



Dianne Williams Downs

June 30, 1946 - October 16, 2024

Coleman Funeral Home of Oxford

Dianne Downs, 78, of Oxford, passed away on Wednesday, October 16, 2024, at her residence.

The family will receive friends on Sunday, October 20, 2024, from 12:00 P.M. until 2:00 P.M. at Coleman Funeral Home of Oxford. The funeral service celebrating Dianne's life will occur at 2:00 P.M. in the chapel of Coleman Funeral Home with Bro. Fish Robinson officiating.

Dianne graced this world on June 30, 1946, in Greenwood, Mississippi, as one of the cherished daughters of the late Aaron Curtis Williams and Carolyn Levenstein Williams.

After completing high school, she pursued her passion for education at the University of Southern Mississippi, earning her bachelor's in elementary education. Her journey continued at Delta State University, where she obtained a both master's and specialist degrees, reflecting her unwavering commitment to learning and teaching.

In 1966, Dianne married her beloved husband, Paul, and together, they created a beautiful life filled with love and laughter over fifty-eight wonderful

years. They welcomed one son and were blessed with two grandchildren, all of whom brought immeasurable joy and countless precious memories into their lives.

Dianne's impact extended beyond her family; she devoted thirty inspiring years to nurturing young minds in the Greenwood and Cleveland School Districts. Her deep passion for education shone brightly, making a lasting difference until her retirement in Mississippi in 1997. Following this chapter, she and Paul continued their shared commitment to education in the Locust Fork, Alabama, School District for an additional six years and both retired in 2002, leaving behind a legacy of kindness and dedication.

Throughout her teaching journey, Dianne found immense joy supporting Paul as he coached high school football, a passion that began for her on the sidelines in high school and gracefully transitioned to the bleachers as a devoted adult fan. When the time came for them to embrace retirement fully, they made the heartfelt decision to relocate to Oxford, where they lovingly planted their roots in the community. Their story is a testament to their enduring dedication to education and family, which will always be remembered and celebrated.

After settling in Oxford, Diane embraced her retirement with enthusiasm, choosing not to let idle time take over her life. She found joy in pursuing her hobbies, like cooking, scrapbooking, and cross-stitching, which brought her a sense of fulfillment. Her support for her grandchildren was unwavering, reflecting the love she had for her family. Diane also became an integral part of the Community Church, finding connection and purpose in her involvement as she worshiped the Lord alongside fellow believers.

Dianne leaves behind a loving family to continue walking down the path of life: her beloved husband, Paul Downs, of Oxford, Mississippi; one son, Mark

Downs, of Oxford, Mississippi; two grandchildren, Anne Elise Downs and Deacon Downs, of Oxford, Mississippi; two sisters, Janet Davis of Oxford, Mississippi, and Karen Bryan and her husband Dave of Loxahatchee, Florida.

The loved ones who departed from this life before her include her father and mother, Aaron Curtis Williams and Carolyn Levenstein Williams, and one sister, Carolyn Faye Williams.

In place of traditional flowers the family has requested that donations be given to the following organizations: Samaritan's Purse (<https://tinyurl.com/vs5wfvct>) or French Camp Academy (<https://tinyurl.com/3wf76dy5>).

Coleman Funeral Home of Oxford staff is honored to serve the family during this challenging season of life. Online condolences may be left on her Tribute Wall at www.colemanfuneralhome.com

Cemetery Details

Oxford Memorial Cemetery

N 16th St
Oxford, MS 38655

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **20**. 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Coleman Funeral Home of Oxford
601 Commerce Parkway
Oxford, MS 38655
(662) 234-3900
info@colemanfuneralhome.com
<https://www.colemanfuneralhome.com/>

Funeral Service

OCT **20**. 2:00 PM (CT)

Coleman Funeral Home of Oxford
601 Commerce Parkway
Oxford, MS 38655
(662) 234-3900
info@colemanfuneralhome.com
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Tribute Wall



“ Coleman Funeral Home of Oxford created a Webcast in memory of Dianne Williams Downs



Coleman Funeral Home - October 20, 2024 at 04:34 PM

BG

Such a sweet funeral for a strong loving Christian. Dianne touched so many lives who will be forever grateful to have known her. Such a gentle spirit with so much love.
Brenda Grubb

Brenda Grubb - October 20, 2024 at 04:18 PM

LI

Lifetime friends. She'll always live in my heart.

Linda - October 22, 2024 at 08:58 AM

DP

“ I taught school with Dianne at Bell elementary in Cleveland Ms! She was a wonderful teacher and friend! She will truly be missed!! 🙏
Donna Peden

Donna Peden - October 20, 2024 at 06:12 PM

GP

“ Coach Downs and family, I am sorry for you loss. You are in my thoughts and prayers.

George C Pierson - October 20, 2024 at 02:48 PM

DP

“ *What a precious lady. Heaven has gained an Angel. God bless Coach and Family.*

Debbie Pastor - October 20, 2024 at 10:37 AM

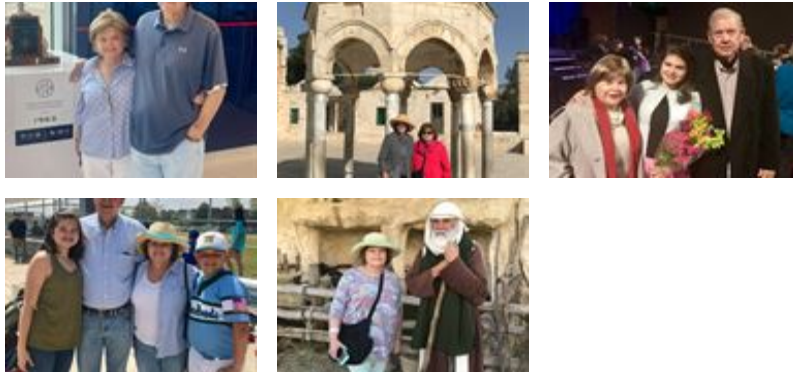
LV

“ *Mrs. Dianne is the perfect example of love thy neighbors and treat others with kindness and care. She always had kind words and loved sharing her delicious homemade rolls. It was a joy to know her and experience her kindness. A true gem! Let the life she lived speak for her. Prayers for her sweet family.*

Linda Vaughn - October 20, 2024 at 10:22 AM



“ *65 files added to the album Life Tributes*



Coleman Funeral Home - October 19, 2024 at 08:33 PM



“ *Fairest of All was purchased for the family of Dianne Williams Downs.*



October 19, 2024 at 04:36 PM

DS

“ I had the honor of being Mrs Downs hair stylist when she lived in Locust Fork Al , she was my daughter’s (Kali) third grade Teacher. She was the best Teacher and made such an impact on our lives. Mrs Downs will always be a beautiful blessing that we carry in our hearts because of the impact she made in mine and my daughter’s life. Prayers and love for her family

Donna Smith - October 19, 2024 at 05:57 AM

WM

Praying for your family. She will be greatly missed. My son had Mrs. Downs when she taught at Locust Fork.

Wendy McLain - October 19, 2024 at 07:40 AM

KB

“ Karen and Dave Bryan purchased the Crystal Cross Bouquet for the family of Dianne Williams Downs.



Karen and Dave Bryan - October 18, 2024 at 10:38 PM

BG

“ Dear Paul and Mark, prayers of comfort and peace. I loved Dianne from the first time I met her in Moorhead. She has the sweetest spirit. God blessed all who knew her.
Love
Brenda Grubb

Brenda Grubb - October 18, 2024 at 10:01 PM