



Reverend Dr. Gloria L. Stephens

September 3, 1942 - April 8, 2026

Born on September 3, 1942, in Apopka, Florida, Reverend Dr. Gloria L. H. Stephens was the beloved daughter of the late Mr. Charlie Willie Holmes and Mrs. Farices Truth Holmes.

Dr. Stephens' professional life was defined by excellence, leadership, and a deep commitment to helping others. She began her career at Martin Marietta in Orlando, Florida. She served as a Registered Head Nurse at Mercy and Florida Hospital. Her passion for healthcare and education led her to become Director of Education with a focus on Diabetes Education. As a Nursing Adjunct Professor, she inspired and mentored countless students with her wisdom, compassion, and dedication. She concluded her distinguished career as a retired administrator with Orange County Public Schools, leaving a lasting impact on the community.

Her service extended far beyond her professional accomplishments. A proud and active member of Nu Iota Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated in Maitland, Florida, she exemplified the organization's commitment to sisterhood and service. Answering her spiritual calling, she served faithfully with the South Apopka Ministerial Alliance, as the first African American Chaplain for the Ocoee Police Department, with National Baptist USA, and as a Secretary for the Progressive Senior Citizen Club. She also served as a Board Member for Charter High Schools in Apopka, Aloma, and

Chancery, contributing her leadership and vision to educational advancement.

Dr. Stephens embraced life with joy and curiosity. Her love for travel took her across the globe—from the vibrant landscapes of Africa to the peaceful beauty of Canada. Whether attending conferences, church gatherings, or sorority events, she lived each experience fully. At home, she found joy in reading, music, and playing golf with her grandson. She was a familiar and cherished presence at art and music festivals, celebrating creativity and culture. Above all, she treasured her time with family and friends, nurturing those relationships with warmth, humor, and grace.

Dr. Gloria L. H. Stephens, as a beacon of light and love, peacefully departed this life on April 8, 2026, at the age of 83. Surrounded by her devoted family, she transitioned from her earthly home, leaving behind a legacy of faith, compassion, and service that will be cherished by all who knew and loved her.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her sister, Willie Mae Holmes; and her brothers, Luther Earl Holmes, Jimmy Holmes Sr., and Kerry Donovan Holmes.

She leaves to cherish her memory her loving daughter, Joy Stribling (Peter); her treasured grandchildren, Diego Henry Jr. (Kimberly), Tyler Matthew Stribling, and great-grand-daughter, Zoe Henry, who brought immeasurable joy to her life; her dear siblings, Charlie Mae Warren, Eddie Carl Holmes Sr., Rosemary Simmons (Robert), and Brenda Holmes; and sisters in-law, Alfreda Henderson and Rose Henderson; along with a host of extended family members and friends who will forever hold her in their hearts.

In honoring the life of Reverend Dr. Gloria L.H. Stephens, we celebrate a woman of unwavering faith, boundless love, and enduring service. Her legacy will continue to inspire all who were blessed to know her.

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 17. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Macedonia Freewill Baptist Church
871 East Bay Street
Winter Garden, FL 34787

Service

APR 18. 11:00 AM (ET)

West Orlando Christian Center Church of God in Christ
1301 East Bay Street
Winter Garden, FL 34787

Tribute Wall

DW

“ My memory of Dr. Stephens was my administrator at Piedmont Lakes Middle School. Dr. Stephens was very welcoming and a shining light amongst the ESE Department. My last interaction with Dr. Stephens was when she visited the OCPS Academic Center for Excellence with other pastors. She knew who I was immediately. I was very fond of her. She will always have a special place in my heart. Dr. Kenya S. Webb

Dr. Kenya S. Webb - April 27 at 06:36 PM

CL

“ The most memorable was our 1st road trip to Shreveport Louisiana to attend a conference. A long trip and so much wisdom given to me. A true friend, sister and mother. Rest in his arms. The Love's



Cheryl Love - April 22 at 08:29 AM

AL

“ Angela Ligon lit a candle in memory of Reverend Dr. Gloria L. Stephens



Angela Ligon - April 17 at 04:27 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Reverend Dr. Gloria L. Stephens.*



April 17 at 01:15 PM



“ *Faith Life International Church purchased the Sweet Solace Spray for the family of Reverend Dr. Gloria L. Stephens.*



