

A Celebration of Life
for
Mrs. Marilyn Russell Warren

Sunrise
August 12, 1954



Sunset
November 24, 2025

Saturday, December 6, 2025
11:00 a.m.

Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church
315 Winchester Road
Huntsville, Alabama 35811

Dr. O. Wendell Davis, Pastor

Mrs. Marilyn Russell Warren



Marilyn Russell Warren was born August 12, 1954, in Louisville Kentucky to the late Henry Russell, Sr. and Zephyr Campbell Russell. She was the youngest of five children.

Marilyn attended public school in Louisville, Kentucky and graduated from her beloved DuPont Manual Highschool in 1972. She attended Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green Kentucky where she met her future husband Donald Warren. She spoke fondly of the many adventures and outings she and Donald had in the early years of their courtship. Marilyn graduated from Western Kentucky with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Sociology with a Minor in Psychology in 1976. She even began taking classes towards a Masters Degree in Sociology.

Marilyn wed husband Deacon Donald Warren in Nashville, Tennessee on May 10, 1977. From the union of 48 years was born two daughters Marlana and Stefanie.

Marilyn confessed her life to Christ at an early age and joined Mt. Horeb Missionary Baptist Church in Louisville, Kentucky. After moving to Huntsville, Alabama, she joined Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church under Pastor L.F. Lacy. Marilyn was active in church and served in many ministries. She served on the HR Ministry. She was a member of the Greeters Ministry and warmly greeted members as they came into the church foyer. She served in the Community Care Ministry for many years. There she worked on community service projects at Calvary Hill Community Center and Habitat for Humanity. She was a devoted member of the Deaconess Ministry. She worked to organize the yearly Sister to Sister Fellowship for several years. On the first Sunday of each month, she did the sacred work of preparing for Baptism by washing linens and towels, organizing supplies, and by helping women and girls dress to prepare for their upcoming Baptism.



Marilyn began working at Harris Home for Children, founded by the late Chessie Harris, in 1981. Marilyn worked at Harris Home for 20 years. Many of her coworkers and foster children became like family. While at Harris Home, she worked with foster children from all over the state of Alabama. She worked to ensure their educational, social, and emotional needs were met. She was present for many birthdays, proms, and graduations. She always had a camera in hand ready to take pictures. She kept pictures of all the children she worked with over the years and kept in contact with a special few.

Marilyn became a Licensed Social Worker in 1995. In 1998, she began working at Madison County Department of Human Resources. She was hired as a social worker

and worked in the Independent Living Program. She went on to become a supervisor in the Foster Care and Ongoing Unit. There she continued her advocacy for children and families. She mentored social work students, workers in her unit, and those new to the social work profession. She attended meetings and court hearings as she worked to ensure the safety of children at home and in foster care. She traveled all over the state visiting children in different facilities and foster homes. While traveling, she would find unique shops, antique stores, and restaurants along the way that helped to bring balance to the stress of her day. She formed lasting friendships with workers and coworkers along the way. She retired from the State of Alabama after 18 years of service.

Marilyn became a Member of the Alpha Kappa Alpha, Incorporated®, Rho Chi Omega Chapter on August 19, 2001. While in the chapter, she served as the Assistant Recording Secretary, Official Hostess, Chaplain, Historian, and Parliamentarian. She served as chairman of the Angel Pageant Committee, Project Care Committee, Bylaws Committee, and Archives Committee. She also served as a member of several committees.

Marilyn loved her family. Affectionately known as “Tutti”, she loved her hometown of Louisville, Kentucky and took her husband and children to visit often. Marilyn and her sister Eula shared a love for children and community advocacy. Marilyn was an avid sports fan. Marilyn's brother Henry taught her the ins and outs of her favorite sport football. Her favorite shows came on either ESPN and HGTV. She, along with her sister Dottie, loved flowers. She enjoyed planting flowers every spring. She enjoyed shopping and decorating her home during the holidays. She also enjoyed reading and completing crossword puzzles. She took pride in her beautiful handwriting and even took a few classes in calligraphy. She and her late sister Janie were the family photographers. Marilyn held many titles. She was a loving wife and devoted mother. She was a daughter, sister, aunt, soror, and friend. The title she cherished most of all was Grammy.



Marilyn Russell Warren departed this life on Monday November 24, 2025, surrounded by her husband and daughters. She is preceded in death by father Henry Russell, Sr., mother Zephyr Campbell Russell, and sister Janie A. Mosby. May her memory be a blessing.

Marilyn leaves to cherish her memory husband Deacon Donald S. Warren Huntsville, AL; daughters Stefanie D. Warren, Madison, AL and Marlena N. Warren, Suwanee, GA; sisters Dorothy Letcher, Louisville, KY and Eula Somerville, Louisville, KY; brother Henry Russell, Jr., Louisville, KY; Godson Lucas Holcomb, Dunwoody, GA; special daughter Teri Moore, Belden, MS; granddaughter Emery Grace Warren Morris and a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, and friends.

Order of Service

Prelude.....Musicians

Processional.....Mississippi Mass Choir
"It's Good To Know Jesus"

Opening Prayer.....Deacon Anthony Lacy

Scripture
Old Testament.....Minister Cedric Taylor

New Testament.....Minister Theromiles Flowers

Selection.....Union Chapel M.B. Church Choir
"I Stepped Out"

Reflections (Two minutes please).....Mother Gwen Lacy ~ Friend
Donna Hamlet ~ Colleague
Cheryl K. Johnson ~ Sorority Sister
Eula Somerville ~ Sister

Resolution.....Mrs. Johnnie Cliff

Selection.....Union Chapel M.B. Church Choir
"I Still Have Joy"

Eulogy.....Dr. O. Wendell Davis

Closing Prayer.....Deacon Michael Jackson

Recessional.....Edna Gallmon Cook
"At The Gate I Know"