



Vernell Patillo

September 3, 1945 - February 23, 2020

Vernell Benton Patillo, was born on September 3, 1945, in Southampton County, Virginia to Johnie Jackson Benton and Virgie Mae Benton. She peacefully transitioned on Sunday, February 23, 2020 at her home surrounded by family and friends. She lived 74 years of a blessed life.

Vernell started her educational journey in Southampton County schools where she was the salutatorian of her high school class. She then graduated from Norfolk State University where she received a Bachelor's degree in Education and Virginia State University where she received a Master's degree in Math. After her college education, she knew she wanted to be an educator. She was a math educator for over 35 years and also served as the Mathematics Department Chair in several schools. She worked for Chesapeake Public Schools, Norfolk Public Schools, Portsmouth Public Schools, Tidewater Community College, Hampton University, Old Dominion University, and Norfolk State University, not to mention the "college of Vernell" for the many that sat around her dining room table hoping to pass their math courses.

Vernell was truly a compassionate and caring leader and member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated for 53 years. She was initiated in the Epsilon Theta Chapter at Norfolk State University in 1966. She was a member of Portsmouth Alumnae Chapter of DST where she served as chapter President for two terms, 1988-1990 and 1998-2000, Chair of the May Week

Committee, Delta Academy, and most recently served as a co-chairperson for the 70th Anniversary Committee in 2013.

Vernell was a faithful member of St. Paul Catholic Church for over 40 years. She attended church regularly and worked diligently to serve the Lord. She started out teaching religious education classes (Sunday School). She was a part of the Haiti Ministries and served on the Parish Council. She was a Lector and a Eucharistic minister who also served the sick and homebound.

Vernell was a loving mother, doting grandmother and friend to many. She often cooked and hosted gatherings for friends and family. She sat on many bleachers and in many auditoriums watching her kids and grandkids play sports, dance and cheer. She tried to make every event including academic ceremonies, holiday programs, and graduations.

Vernell is predeceased by her parents Johnie and Virgie Benton, her siblings Marian Dawson (Thomas) and Deborah Benton, as well as her husband Charles Edward Patillo Jr. To cherish her memory she leaves her three children Charles Lawrence Patillo (Crystal), Craig Jerome Patillo, and Jacquelyn Patillo Herndon; six grandchildren, Chelsea Patillo, Craig Patillo Jr. (Ruby), KeSean Patillo, Cameron Patillo, Nevaeh Leigh Patillo Herndon, Toney Alexander Lee Herndon; five siblings, Johnie Benton, Jesse Benton (Norma Jean), Brenda Saunders, Edith Benton, Duncan Benton and a host of aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins and close friends.

Cemetery Details

All Saints Catholic Cemetery

Portsmouth VA

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 1. 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

J.T. Fisher Funeral Services
1248 N. George Washington Hwy
Chesapeake, VA

Service

MAR 2. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Paul Catholic Church
522 High Street
Portsmouth, VA 23704

Tribute Wall

NW

“ I met Vernell when we were both involved in the Haiti Ministry. Her intelligence, compassion and warmth made me glad that that I knew her. Such a lovely Christian woman. Her smile could light up the room. My deepest condolences on her passing. I will always have fond memories of her. Rest In Peace Dear Vernell. Naida Wyckoff

Naida Wyckoff - March 06, 2020 at 07:33 PM

DL

“ We would like to send our heart felt condolences to all of you. Ms. Vernell was truly loved and will be truly missed.
The Ford & Lewis Family

delvetia lewis - March 02, 2020 at 11:38 AM

FC

“ Vernell was one of the smartest, kindest, most empathetic teachers who ever worked in Norfolk Public Schools. I loved her smile and her gift for making everyone feel uplifted. She has claimed her spot in Heaven!

Frances Craig - March 02, 2020 at 08:55 AM

SH

“ Sending love and prayers your way Chuck, Crystal and the Patillo family. Ms. Vernell left a wonderful legacy in you all. Peace and blessings, Troy and Sherae Griffin. (Dallas, TX)



Sherae Harding-Griffin - March 01, 2020 at 01:00 AM



“ 32 files added to the album Life Tributes



J. T. Fisher Funeral Services - February 28, 2020 at 12:40 PM



“ Wonderful teacher of mine! Very compassionate, kind, caring, intelligent, and an awesome mentor to her students!! Condolences to the family and friends of Mrs. Patillo. May she RIP.

sheila Cuffee, MSSW - February 28, 2020 at 11:52 AM



“ Lacey Winner purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of Vernell Patillo.



Lacey Winner - February 27, 2020 at 05:35 PM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Vernell Patillo.*



February 27, 2020 at 08:45 AM



“ *Sending love, hugs and prayers of peace to Vernell's family and friends.*

*Love,
Laura Keesey*



Laura - February 26, 2020 at 09:46 PM



“ *Lisa Johnson-Williams purchased the Be My Love Bouquet with Red Roses for the family of Vernell Patillo.*



Lisa Johnson-Williams - February 26, 2020 at 04:57 PM

AH

“ To: *The Family of Vernell,*

May the Lord comfort you during this most difficult time. Vernell was one of our dear

classmate of 1963 from the Southampton County Training School of Courtland, Virginia.

Classmates/Friends.

Algie P. & Sadie Williams Hill of Chesapeake, Virginia

Algie P. and Sadie Williams Hill - February 26, 2020 at 11:19 AM

DB

“ *Delmarene Barnes lit a candle in memory of Vernell Patillo*



Delmarene Barnes - February 26, 2020 at 01:00 AM

AF

“ *Aunt Vernell, thank you again for teaching us to expand our view of the World. Rest with THE LORD now.*



Allen Dawson and Family - February 25, 2020 at 09:42 PM

LS

“ *Lamont Simmons lit a candle in memory of Vernell Patillo* ”



Lamont Simmons - February 25, 2020 at 05:12 PM