



Veda Elaine Burns

July 21, 1956 - December 20, 2023

Veda E. Burns: A Life of Achievement, Service, Excellence, and Heart.

We celebrate the life of Veda E. Burns, a remarkable woman of great faith. Through service to her family, church, and her community; she planted seeds, tilled the soil, and helped to nurture the garden for many lives on her journey. Today we honor God for the life and legacy for He has chosen Veda to be a part of his heavenly, celestial garden. Listening to the voice of God, Veda passed away peacefully in Houston, TX on December 20, 2023. She was surrounded by her twin sister, nieces and nephews, goddaughter, clergy and cherished loved ones.

Veda made her debut 10 minutes before her identical twin Sister Vera, born to Daniel M. and Jennie Porter Burns in Savannah. Veda's life was a testament to her unwavering dedication to her love of family and friends, excellence, and service. From an early age, Veda's deep faith, rooted in the Historic First Bryan Baptist Church, Savannah, guided her life's path. Later in life, Veda was a dedicated member of Wheeler Baptist Church in Houston, where she volunteered in the children's ministry, vacation Bible school and as a strong prayer warrior for cancer support ministry. Her academic journey was marked by exceptional accomplishments.

Veda graduated with distinction and honors as Summa Cum Laude from A.E.

Beach High School, Savannah in 1974. She was a member of the National Honor Society, a varsity cheerleader, and was crowned Ms. A.E. Beach HS her senior year. At Savannah State University, she continued to excel, graduating Summa Cum Laude with a BS in Business Administration and Marketing in 1978. An active part of the fabric of the Savannah State tiger community, Veda was a member of the Marketing club, Miss Phi Beta Lambda and active in student government. As an alumna, Veda was a life member of the Savannah State Alumni Association, serving in two chapters- South Dekalb Perimeter and SSUNAA Texas chapter. Veda's pursuit of knowledge didn't stop there; she earned an MBA in Marketing Management from 1980 the University of Georgia, Terry College of Business, where she was awarded the prestigious Georgia Board of Regents Academic Scholarship, She landed her first job with AT&T in Columbus, GA. Years later, she moved to Atlanta to begin her career in pharmaceutical sales.

She relocated to Philadelphia in 2001 to assume a Hematology/Oncology Brand Managerial Role for a Fortune 500 Bio-pharmaceutical company. In 2003, Veda relocated to Houston, a move that worked in her favor, organ transplant wise. Her commitment to empowering others was evident in her affiliations with the National Black MBA Association and the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society-Gulf Coast Chapter. She retired after a 30-year stellar pharmaceutical sales career in 2015.

Veda's legacy extends beyond her professional achievements. She was passionate about life, love, and the pursuit of happiness. Veda loved everybody- from babies, young adults, seniors, and everything in between. As an identical twin, Veda's life was intertwined with her sister Vera and vice versa, from the beginning of her first heartbeat to her last breath.

The twins had a unique, uncanny ability to communicate in a language no one else could understand, nor could be explained. To this day, their bond remains

unbroken and is immeasurable. In 2016, Veda underwent a double lung transplant. In the face of insurmountable odds, she continued her passion for travel and shopping till she dropped, plays, concerts, dinner parties, and visiting friends and family from coast to coast. A social butterfly "who was the life of the party" whether singing the Happy Birthday song or dancing down the soul train line! Once you met Veda, she was unforgettable. She was witty, wise, had a knack for connecting people from all walks of life and had a willingness to mentor and offer advice to those she loved. She lived life to the fullest with God's grace and favor, she never gave up and to the end "Veda did it her way". Veda was loved and will truly be missed! Left to cherish her memory are her twin Vera of Atlanta, GA. Her sisters Laura (Robert) Ward of Vacaville, CA, Inez (Vernel) Gainey of Savannah, GA. Her brothers Richard (Sheila) Burns of Fayetteville, NC., Ronnie (Valjean) Burns of Savannah, GA and Wendell Burns of Savannah, GA and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, godchildren, and friends who were as close as family. Veda is preceded in death by her parents, brother Daniel, and sister Delores Hardwick.

Her life's work will resonate for generations to come. Veda's memory will remain a guiding light in the hearts of those she touched.

Acknowledgements

Though there is emptiness in our hearts today as we mourn the loss of our beloved Veda, we are under girded by the massive outpouring of your love. Your many expressions of kindness, deeds of love, and prayers sustains us at this time.

