



Mrs. Diane M. Shepherd

February 16, 1948 - September 30, 2024

Mother Diane Mattie Shepherd was born February 6, 1948, in Washington D.C. to Raymond and Mattie Edwards (who preceded her in death). Five children were born in this union: Lorraine Seals, Raymond Edwards Jr., Roy Edwards Sr. (all preceded in death) and Christine Davis.

In 1963, after Mattie and Clandes "Bee" Marchbanks were united in marriage, Diane, and her siblings relocated from Youngstown, Ohio to Detroit, Michigan and in 1966, she graduated from Cass Technical High School with honors. She received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Deaf Education, a master's degree in special education, and Education Specialist in Science at Wayne State University. She also attended the National Institute Drug-Free Training for Deaf and Hard of Hearing at Gallaudet University. Diane began her Doctoral studies at The University of Toledo.

Diane was employed at Detroit Public Schools Community District for 35 years. She held various positions consisting of Teacher and Principal at the Detroit Day School for the Deaf, Teacher Consultant for the Hearing Impaired at Crockett Career Center, Curriculum Administrator at the Wayne County Youth Home, Department Head at Y. Gladys Barsemian, Wingert Trainable Center and the Detroit Transitional Center-East. Before retiring in 2013, Diane was promoted to the Detroit Community School District Central Office as an Administrator in charge of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing staff and students. Diane was the Founder and Director of Hearing-Impaired Youth at Risk with Drugs and other Substances (H.I.Y.A.R.D.S). She was an expert in teaching

Sign Language and Interpretation of signs for the Hearing Impaired.

Diane accepted Christ as her Lord and Savior at an early age. She was a faithful and dedicated member at Greater Northwest Church of God in Christ (COGIC). Diane implemented services for the Hearing Impaired at Greater Northwest and large venues like The National Women's COGIC Convention, Baileys Cathedral COGIC, and the Instructor at New Testament Christian Academy to name a few. She was the most recent Church Mother at Greater Northwest COGIC, President of the Business and Professional Women, coordinator for the Lorraine Seals Outreach Ministry/Food Pantry. She also served on the Scholarship Awards Committee, Usher Board, and was the Coordinator for the Summer Enrichment Program.

On Monday, September 30, 2024, God called his faithful servant home. Diane leaves to cherish her loving memory, her husband of 56 years, Henry Shepherd, two sons: LaMar Shepherd (Avonne), and Andre Shepherd, her sister Christine Davis, two sisters-in-law: Denise Edwards and Sandra Whitehead (Albert), 10 grandchildren: William Shepherd (Melonie), Nichelle Shepherd, Jordan Shepherd, Erin Mannings, Jamal Hunter, Andre Jr., Andrew Shepherd, Aaron Shepherd, Ariel Spiering, and Elijah Shepherd, five great grandchildren, her goddaughter Dr. Diamond Moore-Shelby and a host of nieces, nephews, family and friends.

Cemetery Details

Woodlawn Cemetery

19975 Woodward Ave.
Detroit, MI 48203

Previous Events

Visitation

Thursday, Oct. **10**. 3:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

O. H. Pye, III Funeral Home
17600 Plymouth Road
Detroit, MI 48227
(313) 838-9770
info@pyefuneralhome.com

Family Hour / Visitation

Friday, Oct. **11**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Greater Northwest COGIC
15811 Rosa Parks Blvd.
Detroit, MI 48238

Celebration of Life

Friday, Oct. **11**. 11:00 AM - 12:15 PM (ET)

Greater Northwest COGIC
15811 Rosa Parks Blvd.
Detroit, MI 48238

Tribute Wall

SE

“ To the Shepherd family, my deepest heartfelt condolences goes out to you. My dear sister was a very kindhearted amazing woman that I loved dearly. She was always kind to my family and I every time we came to Detroit or wherever we were. You will definitely be missed. Last time we talked you laughed so hard because of the crazy things our brother, Abdul, was saying. It was so good to hear you laugh knowing that was exactly what you needed at the time. I thank God for every moment he allowed us to spend together. I love and miss you ❤️



Sakeena Edwards-Brand - October 11, 2024 at 09:13 AM

LC

“ Diane Shepherd And I Have Been Friends Since I Was Employed At The Juvenile Detention Center. We Became Fast Friends As I Was Drawn To Her Sweet Personality And Her Love Of God. Diane Was The Epitome Of A True Christian Woman. Diane, I Love You And Will Miss You Dearly.

