pastorate of the Church of God in Xenia, Ohio, she served faithfully as the First Lady. She was very active in her church until her health began to decline. She served for a time as the pianist, choir directress, choir member, member of the Bell Choir, and the Pastor's secretary. She enjoyed traveling with her husband of 63 years and together, they visited many states in the US as well as numerous countries and islands throughout the Caribbean. They thoroughly enjoyed cruising and went annually to somewhere they hadn't previously been. They also traveled to Canada, Bermuda, Europe, and Asia. They participated in the 8th World Conference of the Church of God in Seoul, Korea, and also visited Hong Kong, China, and Tokyo, Japan. Then in 1999, they attended the 11th World Conference of the Church of God in England, and while there, had excursions to Norway, Denmark, and Sweden. They continued to enjoy their travels until September 2019, where their last cruise was from Boston to Bermuda and back.

During July of each year, she happily traveled to Washington, DC, to visit her loving family by marriage, and in early August of each year, they looked forward to attending camp meeting on Zion's Hill, West Middlesex, PA. They always had lovely accommodations, a trailer in the early years and later a two-bedroom mobile home. They enjoyed having family and friends come to visit and looked forward to the services each day.

Lady Donna was last able to attend church for her 93rd birthday celebration, where the saints showered her with love and cards and a beautiful program and meal.

Lady Donna spent the last nine months of her life at Brookdale Senior Living, where she was lovingly cared for. She was known for her beautiful smile and selflessness. Even in her last days, she asked others, "Are you OK?" Her last three days, her husband was moved in to be by her side, and he was awakened in the wee hours of the morning with the sad news of her homegoing. She had, even in death, that beautiful smile and the most peaceful look that anyone would ever want to see.

Lady Donna was preceded in death by her parents, Edward and Jessie Payne; her brother, Melvin Payne; her sister, Verna Bozeman; sisters-in-law, Mildred Behlin and Dorine Walls; brothers-in-law, Carl Bozeman, James Behlin, and Bennie Walls. She leaves to cherish her memory her beloved husband of 63 years, James Douglas Walls; brothers-in-law Timothy Walls of Hyattsville, MD; George (Sharon) Walls of Fort Washington, MD; Clarence (Ada) Walls of Beavercreek, OH; her children: Quentin (Robin) of Pickerington, OH; Janice (Rufus) Wiggins of Chapin, SC; her grandchildren: Christopher (Monica) Walls of Circleville, OH; Darius Hill, Dayton, OH; Ross (Tasha) Hill, Dayton, OH; Caleb Hill, Columbus, OH; Donovan Hill, Milwaukee, WI; Omar-Zaccai Hill, Hanover, MD; and Serenity Hill, Columbus, OH. She had an "adopted" daughter in Sheila Santiago, Trotwood, OH, 3 special "grandsons" in Reon (Tishanna) Dawson, Westland, MI; Ryan Dawson, West Carrollton, OH; and Ryland Dawson, Trotwood, OH, and a godson, Tyrone Scott of TX. There are numerous loving and very special nieces and nephews in Ohio, Washington, DC, Maryland, and Virginia, and a cousin, Lynne Kelley, in Detroit, MI.

A POETIC TRIBUTE TO FIRST LADY DONNA MARIE WALLS

*Dear Sweet Lady Donna!
Your presence will be missed!
Your kindness is a virtue!
To all who encountered, such bliss!*

*Your stature was so stunning!
You walked with poise & prim!
Your attire like none other!
With beautiful hats & stylish brims!*

*Your speech commanded us to listen!
Sweet and to the point!
Intelligence at it's finest!
With directions to appoint!*

*A Pastor's wife wasn't easy!
First Lady Donna, you did it quite well!
His Secretary you did effortlessly!
All the details were quite swell!*

*Your children very successful!
Their inherited intelligence is great!
They got it from Momma & Daddy!
Now their lives are beautifully straight!*

*Your grandchildren have grown nicely!
Finding their ways in life!
You taught them the ways of Jesus!
Your example is the spice of life!*

*The Proverbs 31 Woman!
You made it look easy for sure!
Strength, Integrity & Honor you possessed!
And so, so, so much more!*

*Your beautiful smile would brighten the room!
Genuine and friendly!
Your lovely voice could soothe the weary!
Drawing in so many!*

*Your home was kept immaculate!
Nothing was out of place!
Dirt couldn't stand a chance you know!
You tackled it with wholesome grace!*

Pastor Walls chose the right wife & companion!

