



Joanne Martin

January 26, 2026

Joanne Martin, a devoted wife, loving mother, cherished sister, and beloved grandmother, passed away peacefully on January 26, 2026, at the age of 80. Born to Evelyn Gamble and Joseph Donnan, Joanne lived a life defined by compassion, strength, and dedication to others. She spent 44 years as a nurse — a calling that perfectly reflected her caring heart and steadfast spirit. Her patients and colleagues were touched by her kindness, her skill, and her ability to make people feel truly seen and cared for.

Joanne was known not only for her love but also for her honesty. She was a feisty lady who spoke her truth with courage and humor — you always knew where you stood with her, and her words, though direct, came from a place of deep love. Her strength, authenticity, and warmth made her the heart of her family and a friend who could always be counted on.

She was the beloved wife of William M. Martin Sr., and the treasured mother of Derrick Stewart, Sidney Aguillard Jr., William McKinley Martin II (Angerline), and Jenny L. Martin. She took immense pride in her family, which continued to grow beautifully through her grandchildren — Janae Ruben, Derrick Stewart Jr., William Martin III, Destiny Stewart, Karlee Stewart, McKinley Martin, and Tiffany Johnson — and her great-grandchildren — Julian Ruben, Aiden Stewart, Aven Stewart, and D’Nyrhi Stewart.

Joanne is survived by her sisters and brother, Nina Likens, Elizabeth Dunham, Alvin Dunham, and Dianne Bailey, and several great nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her siblings Joseph Andrew Dunham Jr., Larry

Ellis Dunham, Marvin Lee Watson, and Theron Cosey Sr.

She is also lovingly remembered by her nieces and nephews — Peter O. Goodly (Sabrina), Deltrina Goodly, Heather Kahn (Franz), Sprintza Cosey, Theron Cosey Jr. (Chrissy), and Roman Herrington, a host of great nieces and nephews and her dear cousin Edward Green, who was more like a big brother to her.

Joanne's vibrant personality, honest words, and loving heart left an unforgettable imprint on everyone who knew her. Her legacy of care, truth, and devotion lives on through her family, her friends, and the countless lives she touched throughout her 44 years as a nurse.

Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend her Funeral Service at Union Bethel AME Church, 2321 Thalia Street on Friday, February 6, 2026 at 10:00 am. Visitation will begin at 9:00 am. Interment: Lakelawn Park Cemetery. Arrangements by D.W. Rhodes Funeral Home, 3933 Washington Avenue. Please visit www.rhodesfuneral.com to share condolences and sign the guestbook.

Cemetery Details

Lakelawn Metairie Cemetery

5100 Pontchartrain Blvd
New Orleans, LA 70124

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 6. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (CT)

Union Bethel AME Church
2321 Thalia St
New Orleans, LA 70113-2207
(504) 525-4336

Funeral Service

FEB 6. 10:00 AM (CT)

Union Bethel AME Church
2321 Thalia St
New Orleans, LA 70113-2207
(504) 525-4336

Tribute Wall

RJ

“ *Ralph & Carolyn Jones lit a candle in memory of Joanne Martin*



Ralph & Carolyn Jones - February 08 at 01:38 AM

ED

“ *Elizabeth Dunham sent a virtual gift in memory of Joanne Martin*



Elizabeth Dunham - February 07 at 12:08 PM

ED

“ *AUNT JOANNE, YOU WILL FOREVER BE WITH ME, BECAUSE, I'LL WILL ALWAYS CHERISH YOUR PRECIOUS MEMORIES IN MY HEART FOREVER!!!!!! IF I NEEDED HONESTY, A LAUGH, OR A GREAT DOSE OF CONSTRUCTIVE CRITICISM THAT RESULTED IN REALITY, YOU WERE THERE!!!!!! THANKS FOR BEING YOU ALWAYS!!!!!! REST IN PARADISE!!!!!! YOUR NEPHEW, ERIC*

Eric Dunham - February 05 at 07:04 PM

SW

Sending loving thoughts and prayers 🙏

Sheryl Woods - February 11 at 12:59 PM

MH

“ *Sending our Condolences and prayers to the family and friends of JoAnn. Love Cousin, Mary Ann and family.*

Mary Harris - February 05 at 11:34 AM



“ *Jenny Martin lit a candle in memory of Joanne Martin*



Jenny Martin - February 04 at 12:09 AM



“ *3 files added to the tribute wall*



Jenny Martin - February 04 at 12:07 AM

AP

Sending love and prayers! May the Lord continue to give you strength and great memories 🤍🙏🤍🙏

Dr. Alice Cryer-Sumler

Alice Cryer-Sumler, Ph.D. - February 09 at 06:48 AM