



Ms. Janette L. Ward Self

August 9, 1937 - February 27, 2026

“Let not your hearts be troubled; ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you, and if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.” John 14: 1-3

Janette Ward Self departed this life to begin her eternal one on February 27, 2026. She was surrounded by family and was ushered into her heavenly home with the sweet sounds of her favorite hymn, “In the Garden.”

Janette was born in Morton, MS on August 9, 1937, to Emma Lyles Ward and Monroe Ward. She received her early education from Scott County Training School. She attended Jackson State University and later received her nursing degree.

Janette confessed her faith in Christ at an early age. She united with Bethel Missionary Baptist Church and later Second Baptist Church where she was a faithful member for decades and remained active until her health began to fail. She served in various ministries at Second Baptist and taught the Women’s Sunday School class.

She married Ray Y. Self on January 20, 1957. They were united in holy

matrimony for forty-nine years and blessed with four children.

She was the second black licensed nurse to work at Felix Long Memorial Hospital, the first black teller for Peoples Bank in Starkville, MS, and the first black industrial nurse at Badcock & Wilcox, a steel manufacturing plant. Janette continued her nursing at Oktibbeha County Hospital for many years. After her retirement, she worked part time in the Oktibbeha County Chancery Clerk's office as an assistant.

A tireless community servant and activist, she devoted much of her time to organizations that amplified important causes to help those often underserved. She was life member of the NAACP, where she served both locally and on the state level. She served the longest term as the Mississippi State Conference NAACP secretary, holding the position for over twenty years. She also served as secretary of the Mississippi State Democratic Party. Additionally, she was a member of the Oktibbeha County Federation of Democratic Women, and an honorary member of the Oktibbeha County Training School, an organization dear to her late husband, Ray.

Recognizing the needs in her neighborhood and the broader Starkville area, she made the bold decision to campaign for a seat on the Starkville Board of Aldermen. And she made history, becoming the first African-American and Alderwoman on the board. Years before that, she had blazed a trail when she became the first African American bank teller in Starkville at National Bank of Commerce.

Years after retiring from nursing, Janette continued to share her expertise in the field of healthcare by serving for many years on Board of Trustees at Oktibbeha County Hospital. She also provided seminars to future nurses at Mary Holmes College in West Point.

Janette received numerous awards and recognitions honoring her commitment to community service and civil rights. One the most special was the Mississippi NAACP coveted Fannie Lou Hamer Award, recognizing her exceptional dedication to civil rights and community service. Following the Mississippi tobacco settlement, which resulted in billions of dollars meant to fund health programs, she was appointed by the governor as a member of the Board of the Health Care Trust Fund.

To cherish her loving memory, she leaves her two sons: Michael Self of Starkville, MS and Gerald (Pamela) Self of Madison, MS; two daughters, Deirdre Yvette Birts of Augusta, GA; and Sonya Rogers of Starkville, MS; One brother Albert (Yvonne) Ward of Chicago, IL; One sister-in-law, Rachel Hill of Starkville, MS; One brother-in-law Henry (Lennie) of Amherst, NY; A host of grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

Cemetery Details

Odd Fellows Cemetery

202 Martin Luther King Jr Dr W
Starkville , MS 39759

Previous Events

Public Viewing

MAR 5. 1:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

Second Baptist Church
314 Yeates Street
Starkville, MS 39759

Celebration of Life

MAR 6. 11:00 AM (CT)

Beth'el M.B. Church
1766 Hwy 182
Starkville, MS 39759

Pastor Juan Ray Self, officiating First Baptist Church 115 Martin Luther King Blvd. Clarksdale, MS 38614

Repast

MAR 6 (CT)

Council of Community Organization of Oktibbeha County, INC.
13608 MS-182 East
C.O.C.O. Center P.O. Box 152
Starkville, MS 39759

Tribute Wall



“ To Gerald Self i am praying for your family and you to GOD to send his blessed healing. Gerald, Ron Brown, Tommy Marshall, Michael Craddieth, Butter, Michael Cain, Carlos, big Earl, Kenny, Larry Brown, Boosie music man, Darryl Parker and Lamont Lawrence myself. we all met as young student with a connection that i will never forget you mens. now because of that connection my heart is feeling sorrow. GOD in Heaven sent his son our LORD and my Savior JESUS CHRIST with the understandings. GOD work is not done for confusion but is done when GOD knows when we are ready to handle his Home-Calling with GOD Grace, Mercy, Willing, Power, and GOD Blessings. May the Grace of my word with help all condolences to the Self Family.