*You made him proud indeed!
You never caused him to worry!
His trust in you planted a wonderful seed!*

*God blessed You & Pastor to travel!
You enjoyed the cruises & different countries
divine!*

*You saw the Lord's awesome creations!
His walk you did align!*

*Your Xenia (760) Church Family,
Will never be the same!
Your seat can't be replaced!
We love you Dearly, you loved & greeted us
Cheerly!*

Now we honor your consecrated space!

*West Middlesex will sadly & surely miss you!
Your presence was Stately & Pure!
When you arrived in your carriage!
Your escorts were there for sure!*

*God blessed you with longevity!
Your Washington family you adored!
They adored you right back, as you all kept
track!
The Family will continue with memories of
before!*

*A wonderful Social Worker,
Franklin County employed!
Your heart was in your daily work,
With uprightness you enjoyed!*

*You loved the Lord, with all your heart!
Your actions spoke louder than words!
Your dedicated life to His service!
Blessed you on one accord!*

*After 63 years of marriage,
OH! how your husband will miss you!
Quentin (Robin), Dr. Janice (Rufus) & all
the Grands & Family,
Will often grab the tissue!*

*There's so much more that could be said!
A book that can be written!
Your impeccable grace, as you ran your race!
Causing many to be smitten!*

*Inspired by Jesus!
Written by Madeline McLaurin Hunter.
08/01/2025*

A Model First Lady

From the time I was a little girl I saw my mother epitomize a model first lady. She never complained when the saints called my father in the wee hours of the night. She never fussed about all the hugs and kisses my father received after church from the female parishioners. She, for years, prepared for her family to travel the 68 miles on Saturday and spend the night at the parsonage. She planned three meals in her second kitchen and packed outfits for Sunday morning to include play clothes for after church. Whew, talk about a model first lady.

I never witnessed a complaint about having to visit a member's home, make a nursing home visit, or see someone in the hospital. She, without grumbling, attended conventions or missionary services every quarter after our morning service and an abbreviated dinner. I never heard her utter a word of gossip and she never shared confidential information. She taught me how to act and dress like a young lady and to not be ashamed of dressing differently, even from a young age. Talk about a model first lady.

Now that I am grown with six children and am challenged to make Sunday School and morning service in the city, I realize the amount of planning and dedication it took my mother. Not only was it once or twice, but she did this for years! Talk about a model first lady.

The Bible says for the older women to teach the younger and even though I have never openly expressed to my mother what an example she was as a first lady, I find myself drawing from her example daily with my children and particularly, my daughter. Those qualities of being a lady, accessorizing, and of course, wearing hats, will echo in my mind always. You are a model first lady!

*Happy First Lady's Day! I love you Mommy.
Janice*

Initially submitted Sunday, February 13, 2005



ORDER OF SERVICE

FRIDAY, AUGUST 8, 2025 ~ 11:00AM

FIRST CHURCH OF GOD

3480 REFUGEE ROAD, COLUMBUS, OH 43232

OFFICIANT ~ BISHOP TIMOTHY J. CLARKE

PROCESSIONAL

HYMN OF COMFORT....."Blessed Assurance"
THE HOLY SCRIPTURES..... Min. LaMonte Monroe
Assoc. Min., Xenia COG

Old Testament Scripture ~ Psalm 23
New Testament Scripture ~ I Thessalonians 4:13-18

PRAYER OF COMFORT.....Min. John Cambron
Assoc. Min., Xenia COG

MUSICAL SELECTION

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....Robin L. Walls

THE OBITUARY.....Read Silently

REMEMBRANCES.....(Time Limit - 3 minutes).....Bishop Timothy J. Clarke
Family, Drs. Clarence and Ada Walls

MUSICAL SELECTION

THE EULOGY.....Bishop Timothy J. Clarke
Senior Pastor, First Church of God, City of Refuge
Columbus, Ohio

BENEDICTION

HYMN OF DESTINATION....."I'll Fly Away"

RECESSIONAL.....Clergy, Family and Friends

ENTOMBMENT

Forest Lawn Memorial Gardens
5600 E. Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio



