



## Dr. Eric TaJauan Ward Sr.

March 28, 1975 - September 22, 2021

### Life Reflections

Dr. Eric T. Ward, Sr., of Charlotte, NC, departed this earthly life to enter eternity with our Lord and Savior, on Wednesday, September 22, 2021.

Born in Whiteville, North Carolina, he was the son of Kenneth Ray Young and the Late Veronica Ward.

Dr. Ward was a beacon of hope and happiness to those who were blessed to know him. It was his infectious personality, his quick wit, and passion to serve others that made interactions with him unforgettable.

Eric graduated from West Columbus High School in 1993, where he was a standout in track and field. He was a bright, well-rounded student whose athletic accomplishments led to a track and field scholarship at the University of North Carolina Charlotte. Not only did Eric excel in track and field, he also performed well academically. As an undergraduate, he studied Mathematics and earned a B.A. in Mathematics and Statistics in 1997.

His love of learning and desire to elevate others led to an incomparable career as a trailblazing educator in Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools. After graduating with his degree, Eric became a Mathematics teacher at Independence High School. He was soon able to combine his love of young adults with his prowess for running when he began coaching track and field at the school. He modeled excellence and high expectations; this was evident in his classroom and on the track field. During his tenure as coach, the student-athletes who he led won two team and 17 individual 4A championships. One of the nationally

ranked sprinters from Independence High School, who Eric nurtured as a student, now serves as a teacher and head track and field coach at Harding University High School. This serves as a testament to the unbreakable bonds and relationships Eric made with the countless young people he encountered. Always a leader, it was no surprise when Eric became an assistant principal at West Mecklenburg High School in 2005. He loved the schools on the west side, serving as principal at Wilson Middle School (2008-2011) and West Mecklenburg High School (2011-2014). In 2014, he led the Technology, Engineering, Advanced Manufacturing School at Olympic High School. He returned to his beloved west side, where he became principal at Harding University High School in 2015. Principal Ward was a visible, energetic leader who could be seen around his schools, repairing items, leading the crowd during a pep rally, or providing a listening ear and guidance to a staff member or student. His students and staff will not forget his traditional holiday suit which he wore with style and confidence. It was his desire to bring cheer and joy to those around him.

Always determined to improve himself and those around him, Eric continued his education earning a M.A. in Secondary School Administration at Gardner Webb University (2004), a Specialist Degree in Educational Leadership (2016) and a Doctorate of Educational Leadership (2020), both from Wingate University.

For all his accomplishments, it was his family that Eric cherished the most. On September 17, 2010, Eric married Sophia, the love of his life. His daughter, Kabrea, is completing her Undergraduate Degree in Exercise Science and will begin working on her Doctorate of Physical Therapy-Grad at Winston-Salem State University. His son, Eric. Jr, a 4th-grader at South Academy of International Languages who is learning Mandarin. His children truly made him beam with joy and happiness.

Always the innovator, Eric and his wife led successful businesses: Utopian Travel and two hair salons.

Eric was initiated into Mu Tau Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity,

Incorporated, at the University of North Carolina-Charlotte in the Spring of 1995. Later becoming an active member of the Charlotte Graduate Chapter, Beta Nu Lambda.

Eric loved fishing, coaching young athletes, home-improvement projects, technology, riding all-terrain vehicles with his brothers and father, cooking, and spending time with family.

A man of unwavering faith, Eric studied the Word, lived by God's teachings and served as a prayer warrior for many.

Eric leaves to cherish his memory his wife, Sophia. His daughter Kabrea, his son Eric Jr, and his Godson, Tashion. His father Kennth Ray Young and Stepmother Peggy Young. His brothers; Dante Covington (Kishinda, Danika, and Fallon); Kendale Young (Audrey; Kennisha, Kendale Jr); Shalella Love (Mikayla, Megan, Hannah and Avery); Jermetrisius (Jill; Jeremiah); Deidra McKenzie (Chester; Kyleigh and Kiley); ShaKema Covington (Joziah, Cornelius, Jeiel, and Regenae); Transit Young; and Terrance Covington (LaRhonda), A special brother/uncle, Kenya Young; Grandmother, Loucinder Young; a close uncle Cepheus Ward and a host of Uncles, Aunts and cousins.

