



## Ms. Marva LaVetra Ways

October 28, 1949 - July 29, 2017

Celebrating The Life Of My Mother Marva LaVetra Ways:

On Friday October 28, in the magnificent year of 1949, the birth of a remarkable woman by the name of Marva LaVetra Bridges, took place, in a rural part of Quincy, Florida to Reverend Columbus Bridges and Margie Pittman Bridges. Marva learned of and accepted Christ at an early age and as the seed was planted on fertile ground, from there it did grow.

Marva attended and graduated from Jewett Senior High School in Winter Haven, Florida in 1967. While in high school, she was a part of the Young Adults Choir and Captain of the Cheerleading Team. After high school Marva attended Polk Community College where she studied early childhood.

Marva was joined in holy matrimony with Eddie Lee Ways and in 1970, they migrated to Michigan to embark upon their future. To this union two children were born, Eddie Lee Ways and LaTronda Michelle Ways. Marva worked within Westwood School District as an early education teacher in the Headstart Program until an unexpected incident changed her life.

On Tuesday, July 27, 1976 while traveling west, Marva, her children, her youngest brother, her youngest sister at the time, and her mother were involved in a tragic automobile accident. This accident resulted in the death of Marva's only son, Eddie Lee Ways Jr. and left her with a break in her neck and a prognosis from medical doctors that included permanent paralysis from the neck down, being told by doctors that she would only survive another year. But as our heavenly father would have it, she began defying the odds. She turned her tragedy into triumph and over the years became a very dedicated advocate for disability rights.

Marva earned a plethora of awards including but not limited to her athletic contributions and participation in the disability community and her dedication and advocacy on behalf of those with disabilities. Having been inducted into the Wheelchair Hall of Fame, chosen to

sit on several Board of Directors, partly responsible for the development of a C League for basketball, as well as a peer counselor to other physically challenged human beings, those who knew Marva knew of her marvelousness.

She was a steadfast humanitarian who served as an example to all, with a multitude of achievements and accomplishments, that she never intended to receive accolades for, but are too numerous to list. Yet her greatest love and accomplishment next to serving her Lord and Savior, the one thing that Marva was most proud of, was her daughter LaTronda (Shelly) and the gift, through her, of not one male child, but the gift of three male children, Linton (Jay), Lenzell (Zell), LeJohn (Sekou), that Marva, until her death affectionately referred to as "Her Grandbabies."

Marva was a humble woman who never boasted or bragged about the many milestones in her life. However, there were three things in life that filled her with so much joy and pride she could hardly contain herself when an opportunity arose to speak on them: her God, her daughter and her grandbabies!

Just as Marva's life was led by God, on July 29, 2017, when God turned to Marva and opened his arms to her, she willingly walked into heaven.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Ms. Marva LaVetra Ways*

January 21, 2023 at 09:34 PM

RS

“ *Robin StarksSatterwhite lit a candle in memory of Ms. Marva LaVetra Ways*



**Robin StarksSatterwhite** - August 04, 2017 at 01:35 PM

RS

*Marva was a Beautiful Light that Brightened every Life that she touched! She was loved by all. She was a winner, and she wanted everybody to win! She and my sister Shelia Starks were close friends, more like sisters, and some people would mistake one for the other!. I was so grateful for Marva's love and support when Shelia was ill, and when Shelia made her transition. Marva is now in Heaven with Shelia. Their spiritual friendship will be everlasting.*

**Robin StarksSatterwhite** - August 04, 2017 at 01:36 PM

DT

“ *My deepest sympathies to the Ways Family. William, Columbus, Jr. Warren and Cory thinking of you all in these difficult times. Marva's Angelic voice will always be remembered.*

*Deborah Williams*

**DEBORAH TURNER** - August 04, 2017 at 09:57 AM

DT

“ *Denise Tate and Michigan SCI System Team purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Ms. Marva LaVetra Ways.*