Theron Law - March 29 at 01:54 PM

BF

“ Bessie Ferguson sent a virtual gift in memory of Ms. Janette L. Ward Self



Bessie Ferguson - March 10 at 10:59 PM

DJ

“ DORA JACKSON lit a candle in memory of Ms. Janette L. Ward Self



DORA JACKSON - March 07 at 05:19 PM

MS

“ *Macie Sanders lit a candle in memory of Ms. Janette L. Ward Self*



Macie Sanders - March 07 at 09:59 AM

TB

“ *Sincere prayers and condolences to the family of Mrs. Self. I will truly miss our laughs and conversations. You were a lifelong friend and my personal nurse. I will always remember your unconditional love and beautiful smile. Take your rest until we meet again.*



Tobi L Bishop - March 06 at 07:50 PM



“ *Our condolences and prayers for the Self family.*



Willie Thomas Sr. - March 06 at 10:37 AM

LB

“ *Condolences to the Self Family*



Laketia Brooks - March 05 at 03:22 PM

MP

“ Mississippi Democratic Party purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Ms. Janette L. Ward Self.



Mississippi Democratic Party - March 05 at 11:04 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Ms. Janette L. Ward Self.



March 05 at 10:41 AM

SL

“ Sharon L. purchased the Large Basket Garden for the family of Ms. Janette L. Ward Self.



Sharon L. - March 05 at 09:37 AM

SL

“ Sharon L. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ms. Janette L. Ward Self.

Sharon L. - March 05 at 09:37 AM

RJ

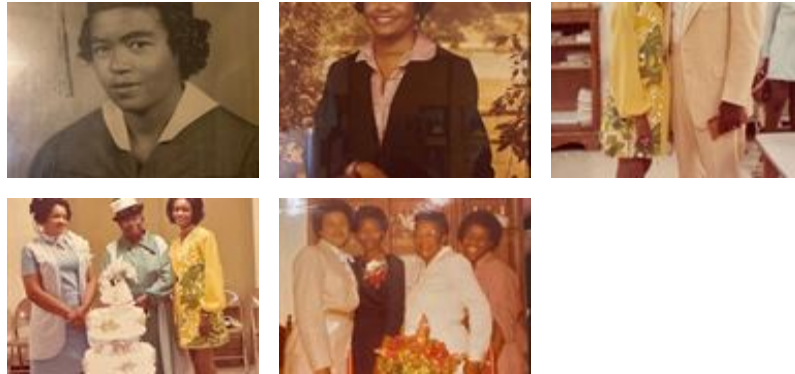
“ Rev Dennis & Lana Johnson sent a virtual gift
in memory of Ms. Janette L. Ward Self



Rev Dennis & Lana Johnson - March 04 at 11:38 PM



“ 85 files added to the album Life Tributes



Hairston & Hairston Funeral Homes - March 04 at 10:16 PM

LC

“ Lifting up the Self family in prayer for peace
and comfort during this season



Lisa Cheatham - March 04 at 08:24 PM

AB

“ *My sincere condolences praying for the family during this difficult time.*



Amanda Brooks - March 04 at 06:33 PM

ST

“ *Santina Tate lit a candle in memory of Ms. Janette L. Ward Self*



Santina Tate - March 04 at 06:01 PM

MB

“ *Mary M. Brooks lit a candle in memory of Ms. Janette L. Ward Self*



Mary M. Brooks - March 04 at 04:08 PM

KG

“ *Karen Gandy lit a candle in memory of Ms. Janette L. Ward Self*



Karen Gandy - March 04 at 03:50 PM

VE

“ Victor And Lori Evans sent a virtual gift in memory of Ms. Janette L. Ward Self



Victor and Lori Evans - March 04 at 12:56 PM

IH

“ Ivory Holland lit a candle in memory of Ms. Janette L. Ward Self



Ivory Holland - March 04 at 11:46 AM

Janell Johnson-Hankerson

“ Praying for the Self/Ward families. A beautiful flower was replanted in God's garden on February 27th. I will miss our visits. Thank you Granny Self for the years of advice and love.
Janell Johnson Hankerson



Janell Johnson-Hankerson - March 04 at 07:39 AM

LO

“ Lenetra Outlaw lit a candle in memory of Ms. Janette L. Ward Self



Lenetra Outlaw - March 04 at 06:37 AM

CB

“ Sending my heartfelt condolences to the entire "Self" family during these trying times, praying for strength and comfort for the family! 🙏🙏🙏



Cynthia Bishop-Harris - March 04 at 05:00 AM

TF

“ The One Voice Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ms. Janette L. Ward Self.