# Cemetery Details

## Forest Hill Church

7224 Park Road  
Charlotte, NC 28210

# Previous Events

## Public Viewing

SEP 28. 11:06 AM - 1:06 PM (ET)

Forest Hill Church  
7224 Park Road  
Charlotte, NC 28210

## Alpha Phi Alpha "Omega Service"

SEP 28. 1:16 PM (ET)

Forest Hill Church  
7224 Park Road  
Charlotte, NC 28210

## Celebration of Life Service

SEP 28. 2:06 PM (ET)

Forest Hill Church  
7224 Park Road  
Charlotte, NC 28210



# Tribute Wall

AA

“ *Mr. Ward, I can't believe you are gone. We were just talking junk at the game and then about fantasy football. You have been an inspiration in my life. I am proud to have known you, from our phone calls and conversations of advice and just talking junk. You will truly be missed, my friend. You are a beacon to all little brown boys who is looking for a role model because you are it. Much love bro, rest in peace. To Sophia and family, may God keep you.*



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**Antoine Avinger** - September 30, 2021 at 07:47 AM

KB

“ *I'm sorry to hear about the passing of Dr. Ward. I know he will be well received in Alpha Phi Alpha omega chapter.*



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**Kent Edwin Young- Fair Bluff,NC** - September 29, 2021 at 07:38 PM

LC

“ *Lori Carter lit a candle in memory of Dr. Eric TaJauan Ward Sr.*



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**Lori Carter** - September 28, 2021 at 09:09 PM

EB

“ *Elmore Brown lit a candle in memory of Dr. Eric TaJauan Ward Sr.*



Elmore Brown - September 28, 2021 at 05:26 PM

LF

“ *Lauren Wilder & Family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Dr. Eric TaJauan Ward Sr..*



Lauren Wilder & Family - September 28, 2021 at 03:09 PM

LJ

“ *Laketta Jackson lit a candle in memory of Dr. Eric TaJauan Ward Sr.*



Laketta Jackson - September 28, 2021 at 01:58 PM

NE

“ *Dr.ward was such a great person with the best laugh ❤️ He truly single handling pulled me out of depression 🙏 I was pregnant at 16 at Harding.. my grades was dropping and I had to get a abortion.. he was there for me and never judged me 🙏 forever in my heart prayers 🙏*

nevaeh - September 28, 2021 at 01:53 PM

DJ

“ *Donna Jessup lit a candle in memory of Dr. Eric TaJauan Ward Sr.*



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**Donna Jessup** - September 28, 2021 at 01:46 PM

MG

“ *Monica Gordon-Woods lit a candle in memory of Dr. Eric TaJauan Ward Sr.*



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**Monica Gordon-Woods** - September 28, 2021 at 01:43 PM

RR

“ *Dr. Ward was an outstanding educator and all around great person! I have fond members of him at Independence High School where we both taught and supervised events together. I often teased him as a new teacher, when he ran from those little high school girls, who thought he would become a boyfriend. He had a great head on his shoulders and did not let those little girls turn his head! Not only your family and staff and students at Harding will miss you. So will the members of your Big I Family. Rest on my dear friend until we meet again on the other side.*



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**Rev. Gwendolyn Roberts-Payne** - September 28, 2021 at 01:36 PM

NK

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family Sophia. May God continue to comfort you during this time and the days to come.



*Natasha Kelly & Family, KHS C/O 94  
Charlotte, NC*

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**Natasha Kelly** - September 28, 2021 at 01:34 PM

LA

“ Lisa, Jason, Brianna & Stephanie Adams lit a candle in memory of Dr. Eric TaJauan Ward Sr.



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**Lisa, Jason, Brianna & Stephanie Adams** - September 28, 2021 at 01:21 PM

SB

“ Sylvia Brown lit a candle in memory of Dr. Eric TaJauan Ward Sr.



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**Sylvia Brown** - September 28, 2021 at 01:21 PM

DE

“ Had the privilege and honor of working with Mr. Ward many years ago. A humble, charismatic man that will be truly missed. Praying for his family. God-speed brother 🙏

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**Daman De Leon, Former CMS Educator** - September 28, 2021 at 01:18 PM

BB

“ *Sleep well Brother*

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**Bro Sanjay Beecher** - September 28, 2021 at 01:17 PM

SS

“ *Stefany Shannon lit a candle in memory of Dr. Eric TaJauan Ward Sr.*



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**Stefany Shannon** - September 28, 2021 at 12:55 PM

DA

“ *Donna Alexander lit a candle in memory of Dr. Eric TaJauan Ward Sr.*



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**Donna Alexander** - September 28, 2021 at 12:49 PM

J9

“ *Jeannetta McNeil, Class Of 92 lit a candle in memory of Dr. Eric TaJauan Ward Sr.*



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**Jeannetta McNeil, Class of 92** - September 28, 2021 at 12:48 PM

EB

“ Evelyn Brown Brisbon lit a candle in memory of Dr. Eric TaJauan Ward Sr.



