



## Ms. Christine Howard

April 24, 1930 - June 24, 2025

On June 24, 2025, Christine Howard was called from labor to reward, and she peacefully left her earthly dwelling to dance with the ancestors at the age of 95. She leaves a legacy of service, education, and community engagement. Born on April 24, 1930, to her late parents, Ezekiel Howard and Elizabeth “Winnie” Pollard Howard. Christine grew up in the City of Alexandria, Virginia, and was the youngest of 10 children.

Christine attended Parker-Gray High School, where she was extremely active on the basketball team and with the student council. She later earned her undergraduate degree from West Virginia State College (now West Virginia State University), where she had plans on becoming a physical education teacher. However, as she was unable to take swimming so she changed her major to Sociology and History. As a testament to Christine’s academic prowess, she later earned a master’s degree from the University of Virginia. This was a significant accomplishment at a time when very few African Americans were admitted to the University.

For several years, Christine taught in the Alexandria Public School System, which was segregated and throughout the process of desegregation. The culmination of her long career was as a progressive educator serving as the Jefferson-Houston Elementary School principal for 14 years. She was instrumental as a leading voice in establishing the Head Start program at the

Jefferson-Houston Elementary School, as well as the Alexandria Community YMCA (now the Campagna Center). The Head Start program is still one of the most outstanding programs in the country. Christine retired from the public school system in July 1987. Her unwavering commitment to education led to her induction into the Alexandria African American Hall of Fame. Her service to the Alexandria community also included the Urban League, Hopkins House, the Commission on Equal Opportunity, and the Ebenezer Baptist Church where she was a lifelong active member until her age and health prevented her full participation.

On March 30, 2002, Christine was interviewed for the Alexandria Legacies' Oral History Program. The full interview can still be found online at <https://media.alexandriava.gov/docs-archives/historic/info/history/oralhistoryhowardchristine.pdf>. During the interview, Christine shared stories about growing up in Alexandria, pursuing her education, and working in the Alexandria Public School System.

Christine was preceded in death by her nine beloved siblings: Hampton Howard, Gladys Howard Davis, Hazel Howard, Margaret Howard Poindexter, Zenetta Crockett, Mary Penn, Marion Howard Smith, Clifton Howard, and Evelyn Hopkins. She leaves to cherish her memory two God-children – The Rev. Dr. Kevin C. Norton and Ms. Kelli Christine Norton Thomas, a host of cousins, nieces, and nephews across four generations, and a multitude of students, all of whom will cherish her memory and contributions to their lives.

Christine Howard's life was a testament to dedication, resilience, and community spirit. Her impact will be felt for generations to come.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUL 10. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Harvest Assembly Baptist Church  
8012 Fordson RD  
Alexandria, VA

## Memorial Service

JUL 10. 11:00 AM (ET)

Harvest Assembly Baptist Church  
8012 Fordson RD  
Alexandria, VA

## Interment

JUL 10.

Private Alexandria, VA

# Tribute Wall



“ *I attended JH in the mid-1980s. I will never forget her.*

Andrew Painter - August 01, 2025 at 11:18 PM

JK

“ *To the Howard and Penn families:  
We send our love, prayers and condolences  
to your family from the Shiloh Baptist Church,  
Pastor Eric B. Walker, Sr.  
Dea. and Sis. Kirk and Janice Kirby*



Janice H Kirby - July 09, 2025 at 05:19 PM

EC

“ *Ebenezer Baptist Church lit a candle in  
memory of Ms. Christine Howard*



Ebenezer Baptist Church - July 08, 2025 at 07:37 PM

EC

July 8, 2025

*To the Family of Sister Christine Howard,*

*On behalf of Rev. Dr. Albert P. Jackson, Senior Pastor, and the Ebenezer Baptist Church Family, we are deeply saddened over the passing of a committed, dedicated servant of God, Sister Christine Howard. God, in His great sovereignty, has called her home to rest from labor to reward.*

*To the entire Howard Family, you are left to cherish so many fond memories. We say to you---continue to "Hold to God's Unchanging Hand." For He is our calm before the storm, our bridge over troubled waters, and He has promised, "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." Our continued love and prayers are with you always.*

*Because of Christ, I Am,  
Rev. Dr. Albert P. Jackson  
Senior Pastor*

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**Ebenezer Baptist Church** - July 08, 2025 at 07:44 PM

IT

“*Ms. Howard hired me when she was Principal at Jefferson Houston School. She was the best Principal and boss. I loved how she took me under her wing with her other staff members and taught me everything I needed to know. I worked there over 30 years because of her. My sincere condolences to the family. Rest in Peace Ms. Howard. Thanks for everything!*”



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**Iris Thompson** - July 02, 2025 at 09:14 AM

SP

*I would like to thank all of my Aunt Christines care takers at her home. It's very hard work, and I had the pleasure of meeting all of them. She had 24 hours care and I really appreciated all the acts of love and care for my Mother's(MaryH.Penn) and to my other family members and friends that also assisted in her care.Im really going to miss the family reunions and gatherings at the house that she took out time to plan , making sure the family came together in love 💕 peace and kindness. We really will miss you*  
*Sandra Penn*

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**Sandra Penn** - July 03, 2025 at 04:34 PM

DB

*Ms. Howard, you were the best Teacher I ever had. I always admired your dedication to your Students as a great Teacher who genuinely cared about their Education.*  
*RIP Your Greatness! ❤️*  
*God bless your Family, friends & love ones. 🙏*  
*Sincerely,*  
*DORIS WORTHY Brooks*

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**D. W. BROOKS** - July 09, 2025 at 06:35 PM

RR

*Consummate educator, ms howard would also have you feeling you are the "star of the show, so many precious memories*

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**robert k roy** - July 10, 2025 at 05:06 AM