Having you as our family is powerful and gives us warm memories of comfort that are indelibly etched in our hearts and mind forever, and for this we say, "Thank you".

Please know that each of you have been a source of strength for Veda. A special thanks to:

The Pearlie Robinson & family, The Farrar Family, The James family, Atty Barbara Parker Hudson, Vernise Richardson, Gilda Williams, Almeda Kendrick, Shirley and Ray Jewell, Cordelia Perkins, The Mullins Family, Jennifer Aitsebaumo, Mabel Scott Austin, Terri Smith. Doris Spencer, Elizabeth Jamerson Flett, Naomi Veal, Bonnie Peterson, Karen Factory Salmund, Yvonne Yepp, Pearle Wright, Van Livingston, Kerry Ewens, Wheeler Baptist Church Family, Staff of Methodist Hospital, Houston TX.

Cemetery Details

Magnolia Memorial Park

5532 Silk Hope Rd
Savannah, GA 30046

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 12. 10:00 AM (ET)

Impact Church
2323 Sylvan Rd
East Point , GA 30344

Celebration of Life

JAN 12. 12:00 PM (ET)

Impact Church
2323 Sylvan Rd
East Point , GA 30344

Visitation

JAN 13. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Adam's Funeral Services, Inc
510 Stephenson Ave
Savannah, GA 31405

Burial

JAN 13. 1:00 PM (ET)

Magnolia Memorial Gardens
5532 Silk Hope Road
Savannah, GA 31405

Tribute Wall



“ Gregory B. Levett & Sons Funeral Homes & Crematory created a Tribute Video in memory of Veda Elaine Burns



Gregory B. Levett & Sons Funeral Homes & Crematory, Inc. - January 09, 2024 at 10:38 AM

SS

Our condolences to Veda's family. Such a beautiful life story. Memories to cherish forever. Sharon Seay and family.

Sharon Seay - January 11, 2024 at 06:30 PM

LW

My condolences to the Burns family. Vera you are especially in my prayers.

Evonne

Larita Wortham - January 12, 2024 at 12:29 PM

JO

Our condolences to the Burns family. God saw she was getting tired, and a cure was not to be, so He put his arms around her and whispered come with me.

The James family- Jax. Fl.

Juanita Owens - January 12, 2024 at 04:39 PM

DG

RIP Veda

Deirdre Gilbert - January 13, 2024 at 07:52 AM

RJ

“ Robin Jones lit a candle in memory of Veda Elaine Burns



Robin Jones - July 24, 2025 at 09:18 AM

RJ

I am just hearing about Veda's passing. We had lost touch over the years as life took us in different directions. I am grateful that our lives intersected for a time and we shared many good times together. What a beautiful soul she was and she was a good friend to have. My condolences to her family.

Robin Jones - July 24, 2025 at 09:26 AM

JR

“ Miss Veda was such a special soul. I will miss her very much. Her kindness and spirit will always be an inspiration to me. Rest easy, sweet friend.



Jessica T, RDH - January 17, 2024 at 10:02 PM

SD

“ Sharon Davis lit a candle in memory of Veda Elaine Burns



Sharon Davis - January 12, 2024 at 06:03 PM

SD

“ *My friend, always checking on each other. Until we meet again.
Love always Sharon Davis*

Sharon Davis - January 12, 2024 at 06:01 PM

LW

“ *Loretta Williams sent a virtual gift in memory of
Veda Elaine Burns*



Loretta Williams - January 12, 2024 at 01:58 PM

VR

“ *Venise Richardson lit a candle in memory of
Veda Elaine Burns*



Venise Richardson - January 12, 2024 at 12:30 PM

VR

“ *Venise R. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Veda Elaine Burns.*

Venise R. - January 12, 2024 at 12:04 PM

MA

“ So sorry to here of Veda’s passing I have known her since 2nd grade at Hodge elementary very sweet person and then we were the class of 1974 at AEB high and later ran into her at n Decatur at South Dekalb Mall and was the same Veda my condolences to the family

MarilynAllmond-Peal - January 12, 2024 at 12:03 PM

AK

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Almeda Smith Kendrick - January 12, 2024 at 11:20 AM

AK

Beautiful Memories

Almeda Smith Kendrick - January 12, 2024 at 11:22 AM



“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Veda Elaine Burns.