Evelyn Brown Brisbon - September 28, 2021 at 12:45 PM

PA

“ Anthony & Pamela Gordon, Savannah, Georgia



Pamela - September 28, 2021 at 12:43 PM

TO

“ 😞😞 i cannot fathom putting Rest In Peace or Sleep in peace by your name just yet. It seems like yesterday you were joining Wilson middle school 💕. To know you mentored me and married the most amazing coach ever showing all of us (WM Cheerleaders) what love can blossom into. I will miss you and i definitely will miss “The Things On Your Mind” segments on Facebook. 😞😞💕

Tanasha Osborne - September 28, 2021 at 12:42 PM

BC

“ Barbara Collins lit a candle in memory of Dr. Eric TaJauan Ward Sr.



Barbara Collins - September 28, 2021 at 12:31 PM

JB

“ *Joziah Bell lit a candle in memory of Dr. Eric TaJauan Ward Sr.*



**Joziah Bell** - September 28, 2021 at 12:30 PM

IF

“ *Ingrid Johnson & Family lit a candle in memory of Dr. Eric TaJauan Ward Sr.*



**Ingrid Johnson & Family** - September 28, 2021 at 12:27 PM

TR

“ *My sincere condolences and prayers to the Ward family 🙏🙏🙏*

**Tawanda Reese-Clarke** - September 28, 2021 at 12:25 PM

SA

“ *Dr. Eric Ward, Sr. has left a lasting legacy from the classroom, to the field, and to administration. This gentle giant has left a lasting impact on countless individuals young and old. My deepest condolences to his family. May God comfort you and give you unexplainable peace as you cling to the fond memories of Eric. Weeping may endure for a night but joy comes in the morning.*



**Sandra Allgood** - September 28, 2021 at 12:18 PM

DA

“ *Denise Atkinson lit a candle in memory of Dr. Eric TaJauan Ward Sr.*



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**Denise Atkinson** - September 28, 2021 at 12:16 PM

DA

“ *Dr. Ward was a great person educator and leader. I enjoyed working with him as a colleague and friend . He was always willing to help anyway he could and had a strong passion to elevate and help his students and staff. He will be truly missed. May God continue to bless his family and give them the strength and peace they need at this time. Rest with God my Friend.*

*Denise M Atkinson*

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**Denise Atkinson** - September 28, 2021 at 12:16 PM

KA

“ *Thank you for your service, your love for our children and light in this world. Forever 49er! UN-CC! Prayers for your family!*



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**Kanita** - September 28, 2021 at 12:14 PM

LA

“ Lisa, Jason, Brianna & Stephanie Adams lit a candle in memory of Dr. Eric TaJauan Ward Sr.



Lisa, Jason, Brianna & Stephanie Adams - September 28, 2021 at 12:06 PM

RA

“ Dr.Ward was more then just our teacher or our principal or coach.He was family and welcomed everyone.

Ram - September 28, 2021 at 11:51 AM

D.

“ Eric is fearless.

All I can think about is the sound his laughter and doing those splits : -)

We LOVE him and will keep his memory with us.

He is a Great Man and I was Blessed to have come across his path.

D.Moore - September 28, 2021 at 11:51 AM

D.

“ D.Moore lit a candle in memory of Dr. Eric TaJauan Ward Sr.



D.Moore - September 28, 2021 at 11:47 AM

RC

“ R. Cannady lit a candle in memory of Dr. Eric TaJauan Ward Sr.



R. Cannady - September 28, 2021 at 11:30 AM

RC

“ Sincerest sympathy to the Ward Family. My memories of working with Mr. ward are all good. He did light up a room and had me shaking my head, with a smile, most of the time. Well, one time, he slid across the front counter at West Meck to do announcements and that startled me, but after that, I knew the man was humorous and daring. Mrs. Ward, thank you, for being a wonderful wife and mother. You have this, with God's help! Keeping you all in prayer. Love, The Cannady Family

R. Cannady - September 28, 2021 at 11:29 AM

PH

“ Pamela Huggins-Rice lit a candle in memory of Dr. Eric TaJauan Ward Sr.