The One Voice Family - March 04 at 01:18 AM

TF

“ The One Voice Family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Ms. Janette L. Ward Self.



The One Voice Family - March 04 at 01:18 AM

SF

“ Sending prayers and sincere condolences to the entire Self Family. Mrs. Self was such a gentle reminder of what kindness, and respect looked like and felt like in a world that is missing those qualities today .May you find comfort in all the memories of her life The Franklin family (Alvin, Shirley, Beverly, and Stephanie)

Shirley Franklin - March 03 at 09:49 PM

PN

To the Janette Ward Self Family:

Please know that you are in our prayers 🙏 because we know that Almighty God is the source of all mercy and giver of comfort.

*Love,
Norice and Percy Nash*

Percy and Norice Nash - March 06 at 12:30 PM

CD

“ *We the Dancer family send our deepest condolences to the family of Janette Ward Self our dear friend RIP. 🙏❤️🙏*



Clara Dancer - March 03 at 09:48 PM

LM

“ *Our Sincerest Condolences to Janette's family. She has left an amazing legacy! Linda Robinson Milton*

Linda Robinson Milton - March 03 at 09:34 PM

OD

“ *I send my sincere condolences to the Self family.*



Ollie Deloach - March 03 at 08:49 PM

KB

“ Kimberley Brooks lit a candle in memory of Ms. Janette L. Ward Self



Kimberley Brooks - March 03 at 08:33 PM

CR

“ Cynthia Robinson lit a candle in memory of Ms. Janette L. Ward Self



Cynthia Robinson - March 03 at 08:09 PM

JW

“ With our Deepest Sympathy. Praying 🙏🙏
🙏 the Family Strength... John & Lula Watson



John & Lula Watson - March 03 at 07:26 PM

JS

“ Jackie/barbara Skinner lit a candle in memory of Ms. Janette L. Ward Self



jackie/barbara skinner - March 03 at 06:16 PM

RQ

“ *My condolences to the family. Rowena Quinn*



Rowena Quinn - March 03 at 05:34 PM

GR

“ *Glenda Roberts sent a virtual gift in memory of Ms. Janette L. Ward Self*



Glenda roberts - March 03 at 05:24 PM

CB

“ *Sending my heartfelt condolences to the entire family during these trying times!*



Cynthia Bishop-Harris - March 03 at 04:53 PM

AO

“ *Our condolences an prayer to the family*



Ann Taylor Outlaw - March 03 at 12:22 PM

TW

“ Taneka, Janelle, Erron, & WC purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Ms. Janette L. Ward Self.



Taneka, Janelle, Erron, & WC - March 03 at 11:17 AM

EM

“ Erma Murry lit a candle in memory of Ms. Janette L. Ward Self



Erma Murry - March 03 at 10:25 AM

TH

Praying for the family 🙏🙏🙏

Tony hill - March 03 at 02:50 PM

CB

“ Charity Bevill-Lawerance sent a virtual gift in memory of Ms. Janette L. Ward Self



Charity Bevill-Lawerance - March 03 at 09:48 AM

RW

“ *Rosalind Walls lit a candle in memory of Ms. Janette L. Ward Self*



Rosalind Walls - March 03 at 03:52 AM

GS

*Thank You Rosalind for thoughtfulness and caring.
Gerald*

Gerald Self - March 03 at 06:31 PM

PR

“ *Peggy Rogers lit a candle in memory of Ms. Janette L. Ward Self*



peggy Rogers - March 02 at 10:01 PM

RC

“ *Rhonda Conner sent a virtual gift in memory of Ms. Janette L. Ward Self*



Rhonda Conner - March 02 at 07:38 PM

CP

My heart felt sympathies go out to the entire family. May you all long enjoy the memories of the wonderful life she lived.

Charles Prewitt - March 03 at 07:30 PM