Lorraine Caver - October 10, 2024 at 09:50 PM

HL

“Mrs. Diane Shepherd was a very diligent and devoted servant to her God (and church), her family, and to the DPS Deaf and Hard of Hearing students whom she served for decades. She never JUST complained about anything, she rolled up her sleeves, prayed and "did something" about the social issues that she saw as problematic, particularly in the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community of Detroit.

She applied for and received a City of Detroit Grant from the Coleman Young Administration, to combat drug exploitation of Deaf youngsters in the late '80's and '90's, using the funds to establish a working partnership with the (then) Detroit (City) Summer Youth Employment Training Program to gainfully employ Deaf and Hard of Hearing Detroit youngsters during their summer hiatus from school. She purchased a van with which she provided transportation for those same Deaf and Hard of Hearing students to attend her church, The Northwest Church of God in Christ, and Zero-tolerance anti-Drug Rallies that she sponsored.

In the mid 1990's, Mrs. Shepherd commissioned a play, "A Song for Michael", about a chronically homeless Deaf youngster who was a victim of drug exploitation in the Jefferson Projects in Detroit, which debuted at Wayne State University, and was the subject of a CNN feature story. She sponsored weekend "Zero Tolerance Drug and Alcohol" retreats, for Detroit's Deaf and Hard of Hearing youngsters, at the bucolic Salvation Army's Camp Echo Grove, in Leonard, Michigan for several years.

Mrs. Shepherd taught in the Detroit Public Schools, became an Interim Principal at the Detroit Day School for the Deaf, and eventually became the Supervisor of Programs for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing at DPS.

Her devotion and compassion will be sorely missed!

Henry E. Lowe - October 08, 2024 at 04:31 PM

SH

“ *Shepherd Family,*

You have my deepest condolences. May God's love and spirit comfort you during this difficult time.



Sheila - October 07, 2024 at 11:25 PM

WF

“ *Dear Shepherd Family. Please accept our deep sincere condolences for the loss of Diane. She will be missed. We're glad our families celebrated over the years. Our parents Vasco & Georgia Warren kept us together. We're asking and praying God will give you unlimited peace & mercy during this difficult time. Love, Warren Family*

Warren Family - October 07, 2024 at 01:30 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Mrs. Diane M. Shepherd.*



October 07, 2024 at 08:38 AM

RR

“ I've known of Diane Shepherd for many years, however in the last year we began to know each other a little better. Diane was hosting her 75th birthday party and had asked me to make the dressing(stuffing) for this event. Diane had lost a lot of weight and wanted clothes that would fit her body and look good on her. I recall her asking me for help. I ending up giving her numerous outfits, I had outgrown, however Diane absolutely 100 wouldn't just take them for free , she stated they cost you lots of money and are little secret began . We got to the point of really becoming friends for Diane was very sick, however didn't want her family to know , we would talk, Diane was the mother of her church so I address her as Mother Shepherd she stated no it's Diane. I have always been a giving person and very few gifts come my way. One day Diane asked what did I like I told her pajamas, I love pj's. The next day Henry and Diane was calling me they said they where in my area ,stating she had something for me. I told her I wasn't at home just leave it in the backyard I would get it. Diane insisted she had to give it to me, long story short her and her husband Henry had gone to Macy's and purchased pj's with matching house slippers additionally she had two hundred dollars for me to go purchase more pj's. I became overwhelmed (crying) as I stated I'm the giver hardly get beautiful thoughtful gifts from anyone other than my son that amounts to hundreds of dollars. It was the fact she could hardly see and was determined to pick me something and they were beautiful. She stated I was her Angel, as it turned out she was mine. Diane God told us he go and prepare a place for us, and one day he would return . He returned September 30, 2024. Diane is now in her final home, and she will be truly missed by a lady that just really got to know her in grief and pain however 💔 I will never forget her and her husband coming to my house a few time . " Diane you shall wear your crown" . Rest in peace I love you and I truly miss you and your LOVE DONATIONS. She gave back whenever I blessed her. Diane made me feel like one of her own.

Robin Randolph - October 06, 2024 at 01:23 PM

