



Sylvia Akers

September 13, 1962 - January 20, 2026

Sylvia D. Akers peacefully departed this life on January 20, 2026. She was born on September 13, 1962, in Gainesville, Georgia, to the late Joel D. Johnson and Elmer Akers Sr.

Sylvia was a beloved coach, educator, mentor, and fierce advocate for children. Her life was tragically cut short in a car accident, but her impact will live on forever. Known for her generosity, strength, and unwavering faith, Sylvia had a rare ability to see when someone needed help, and she never hesitated to show up.

A proud graduate of East Hall High School, Class of 1980, Sylvia was a three-time state champion on the girls' basketball team under legendary Coach Seth Vining. She earned a full basketball scholarship to the University of Alabama and later completed her collegiate career at UNC Charlotte under Coach Ann Payne.

After beginning her professional career with Shell Oil Company in Indianapolis, Sylvia followed her calling into education. After earning her master's degree, she served as a teacher and coach in White County, Hall County, and most recently Gwinnett County Public Schools, where she was deeply loved at Duluth High School. To many, she was more than a coach; she was a protector, encourager, and steady source of belief.

From an early age, Sylvia was a faithful member of St. John Baptist Church under the leadership of Rev. Eugene Green, where she accepted Christ as her Lord and Savior. She served faithfully through the Sunshine Seniors and the food bank ministry, ensuring the 25 elders and families she delivered to had food each week.

Above all, Sylvia loved the Lord. Her joy for gospel music filled rooms and lifted spirits. Whether singing or playing songs of praise, worship followed her wherever she went.

Sylvia was preceded in death by her parents, grandparents, and her beloved siblings, aunts, and uncles: Cheryl Akers, Stanford "Simon" Walker, Sanford Walker Sr., Johncy

Walker Davis, Joan Walker, and Journia Walker.

She leaves to cherish her memory her daughter and greatest joy, Nekia “KiKi” Hendrix; her son-in-love, Gabriel Copeland; her grandchildren, Kayson and Kryslyn Copeland; her brother and sister, Elmer Jr. and Marion Akers; and friends she loved as family, Brenda Gilmore, Shelia Collins, Joy Handte, and Martha Randolph. She is also survived by a host of nieces, cousins, extended family, and many friends.

Sylvia was also blessed with families bound not by blood but by love, including the Mack, Green, Spain, and Whelchel families, and countless others whose lives were brighter because of her. Sylvia D. Akers loved boldly, served faithfully, and left a legacy that will never fade.

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 2. 11:00 AM (ET)

St John Baptist church
757 E E Butler Pkwy
Gainesville, GA 30501
(770) 532-0511

Celebration of Life

FEB 2. 1:00 PM (ET)

St John Baptist church
757 E E Butler Pkwy
Gainesville, GA 30501
(770) 532-0511

Tribute Wall



“ *Sylvia Akers i am going to miss you so much May you Rest In Peace with your family.*



Marion Akers - February 07 at 02:05 AM

MB

“ *Michelle Bell sent a virtual gift in memory of Sylvia Akers*



Michelle Bell - February 06 at 05:36 AM

PG

“ *Condolences to the family and friends of Sylvia Akers. Very sweet person that we've known for a long time. Sylvia, rest in the arms of God.*



Phyllis and Janice Gardner - February 02 at 09:10 PM

FW

“ *Sylvia was always an absolutely joy to be around and made everyone happy. She will surely be missed by so many including me! I was lucky enough to be part of Sylvia's college basketball career and as a coach, you just couldn't ask for a better player to be around. Always upbeat and ready or anything you ask. We love you Sylvia!*

Fran Wilkerson - February 02 at 06:05 PM

SC

“ *You will truly be missed Sylvia.
Sincerely, Sheila Culliver*

Sheila Culliver - February 02 at 03:16 PM

MM

“ *Michael Montague sent a virtual gift in memory of Sylvia Akers*



Michael Montague - February 02 at 03:02 PM

RB

“ *Roxanne Bartlett lit a candle in memory of Sylvia Akers*



Roxanne Bartlett - February 02 at 01:34 PM

PA

“ *You have my deepest sympathy for the loss of Sylvia. She will be greatly missed.*



Pamela J Akers - February 02 at 01:01 PM



“ *Dorothy Bolden lit a candle in memory of Sylvia Akers*



Dorothy Bolden - February 02 at 12:38 PM

DS

“ *Deon S. Turner sent a virtual gift in memory of Sylvia Akers*



Deon S. Turner - February 02 at 12:12 PM

JE

“ Janet Echols lit a candle in memory of Sylvia Akers



Janet Echols - February 02 at 10:45 AM

JE

Sylvia was a great person. Graduated with her 1980 East Hall High, played basketball and in the band with her.

