



## Ms. Brenda Rene Ward

June 20, 1947 - June 12, 2025

Brenda Rene Browne Ward was born on June 20, 1947, in Wauwatosa, Wisconsin, to Arthur H. Browne Sr. and DeHetta Browne-Larry. She was later lovingly raised by her mother and stepfather, Willie Lee Larry Jr., alongside siblings Linda and Wanda Larry.

In 1968, Brenda and Andrew Ward's 10-year union brought forth three children: Kanini, Kimani, and Kanika Ward. As a devoted mother and matriarch, she nurtured a family rooted in education, faith, and service.

Brenda earned a BS (Bachelor of Science Degree) in Sociology and Psychology from the University of Dubuque, a MSW (Master of Social Worker Degree) from UW-Milwaukee, and dual MBAs (Master of Business Administration Degrees) from Cardinal Stritch. Her lifelong learning included studies in real estate, mental health, HIV education, and management.

Her career in social work spanned over 30 years, serving Milwaukee Public Schools, Milwaukee County, UW-Milwaukee, and Milwaukee Health Services. Brenda was known for her advocacy, particularly with teen mothers, child welfare, and Black men living with HIV. She also provided affordable housing as a real estate investor.

She held leadership roles in National Association of Social Workers (NASW) , National Association of Black Social Workers (NABSW) , and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., earning numerous honors including the 1997 Social Worker of the Year Award (NASW - WO.

Brenda is survived by her siblings Arthur Jr and., Richard, Theodore, and Anthony (Mandy) Browne, Wanda (Daryl) Coleman; children Kanini (Nolan) Brooks, Kimani and Kanika Ward and grandchildren Desiree Ward, Jalen and Kaia Brooks, Kali Maa, and Atum Ra Free.

She was preceded in death by her parents and sister Linda. Brenda Rene Browne Ward leaves a legacy of justice, love, and empowerment. She was and remains, our matriarch.

# Previous Events

## Visitation Only

JUN **24**. 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Northwest Funeral Chapel  
6630 W. Hampton Ave  
Milwaukee, WI

## Visitation

JUN **25**. 11:00 AM (CT)

St Mark AME Church  
1616 W Atkinson Ave  
Milwaukee, WI 53206-2438  
(414) 562-8030

## Funeral Service

JUN **25**. 12:00 PM (CT)

St. Mark AME Church  
1616 W. Atkinson Ave  
Milwaukee, WI

# Tribute Wall

RM

“ Truly saddened to learn about the death of my Soror and church member Brenda Ward. She was a faithful member of St. Mark AMEC in Milw for decades and loved her Savior, her children and grandchildren fiercely and deeply. Brenda's children and family are in my prayers. I pray her Homegoing Celebration brings comfort. Stay encouraged family - grief is a journey, so give yourselves grace and patience as you navigate in this new normal. Blessings, Rev. Carla Mitchell

---

Rev. Carla Mitchell - June 25, 2025 at 04:11 PM

BT

“ My deepest condolences to the family- I remember Brenda well. She was very kind to me always. RIP my friend.

---

Bernard Toliver - June 25, 2025 at 12:57 AM

DR

“ Saddened to learn of Brenda's transition. She was gracious, kind, and led with humility, a model educator. May dispatched Angels carry her home. May neither distance nor time fade precious memories. She will be missed.

D. Rash

---

D. Rash - June 24, 2025 at 02:43 PM



MD

“ MATC’s Barber Cosmetology Department purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Ms. Brenda Rene Ward.



---

**MATC’s Barber Cosmetology Department** - June 24, 2025 at 09:37 AM

GS

“ We are going to miss our favorite cousin. May the Lord bless her children in their time of sorrow. We will never forget your mother's laughter. We love you all. We will keep the family in our prayers. Cousins Alma Robinson and Gwen Simpson from Atlanta. GA

---

**Gwendolyn E Simpson** - June 24, 2025 at 02:03 AM

KM

“ Karen M. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ms. Brenda Rene Ward.

---

**Karen M.** - June 23, 2025 at 10:04 PM

DC

“ Dayo, Pompey & Zubin Coleman planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ms. Brenda Rene Ward.

---

**Dayo, Pompey & Zubin Coleman** - June 22, 2025 at 11:39 AM

DC

“ Dayo, Pompey & Zubin Coleman purchased the Heavenly Heights Bouquet for the family of Ms. Brenda Rene Ward.



Dayo, Pompey & Zubin Coleman - June 22, 2025 at 11:39 AM

LP

“ Love, Cousin Phyllis planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ms. Brenda Rene Ward.

Love, Cousin Phyllis - June 21, 2025 at 09:18 AM

LP

“ Love, Cousin Phyllis purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Ms. Brenda Rene Ward.



Love, Cousin Phyllis - June 21, 2025 at 09:18 AM

AM

“ Praying for the family.



Amber M Mathews - June 20, 2025 at 09:01 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Ms. Brenda Rene Ward.

June 20, 2025 at 08:59 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Ms. Brenda Rene Ward.



June 20, 2025 at 08:59 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet* was purchased for the family of Ms. Brenda Rene Ward.



June 20, 2025 at 08:13 PM