**Denise Tate and Michigan SCI System Team** - August 03, 2017 at 02:55 PM

DT

“ I was so sorry to hear today about the passing of Marva Ways. Marva and I have worked together for many years now. As a psychologist at the University Hospital in Ann Arbor, Michigan, it was my job to assist newly injured persons with spinal cord injury (SCI) to cope with their losses, often as a result of a tragic accident or serious disease. I often called on Marva to assist me with my job, especially when the patient was a young African American woman who felt depressed and lost. I cannot recall a time when Marva declined to come over and help us. She was always prompt to help, no matter the circumstances. She served as a source of inspiration not only to many newly injured patients and to our professionals serving those with SCI in our unit, but also to all of us as individuals. Marva also served as a member of our University of Michigan Spinal Cord Injury Model System for over 10 years. She rarely missed our annual meetings. She was a source of strength, full of ideas, and always thinking of our patients first. Two years ago, she agreed to participate in an educational video for persons with SCI about bowel management and complications. The video was done with our assistance by the Model Systems Knowledge Translation Center (MSKTC) in Washington DC. Needless to say, she was a complete star from the beginning, talking about her own experiences to the very end, making recommendations to everyone how to best take care of themselves. This video can be seen at the MSKTC website.

We lost not only a great advocate for the large community of persons with disabilities, a role model and mentor, but especially wonderful human being, a colleague and friend, so beautiful physically and spiritually. She combined with her charm an unlimited energy and the highest integrity. We join in extending to the members of her bereaved family our heartfelt sympathy.

*Denise Tate Ph.D., Professor, University of Michigan Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Michigan Spinal Cord Injury System (MSCIS).*

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**Denise Tate** - August 03, 2017 at 01:48 PM



“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Ms. Marva LaVetra Ways.



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August 03, 2017 at 12:03 AM

BW

“ To William & Family I never got to meet Marva personally, however only on video chat 6 MTHS ago. She portrait a beautiful, humbled, and cheerful spirit with all smiles.

*My heart is out to each of you in sympathy in wishing you PEACE, HEALING, COMFORT, most of all LOVE. Please accept my sincere condolences IN PRAYER with BLESSINGS.*

BoNita Williams - August 01, 2017 at 12:49 PM

BW

“ BoNita Williams lit a candle in memory of Ms. Marva LaVetra Ways



BoNita Williams - August 01, 2017 at 12:38 PM

ML

“ I am so very sorry for your loss. May the God of all comfort embrace you with peace and hope as we all look forward to the time when even death will be no more - Rev 21:4. You have my deepest sympathy.

Ms Laverne - August 01, 2017 at 06:32 AM



“ Pink Potpourri Bouquet was purchased for the family of Ms. Marva LaVetra Ways.



July 31, 2017 at 07:23 PM

SB

“ Ms. Marva- you will be so missed. You always had a hug and smile for me. You never forgot to ask about Jordan. Your wisdom, grace, compassion for others, love of family and never-ending altruism made you nothing short of Queen for us all. Heaven has gained an incredible angel and I know you'll watch over us.



Sue Boeve - July 31, 2017 at 06:14 PM

EA

“ Emma L Avery lit a candle in memory of Ms. Marva LaVetra Ways



Emma L Avery - July 31, 2017 at 01:41 PM

EL

“ Emma L lit a candle in memory of Ms. Marva LaVetra Ways



Emma L - July 31, 2017 at 01:18 PM

God has Taught me  
I never need to worry about  
tomorrow. I survived  
yesterday. I am alive and  
dealing with today. With  
God's help, I can face  
tomorrow and whatever  
may come my way.

“ Marva was my mentor , she helped me start my real Journey on living my best life, she inspired me to Dream the the ultimate Dream and then go make it happen. She would tell me that I CAN achieve all that I imagine, she would tell me .....

DON'T TALK ABOUT IT BE ABOUT ..... And that's who she was and still is because she planted that seed in me , and it will continue to Grow in my life, Marva I love you and you will be Greatly Missed 🌻💕🌻😘  
Jo Lisa Thomas

Lisa Thomas - July 31, 2017 at 12:54 PM

NW

“ Norma Wright lit a candle in memory of Ms. Marva LaVetra Ways



Norma Wright - July 30, 2017 at 02:14 PM

“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



Lawrence Dilworth - July 30, 2017 at 12:16 PM