January 12, 2024 at 11:16 AM

AF

“ Almeda Kendrick & Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Veda Elaine Burns.

Almeda Kendrick & Family - January 12, 2024 at 11:16 AM

AK

“ Almeda Smith Kendrick lit a candle in memory of Veda Elaine Burns



Almeda Smith Kendrick - January 12, 2024 at 10:58 AM

AK

Cherishing Beautiful Memories Beautiful friend.

Almeda Smith Kendrick - January 12, 2024 at 11:00 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Veda Elaine Burns.



January 12, 2024 at 12:56 AM

BH

“ To the family of Veda Burns, you have my deepest condolences in the passing of one classy person. As we were growing up, everyone loved Veda and Vera. As we were growing up at Beach high school, we just loved up on each other. We did not have cell phones, internet and all the other technology things. Veda, we will always love you because *PRECIOUS MEMORIES* is what we going to hold on to. Asking GOD to give the family, *PEACE, LOVE, STRENGTH AND UNDERSTANDING!!*



Beverly Ricks Howell - January 12, 2024 at 12:00 AM



“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Veda Elaine Burns.



January 11, 2024 at 10:50 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Veda Elaine Burns.

January 11, 2024 at 10:50 PM



“ *My condolences to the Burns family. Veda was a beautifully spirited person with a huge presence and personality. She will definitely be missed by many. My thoughts and prayers are with you.*

Valerie Montague Goldston

Valerie Goldston - January 11, 2024 at 10:09 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Veda Elaine Burns.*



January 11, 2024 at 07:48 PM

CW

“ I met Veda via the National Black MBA - Atlanta Chapter in the early 1980's. We became great friends. We went to the clubs together and guys would send her drinks and she would school me on how to react to the attention of the guys. I never got drinks sent to me. Going out with Veda to the clubs was a master class. She was a force to behold. She had magnetic energy that made everyone want to be in her presence.

I saw Veda grow into an excellent pharmaceutical sales rep. I saw her volunteer with the National Black MBA at our national conferences, our children's Christmas parties, and working with the local chapter on numerous event that they sponsored. Veda has many families from the love she shared in various capacities.

When she moved to Houston, she acquired another family there. She lived an independent life with those new friends and family while still embracing her other family and friends.

She showed us all how to live life on your own terms-no matter what circumstances are given to you. I admire her for how she lived her life and invited everyone in to share it with her. She showed us how to enjoy life at each stage of life -young adult, middle age, and twilight.

Veda Elaine Burns, a life well done! She is loved and she is missed.

Cassandra D Wells - January 11, 2024 at 07:08 PM

JT

I love this! I was her “tooth health” girl here in Houston. I held her hand many times. I feel so blessed to have known her. She recognized me as a “Sister Girl”. I didn't understand how special that was until I watched her service. My life is better, because I knew her. Big love and hugs. 🌸🦋☀️

jessica t - January 19, 2024 at 09:11 PM

SS

“ Sharon Seay lit a candle in memory of Veda Elaine Burns



Sharon Seay - January 11, 2024 at 06:35 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Veda Elaine Burns.



January 11, 2024 at 06:11 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Veda Elaine Burns.



January 11, 2024 at 12:27 PM

TA

“ The National Black MBA Association purchased the Touching Tribute Spray for the family of Veda Elaine Burns.



The National Black MBA Association - January 10, 2024 at 10:51 AM

SM

“ So sad to hear about the passing of Veda, my classmate of 1974. My condolences to Vera and her family. May God's love bring comfort and strength to you all.

Sheryl Johnson Miles - January 10, 2024 at 10:20 AM

LC

“ Lloyd Cutter purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Veda Elaine Burns.



Lloyd Cutter - January 09, 2024 at 09:03 PM

LC

“ Lloyd Cutter planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Veda Elaine Burns.