Faith Life International Church - April 16 at 10:25 AM



“ *Ginnifer L. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Reverend Dr. Gloria L. Stephens.*

Ginnifer L. - April 16 at 06:36 AM

LF

“ *PRECIOUS MEMORIES of my UCF Danforth Classmate,
Cherished Friend and Beautiful Soror...
Sincerely,
LaJuana Farris-Jackson*



LaJuana Farris-Jackson - April 16 at 03:22 AM

SL

“ *Sadie Lowman sent a virtual gift in memory of
Reverend Dr. Gloria L. Stephens*



Sadie Lowman - April 15 at 07:23 PM

JB

A woman after God's heart...The memories we create begin when I was in middle school Ms. Stephens inviting me to church with her and Joy and ending with our road trip to Alabama (Sept 2022)...Those memories I will treasure...Well done my good and faithful servant...To God be the glory..You are in God's care rest in peace...June Brown (Kirt)

June Brown - April 16 at 04:28 AM

SL

“ Sadie Lowman lit a candle in memory of Reverend Dr. Gloria L. Stephens



Sadie Lowman - April 15 at 07:23 PM



“ Pink Potpourri Bouquet was purchased for the family of Reverend Dr. Gloria L. Stephens.



April 15 at 03:15 PM

PW

“ Patricia A Grant & Kirby & Mark Wright lit a candle in memory of Reverend Dr. Gloria L. Stephens



Patricia A Grant & Kirby & mark wright - April 15 at 01:55 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Reverend Dr. Gloria L. Stephens.



April 15 at 11:22 AM

FF

“ *Matthew 25:21*
“Well done, good and faithful servant...””

We love you, and you will always remain close and near to our hearts.

"Leslie" Lessie (in your voice), Jimmie Jr., and Farices we truly appreciate all that you have done for us.

Gone, but never forgotten.

Farices Holmes Cuyler and Family - April 14 at 12:18 PM

FF

“ *Farices Holmes Cuyler And Family lit a candle in memory of Reverend Dr. Gloria L. Stephens*”



Farices Holmes Cuyler and Family - April 14 at 12:13 PM

HM

“ *Harold & Wendy McKnight lit a candle in memory of Reverend Dr. Gloria L. Stephens*”



Harold & Wendy McKnight - April 14 at 10:26 AM

TD

“ *Lit a candle in memory of Reverend Dr. Gloria L. Stephens*



Terric Durden - April 13 at 06:16 PM

JB

A woman after God's heart... The memories we created begin with her inviting me to church with her and Joy when I was in middle school and ending with our road trip to Alabama (Sept.2022)..Those memories I will treasure...To God be the glory...Rest In Peace....June Brown

June Brown - April 14 at 06:50 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Reverend Dr. Gloria L. Stephens.*



April 13 at 04:59 PM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Reverend Dr. Gloria L. Stephens.*

April 13 at 04:59 PM

DN

“ A virtual gift was sent in memory of Dr Gloria L. Stephens



Dot Newsome - April 13 at 10:49 AM

DN

“ The Newsome family lit a candle in memory of Dr. Gloria L. Stephens



Dot Newsome - April 13 at 10:48 AM

PG

“ Patricia A Grant & Kirby Grant lit a candle in memory of Reverend Dr. Gloria L. Stephens



Patricia A Grant & Kirby Grant - April 12 at 09:51 PM

MS

“ We send our deepest sympathy to Charlie Mae Warren and family over the lost of their Sister Rev Gloria Holmes Stephens. May God give the family the strength they need in their hours of sorrow.
Mamie Long Kelly and Minnie Long Scott



Minnie Long Scott - April 12 at 07:18 PM

LP

“ My love and prayers are with you as you are going through this difficult period of grief. With LOVE ❤️ Laurice Peterson 🌸



Laurie Peterson - April 12 at 12:48 PM

WF

“ West Family lit a candle in memory of Reverend Dr. Gloria L. Stephens



West Family - April 12 at 08:48 AM

CW

“ Praise God my oldest sister have left us. Another flower God say it's time. We cherish the time we spent together. God Grace. Brought us this far. By Faith we will continue to be Faithful to God. Love my Family.



Charlie Mae Warren - April 12 at 08:18 AM

MS

“ MONICA SCOTT lit a candle in memory of Reverend Dr. Gloria L. Stephens



MONICA SCOTT - April 12 at 08:08 AM