



## Wanda Gay Jernigan Smirnes Burrell

July 31, 1941 - September 12, 2019

Wanda Gay Jernigan Smirnes Burrell~Born July 31, 1941 in Paragould, Arkansas. Died on September 12, 2019 in Memphis, Tennessee.

Wanda graduated from Tech High School in Memphis in 1959. She excelled in her favorite subject, Cosmetology. It was the beginning of a career that spanned 40 years. She was a master of her craft. She could make any hairstyle “look like glass”. She was the talent behind Priscilla Presley’s beehive. She loved her clients. She always took the time to listen to what was going on in their lives. It wasn’t just a career, it was about the human condition.

Known to many a “Dr. Wanda.” She was always there to diagnose any ailment and prescribe what to do about it. If she didn’t know how to help, she would do endless research.

She was an amazing cook. Famous for her spaghetti sauce, cornbread and dressing at Thanksgiving, just to name a few. She always made sure everyone had their favorites. She adored music and loved to dance. She was a member of The Memphis Bop Club. Not many could out bop her.

She is preceded in death by her Father, George L. Jernigan, Mother, Hattie Jernigan, Son, Jerry L McGill, Brother, David R. Jernigan, Husband, William (Billy) Burrell and her best friend and sister in life, Rose Beaver.

She leaves behind her daughter, Konnie Smirnes Maharrey, Son in Law, William C. Maharrey, and the love of her life, her granddaughter, Alexandra

Maharrey.

There will be a celebration of her life. Time and place to be determined. If you are interested in attending, please email Konnie at [konniesm@gmail.com](mailto:konniesm@gmail.com)

The family would like to thank those that have been by their side during this long goodbye. Strength would not have been possible without you.

Please consider any of the following charities in her memory:

The Women's Alzheimer's Movement (WAM)

The Alzheimer's Association

Tails of Hope Dog Rescue

Hilarity for Charity

A caregiver of someone with Alzheimer's that is struggling financially.

# Tribute Wall

KR

“ *Kristi (Burrell) Raiford lit a candle in memory of Wanda Gay Jernigan Smirnes Burrell*



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**Kristi (Burrell) Raiford** - September 22, 2019 at 02:09 PM

CW

“ *Connie Williams lit a candle in memory of Wanda Gay Jernigan Smirnes Burrell*



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**Connie Williams** - September 21, 2019 at 12:58 PM