Lloyd Cutter - January 09, 2024 at 09:03 PM

VP

“ Heartfelt Condolences to the Burns Family. Veda and I reconnect about 6 months ago. We grow up same neighborhood in fact her mother as we call (page) was my uncles godmother. We enjoyed our phone visits, Love of the neighborhood , A.E Beach, My parents store, mostly the Love of the Lord.. Veda indeed a beautiful person inside out as her intire family. SIP my friend. Vera your twin will forever be with you the bond is never broken. I know for sure. My twin transitioned also

Val Donaldson Prescott - January 08, 2024 at 12:22 PM

DE

“ You are in our prayers, Burns family. Ms. Veda (as our sons called her) volunteered with us in the Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church (WABC) children's ministry. She was a light of spiritual joy! While we worked with the older elementary children, she worked with the younger children (our sons included). Ms. Veda adored our 3 sons as much (or more) as they adored her. She would always speak to us and our sons, complementing on their mannerisms, faith, academic excellence, and respect for others. Veda was a very special encouraging soul! She would always stop to talk when we saw each other and always asked about how "her boys" were doing even while they were away at college! We will truly miss her smile and beautiful spirit! She is a Godly treasure! - Our Peace & blessings to the family - Deacon & Deaconess Juan & Celeste Etheridge & Sons

Deaconess Celeste Etheridge - January 07, 2024 at 08:33 PM

SL

Veda, you are just gone too soon.
Anyway, God knows best.
Rest in perfect peace.

Sheg Lawal - January 07, 2024 at 09:36 PM

G7

“ The Burns twins were upper classmates, but they were kind and respectful always had a smile for everyone.



Gloria Wilson AEB c/o 75 - January 06, 2024 at 07:36 PM

VF

“ Dear Burns Family,

I heard recently that your sister passed away. She was such a wonderful friend/classmate. Please accept my heartfelt condolences on your loss. You have our deepest sympathy.

Warm regards,

*Vickie (Cooper) Flowers
Classmate (c/o '74)*



Victoria Cooper Flowers - January 06, 2024 at 11:34 AM

EB

“ *I am truly saddened to hear of Veda's passing. I met her and Vera in the first grade at Hodge Elementary School and graduated with her in 1974 from Beach High School. She was so sweet and loving and treated everyone with dignity and respect. May God grant her eternal life and give consolation and peace to all who loved and knew her* 🕊️



Elva Bright-Kemp - January 06, 2024 at 12:09 AM

JB

“ *Jimmie And Deborah Bartley lit a candle in memory of Veda Elaine Burns*



Jimmie and Deborah Bartley - January 05, 2024 at 10:41 PM

PB

“ From childhood to our adult life we will always be family. Forty fourth street hold so many memories. Even as we all grew older and went our separate ways. Vera and you would always stop by my parent's house to see them and ask about us. May GOD comforting spirit be with the family.

Prophetess Patricia Bailey-Walker

Patricia Bailey-Walker - January 05, 2024 at 08:14 PM

SS

“ We send sincere condolences to the Burns family in memory of my classmate. May God comfort you all just when you need him most. R.I.P. Veda your work on earth is finished. Sharon Stewart '74 and Michael Stewart '73



Sharon Stewart - January 05, 2024 at 04:33 PM

KB

“ Veda will forever be remembered in our hearts. Your Girlfriends in Houston, Texas



Karen B - January 04, 2024 at 10:14 PM

TF

“ *The Verdree & Green Families purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Veda Elaine Burns.*



The Verdree & Green Families - January 04, 2024 at 07:51 PM

DR

“ *Our friendship goes soooooo far back and runs deep. I will always cherish the memories. Until we meet again*



David Riddle - January 04, 2024 at 02:19 PM

RD

“ *Veda was a fun, funny and smart young lady. She was truly truly a light in the world.*
Rosa Cobb Davis

Rosa Davis - January 04, 2024 at 11:41 AM

DC

You and Allison Cole would come to my office and say you had to study 📖 and I would have to leave. Coach Carter

Dr. James (Coach) Carter - January 04, 2024 at 10:13 PM

DP

“ Always a smile and a joyful hello whenever she met you. I will always remember her kindness towards others. Rest in peace Veda. Dr. LaBrandor Drayton - Patterson (44th St)

Dr. LaBrandor Drayton - Patterson - January 04, 2024 at 08:21 AM

LD

“ Labrandor D. purchased a sympathy card for the family of Veda Elaine Burns.



Labrandor D. - January 04, 2024 at 08:19 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Veda Elaine Burns.



January 03, 2024 at 07:58 PM

TT

“ The Griffin family Jackie,Xavier , Tyle planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Veda Elaine Burns.

The Griffin family Jackie,Xavier , Tyle - January 03, 2024 at 07:58 PM