



Marvin Eldridge Ward

October 31, 1929 - February 9, 2025

Marvin Eldridge Ward passed away on February 9, 2025 at the University of Toledo Medical Center. He was born in Wolfe, West Virginia, the second son of the late Major Earnest Ward and Sophronia (Ward) Allison. He dedicated his life to faith, family, and living with integrity, striving to be an example of honesty and productivity.

He was preceded in death by his brother, Kenneth Earnest Ward. He is survived by a special cousin, Barbara M. (Ward) Collins, and her husband, Ray, of Southfield, Michigan; a dear friend, James Dunn, and his wife, Ollie, of Toledo, Ohio; along with a host of other cousins and friends.

Marvin received his education in the Mercer County School System in southern West Virginia. He earned his undergraduate degree in Music and English from Bluefield State College in Bluefield, West Virginia, and later obtained a Master of Music degree in public school music from West Virginia University in Morgantown, West Virginia. Additionally, he pursued further studies at the University of Toledo.

From an early age, Marvin was devoted to his faith. He was baptized at Laurel Creek Baptist Church in Wolfe, West Virginia, later transferring his membership to First Baptist Church in Pocahontas, Virginia.

During the Korean Conflict, Marvin proudly served two years in the United States Army, with sixteen months and fifteen days stationed in Korea—an experience that contributed significantly to his personal growth and development.

Following his military service and completion of his education, Marvin moved to Toledo, Ohio, where he embarked on a fulfilling career as a teacher in the Toledo Public School System. He taught Music and English (Language Arts) at several schools, including Robinson Junior High, Pickett Junior High, Nathan Hale Junior High, and McTigue Junior High, where he retired. He was deeply committed to his students and worked tirelessly to impart knowledge and inspire a love of learning and music.

Marvin was an integral part of the music ministry at Third Baptist Church, where he served in various roles, including organist and choir director. For a brief period, he also lent his musical talents to Ascension Lutheran Church before returning to Third Baptist, where he continued as organist and director of the sanctuary choir until its disbandment in 2007. A gifted vocalist, Marvin performed at numerous civic events and church services throughout Toledo. He was a member of several distinguished musical groups, including the Toledo Choral Society, the Toledo Opera Chorus, the Toledo Civic Singers, the Clarence Smith Community Chorus, and the David Carter Symphonic Choir.

Beyond his professional and musical pursuits, Marvin enjoyed an active social life. He was a member of the Young Seniors Bowling League and held life membership in Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, the Lucas County Retired Teachers' Association, and the Ohio State Retired Teachers' Association.

Marvin Eldridge Ward leaves behind a legacy of dedication, service, and love for music and education. He will be deeply missed by family, friends, former students, and all who had the privilege of knowing him.

Cemetery Details

Historic Woodlawn Cemetery

1502 West Central Avenue
Toledo, OH

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 21. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Dale-Riggs Funeral Home & Cremation Services
572 Nebraska Avenue
Toledo, OH 43604
(419) 248-4254
info@dalefh.com

Wake Service

FEB 22. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Third Baptist Church
402 Pinewood Avenue
Toledo, OH 43602

Funeral Service

FEB 22. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Third Baptist Church
402 Pinewood Avenue
Toledo, OH 43602

Tribute Wall

RH

“ I loved your energy passion u were the best

Rosalind Hogan - January 17 at 05:02 PM

PH

“ Mr.Ward was my Music Teacher at Robinson Jr. High School.
Peggy Hollie-Harris

Peggy Harris - March 01, 2025 at 05:28 PM

CD

“ Mr. Ward was both my Language Arts and Music Teacher at Nathan Hale School. He was passionate about teaching, highly encouraging of his students and he made an indelible imprint on my life. My Mom Mrs. Nadine Dixon and Mr. Ward shared West Virginia as their native origins. Thank you sir. Praying for the peace and comfort of the Lord for the family and loved ones. Isaiah 41:10.

Crystal Dixon - February 22, 2025 at 12:34 PM

DP

I just recently heard of his passing so I had to share my condolences with his family. Mr. Ward was also my Language Arts and Music Teacher at Nathan Hale Elementary School. He was the most engaging teacher that I ever had, he made learning fun. I looked forward to going to his classes because you could not help but to learn from him. After all of these years I would still think of him periodically and it would always make me smile. Mr.Ward you were a great one, and will be missed. Rest well in Heaven.

Debra Price

Debra Price-Witcher - June 12, 2025 at 04:56 AM

JR

He was a wonderful person. I knew him as a teacher and a fellow choir member. I did not know he had died. My deepest condolences.

Janet Roberts - July 07, 2025 at 05:00 PM

MG

“ To the family of Mr. Ward, I give you my condolence. Mr. Ward was my music teacher at Robinson Jr. High School. I remember the happiness he felt when the music class would joyfully sing the songs he taught. He especially loved our three-part harmony. May you find peace in your memories of your loved one.

Monica Galloway - February 15, 2025 at 07:57 PM

MM

“ Sincere condolences to the family of Mr. Ward. He was my music teacher at Robinson Jr. High School.

Margret Knighten Manning - February 14, 2025 at 04:08 AM

GJ

“ May your heart find comfort knowing that your love one is at home with the Lord
Mr Ward was my music teacher at Robinson Jr High
Love Gwendolyn E.March Jones and Family



Gwendolyn E.March Jones - February 12, 2025 at 01:56 PM