Pamela Huggins-Rice - September 28, 2021 at 11:29 AM

KI

“ Sending my love and prayers to his family & the HUHS family ❤️🙏

kiya - September 28, 2021 at 11:19 AM

SM

“ *Sadness and disbelief of the news of Eric's passing. I can call Dr. Ward Eric, because I called him Dr. Ward before he completed his education. Eric would always say, not yet. When I worked for him he was tough but fair. I sharpened my technology skills because of him. Eric was light years beyond us with those tech skills.*

*Eric was supportive and inserted himself into every Pep Rally, Spirit week and other student activities at Harding.*

*I know that he was always thinking of his family and staff at Harding and how to make us all a better version of ourselves. May God give you the anchor of strength that you need during this time and beyond.*

*Respectfully,  
Shannon Monroe*

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**Shannon Monroe** - September 28, 2021 at 11:14 AM

DD

“ *Dwayne & Trina Davis lit a candle in memory of Dr. Eric TaJauan Ward Sr.*



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**Dwayne & Trina Davis** - September 28, 2021 at 10:56 AM

KD

“ Eric,

*You were and now an immoral protector of all those you reached and advised. Thank you for always being so genuine in all you did and will continue to do through your memory. Blessings to your family, Alpha brothers and educators that you have touched.*



*You were a true impact and now we will put what you have thought us in play to show you that we listened..... FUNK'N WITCHA!!!!!!*

*Kara D. Dilligard, B.S, MBA  
SKEE '96- PHI '95  
Charlotte NC*

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**Kaye Dee** - September 28, 2021 at 10:47 AM

TB

“ TaMeka Bryant sent a virtual gift in memory of Dr. Eric TaJauan Ward Sr.



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**TaMeka Bryant** - September 28, 2021 at 10:47 AM

QJ

“ Qwann Jordan lit a candle in memory of Dr. Eric TaJauan Ward Sr.



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**Qwann Jordan** - September 28, 2021 at 10:12 AM

SE

“ *In memory of a wonderful person that has been truly helpful in many ways, Enjoyed sharing kind words and experiences with him at West Mecklenburg HS. May God continues to shower his Family with his Grace and Mercy.*



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**Stan Ervin** - September 28, 2021 at 09:17 AM

CW

“ *Dr. Ward was a great leader of Harding High School, blessed to have met him a few years ago with Anthony Hamilton Keith Way and Eli Davis as with the help of Lowe's we donated some items to the school and he was so grateful for the product. He will be missed by everyone. Rest in Peace and job well done. Prayers to all of his family, friends, and everyone at CMS.*

*Charles Whitfield  
Charlotte, N.C.  
Lowe's Companies, Inc.*

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**Charles Whitfield** - September 28, 2021 at 08:40 AM

AS

“ *Antoine Sanders lit a candle in memory of Dr. Eric TaJauan Ward Sr.*



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**Antoine Sanders** - September 28, 2021 at 07:26 AM

CS

“ *Camari Simpson lit a candle in memory of Dr. Eric TaJauan Ward Sr.*



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**Camari Simpson** - September 28, 2021 at 04:58 AM

CG

“ *Dr Ward will forever leave a mark on the Harding HS Students... he spoke wisdom and truth and touch the lives of so many of his “kids”. -Sign a Harding ram*



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**Cassandra Gonzales** - September 28, 2021 at 12:14 AM

DE

“ *Darlene Espinoza lit a candle in memory of Dr. Eric TaJauan Ward Sr.*



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**Darlene Espinoza** - September 27, 2021 at 10:53 PM

BS

“ *Brenda Y Snowten lit a candle in memory of Dr. Eric TaJauan Ward Sr.*



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**Brenda Y Snowten** - September 27, 2021 at 08:49 PM

CC

“ Cathryn Young Collier lit a candle in memory of Dr. Eric TaJauan Ward Sr.



Cathryn Young Collier - September 27, 2021 at 07:16 PM

SC

“ Keith and Sue Cooper Fayetteville, NC



Saundra Cooper - September 27, 2021 at 07:03 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dr. Eric TaJauan Ward Sr..



September 27, 2021 at 03:16 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Dr. Eric TaJauan Ward Sr..



September 27, 2021 at 02:53 PM

LJ

“ *Linda Newkirk and Wanda Jones purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Dr. Eric TaJauan Ward Sr..*



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**Linda Newkirk and Wanda Jones** - September 27, 2021 at 01:59 PM

EL

“ *Evelyn Blackmon (aunt Lois) lit a candle in memory of Dr. Eric TaJauan Ward Sr.*



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**Evelyn Blackmon (aunt Lois)** - September 27, 2021 at 01:35 PM

RF

“ *Rodney & Sherry Ford lit a candle in memory of Dr. Eric TaJauan Ward Sr.*



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**Rodney & Sherry Ford** - September 27, 2021 at 01:18 PM