



Ms. Marva B. Harper

August 28, 1941 - June 22, 2024

With deep sorrow and profound respect, we mourn the passing of our beloved mother Marva B. Harper.

Born on August 28, 1941, in Kansas City, Missouri, she was the cherished daughter of Paul S. Shelby Sr.

and Candis Shelby, both of whom preceded her in death, along with her sister, Helen Wildean Cotman, and brother, Benny J. Shelby.

Marva was previously married to Linzy Harper. Her career as a Cartographer at the Defense Mapping

Agency spanned many years and cities: Kansas City Mo, St. Louis, Mo, and Ft. Belvoir, Va., until her early

retirement, after which she continued to contribute as a substitute teacher in the Kansas City Missouri

District and at the Sprint Center.

Marva's journey was marked by dedication and achievement. Educated in the Kansas City, Missouri

school district, she went on to earn a BS in General Education from UMKC and a Masters in Theology

from Western Baptist Bible College. Her faith was central to her life, evident in her extensive

involvement at Southside First Missionary Baptist Church (SSFMB). There, she served as the

Chairperson of Christian Education, Superintendent of Sunday School, coordinator of Vacation Bible School, as well as both a Sunday School and Bible Study teacher. Marva's recent induction into the Mother Board of SSFMBC was a testament to her lifelong commitment to her home church community.

Marva was also active in the New Era District and the Missouri Baptist State Convention where she served as the Dean of Christian Education. She was the Mission Study Chairperson, the Foreign Mission Prayer Day Chairman, and State 1st Vice President of the WMU Missionary Baptist State Convention of Missouri.

Beyond her church duties, Marva Harper dedicated her life to serving others with compassion and selflessness. From Africa with Agape Ministries to Haiti with Mission of Hope, and across South America and the United States, her mission work exemplified unwavering dedication to spreading hope and love.

Her impact extended further as President of the Niles Home (now KVC), where numerous holiday activities were organized under her leadership. With a servant's heart, Marva uplifted and empowered countless individuals, transcending borders and leaving a lasting imprint on people and communities worldwide. Her legacy of empathy and action continues to inspire kindness and service among all who knew her.

Marva's warmth and generosity touched countless lives beyond her family circle. Known affectionately as Honeygram, Marva leaves behind a legacy of love and service. She is

survived by her children:

Teressa Harper Music (Michael Music), Michael Harper (Cheryl Harper), and Elena Harper; her siblings:

Paul Shelby, Calvin Shelby (Charleszetta Shelby), Grace Crain, and sister-in-law Charlesetta Shelby;

grandchildren: Shalisha Tann-Beard, Jazmin Harper, Leonard Tann, Joslyn Harper, Jarad Harper, and Jada

Harper; six great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, and dear friends.

Marva peacefully departed to be with the Lord on Saturday, June 22, 2024, at 12:05 pm, surrounded by

loved ones, as Jesus gently cradled her in His arms during her transition.

While her absence leaves a

profound void, her memory will be forever cherished. In her own words, & quote;Have a blessed day and remember God loves, and so do I; Rest well, dear Marva.

Your legacy of faith, kindness, and unwavering love will endure in our hearts always.

Funeral services Saturday, July 6, at 11:00am at Friendship Baptist Church.

Interment Forest Hill Cemetery. Vistation Friday, July 5, from 6:00pm- 8:00pm

at Southside First Baptist Church and Saturday 10:00am-11:00am at the

Friendship church. Arrangements entrusted to Lawrence A. Jones & Sons.

Condolence may be shared on our website.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 5. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Southside First Baptist Church
2015 East 50th Street
Kansas City, MO 64130

Visitation

JUL 6. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Friendship Baptist Church
3530 Chelsea Drive
Kansas City, MO 64128

Funeral Service

JUL 6. 11:00 AM (CT)

Friendship Baptist Church
3530 Chelsea Drive
Kansas City, MO 64128

Tribute Wall

RK

“ My condolences to Ms. Marva’s family & church family. Ms. Marva was sharp! Sharp in dress, sharp in Biblical knowledge, & sharp in coordinating & leading programs. Ms. Marva was going to make it happen; pulling on all people’s giftings & resources. She was always a supporter of mine; encouraging me in my every endeavor. She’d often tease my Mother to take me away from her & she’d say “You know I’m praying for your Mom” whenever Moma wouldn’t align with Ms. Marva’s current agenda. We’d all have a good laugh. I loved, admired, & respected Ms. Marva & will miss her earthly presence. Rest well & enjoy your reward soldier & servant of the Most High God!



Rev. Shenice Kimbrough - July 03, 2024 at 12:23 PM

MB

Ms. Marva tried to work me to death and I wasn't having it. Now she can work those folks in heaven. Loved her beyond life.

Marsha Brown - July 08, 2024 at 08:53 AM

CG

“ To the Family of Ms. Marva. She will be missed dearly. Marva and I met at Western Baptist Bible College and formed a beautiful friendship. She had such a sweet spirit and was always willing to help. I really got to know her during a seminar that she put on at her church. A young woman ran into the church, fearful, seeking help. I witness Marva caring and protecting the woman from the streets. I saw Marva rise above the potential danger to help another woman - a stranger. But that was the Marva I knew; strong, intelligent, willing to give; willing to help. Her compassion was always sincere! Ms. Marva, my friend in Christ.

Chaplain Gail - July 01, 2024 at 03:46 PM

JG

“ To the family of Marva Harper, what a sweet and adorable lady, gonna miss you Marva. What a blessing to have grown up right before your eyes, I'll miss you Marva.

Joan Green - June 29, 2024 at 08:44 AM

KA

“ KVC Family and Niles Academy planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ms. Marva B. Harper.

KVC Family and Niles Academy - June 27, 2024 at 04:46 PM



“ Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of Ms. Marva B. Harper.



June 27, 2024 at 04:46 PM