



Valda Wilder Daniels

March 30, 2025

Valda Marie Wilder Daniels, 90, passed away peacefully on March 30, 2025, surrounded by family at Passages Hospice New Orleans after a brief illness. A lifelong resident of New Orleans, she was born on September 1, 1934 to the union of the late Albert Wilder and Vivian Haynes Richmond. Valda spent her formative years under the tutelage of her maternal grandparents, Elsie and Benjamin Haynes. Valda attended F. P. Ricard Elementary School, Booker T. Washington High School, and graduated from McDonogh 35 Senior High School in New Orleans. Precocious and outspoken from a young age, she was admitted to college at the age of 15 and in four years earned a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from Xavier University. In 1955, she married the love of her life, William Mack Daniels. Two daughters, who the couple lovingly raised, were born to this union. Valda worked for more than 42 years in the Orleans Parish School System serving in many positions, inclusive of acting principal, but primarily as an elementary school teacher for the third and fifth grades. After her retirement, she enjoyed both domestic and international travel with family, going to casinos, attending the occasional Saints game, watching the Pelicans basketball games on television, and of course talking on the telephone. She leaves to cherish her memory, daughters Theda Daniels-Race, PhD (Paul) and Urica Daniels Regis, MBA (Wayne). Her grandchildren Kylan (Chelsea), Peyton Race, and Royce Regis remember the unconditional love shown by their grandmother who they fondly called Precious. Additionally, her many godchildren, family, friends, neighbors, and

the hundreds of children she taught during her career mourn her loss. She was preceded in death by her husband of 69 years William Mack Daniels and parents, Albert Wilder and Vivian Haynes Richmond. Visitation will be on Saturday, April 12, 2025, at St. Rita Catholic Church, 2729 Lowerline Street in New Orleans from 9:30am – 10:30am. A memorial mass will immediately follow. Interment will be at Lake Lawn Park and Cemetery at 5454 Pontchartrain Boulevard, New Orleans following the mass. Arrangements entrusted to D.W. Rhodes Funeral Home, 3933 Washington Avenue. Please visit www.rhodesfuneral.com to sign the online guestbook.

Cemetery Details

Lakelawn Metairie Cemetery

5100 Pontchartrain Blvd
New Orleans, LA 70124

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 12. 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM (CT)

St. Rita Catholic Church
2729 Lowerline St.
New Orleans, LA 70125

Memorial Service

APR 12. 10:30 AM (CT)

St. Rita Catholic Church
2729 Lowerline St.
New Orleans, LA 70125

Tribute Wall

MC

“ Extending our sincere condolences and prayers to the Family .
Valda was a beautiful person and neighbor over the avenue .
May She Rest In Peace 🙏🌸🌸
Mary Coleman-Shelly and Family

Mary Coleman-Shelly - April 12, 2025 at 01:53 PM

LI

Greetings family, I am so sorry to hear of Mrs. Daniels passing. Mrs. Daniels taught my sisters at Wilson elementary school. I currently work in the central office for OPSB and Ms. Daniels would sometimes call me when she had questions. I believe she taught two of my sisters, but I wasn't placed in her class but she was MY FAVORITE TEACHER. I use to tell her how much I always wanted to be in her class as a little girl. This was a very special woman to so many and I will always love and appreciate how she treated my family. I know that she is resting safe in His arms with Mr. Daniels. Thank you all for sharing your loved one with me and so many others. Rest Easy my honorary teacher. Your forever honorary student, Lisa Scott.

Lisa - October 13, 2025 at 12:32 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of
Valda Wilder Daniels.



April 09, 2025 at 02:05 PM

JM

“ James and Denise Miller planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Valda Wilder Daniels.

James and Denise Miller - April 09, 2025 at 12:08 PM

JM

“ James and Denise Miller purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Valda Wilder Daniels.



James and Denise Miller - April 09, 2025 at 12:08 PM

KJ

“ Eternal rest granted unto the soul of Ms. Daniels, Xavierite and may the perpetual light shine upon her.



Kevin Joseph - April 07, 2025 at 04:41 PM

SY

You and your family are in our thoughts and prayers

Stephen and Irene Young - April 11, 2025 at 08:45 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Valda Wilder Daniels.



April 04, 2025 at 10:19 AM