Janet Echols - February 02 at 10:48 AM

LB

“ Linda Borders lit a candle in memory of Sylvia Akers



Linda Borders - February 02 at 08:38 AM

TM

“ One of the this world's greatest blessings has received her reward. Father alone knows all about it, father alone will understand why. Sylvia was and will continue to be a beautiful blessing to everyone she met, her spirit will forever be with all of us. The memories of her lighting up the room when she walked in, her spinning a basketball on her finger, or her taking the time to tell you how good God has been to her. My condolences to her family and for everyone that had an opportunity to be in the presence of such a beautiful person. Weeping may endure for a night but joy will come in the morning and only you will know when that morning is for you. We must all try to remember the joy she always brought to each of us everytime we saw her. May God bless you all.

Tony McCrary

Tony McCrary - February 02 at 04:27 AM

DS

“ Deon S. Turner sent a virtual gift in memory of Sylvia Akers



Deon S. Turner - February 01 at 01:58 PM

DS

R.I.P My sweet friend

Deon S.Turner - February 01 at 01:58 PM



“ *Sylvia Akers may you rest in peace with Moma and Daddy and Journia and Granny*



Marion Akers - January 31 at 09:56 PM

DB

“ *Deanna Burris-Rucker sent a virtual gift in memory of Sylvia Akers*



Deanna Burris-Rucker - January 31 at 09:12 PM

JC

“ *Julie Christian lit a candle in memory of Sylvia Akers*



Julie Christian - January 31 at 12:37 AM

GR

“ *Gary Robinson lit a candle in memory of Sylvia Akers*



Gary Robinson - January 30 at 01:08 PM

CF

“ Cole Haan Family purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of Sylvia Akers.



Cole Haan Family - January 30 at 01:00 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Sylvia Akers.



January 30 at 12:27 PM

DJ

“ Dujuana, Jaiyah, Jayleah & Joy planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Sylvia Akers.

Dujuana, Jaiyah, Jayleah & Joy - January 30 at 12:27 PM



“ Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Sylvia Akers.



January 30 at 10:51 AM

TF

“ Tia Claudean and Frances purchased the Basket of Memories for the family of Sylvia Akers.



Tia Claudean and Frances - January 30 at 03:01 AM

Y.

“ Heavenly Father, we come before you today to lift up the memory of Sylvia. While she may be gone from our sight, we know she is never forgotten, for she lives on within our hearts and in the seeds of love she planted in this world.
Lord, we ask that You embrace her in Your eternal light and grant her perfect peace. We pray for the comfort of her family and friends, asking that you soothe their sorrow and bring healing to their hearts.
Though time may pass, let the memories of her life, her laughter, and her love remain as a comfort and a blessing. We entrust her to Your loving care, confident in the promise of eternal life, until we are all reunited again, Shine Bright like a Diamond 💎 Sylvia, You will be missed at the power company, one of our favorite customers, You always knew how to handle your business. Spread your wings and Fly my friend 🙏❤️😭

Y.B. - January 30 at 02:09 AM

JM

“ Joyce Mitchell sent a virtual gift in memory of Sylvia Akers



Joyce Mitchell - January 29 at 05:53 PM

SS

“ Shryl Shields lit a candle in memory of Sylvia Akers



Shryl Shields - January 29 at 01:30 PM

BW

“ Barbara Wilkins sent a virtual gift in memory of Sylvia Akers



Barbara Wilkins - January 29 at 11:23 AM

MD

“ Our family is so sorry for your loss. Praying your strength in the Lord as you go through this difficult time. Sylvia was a gem and loved by many. Her warm smile and heart of service will never be forgotten. 🙏



Min. Dixon - January 29 at 10:13 AM

CW

“ Catherine Wilmont lit a candle in memory of Sylvia Akers



Catherine wilmont - January 28 at 08:08 PM

SW

“ Sharon Williams sent a virtual gift in memory of Sylvia Akers



Sharon Williams - January 28 at 02:56 PM

CS

“ Cathey Singeton sent a virtual gift in memory of Sylvia Akers



Cathey Singeton - January 28 at 02:54 PM

MM

“ I am truly sorry for your loss. Sylvia brought joy, life and happiness to everyone she met. May God give you strength to face the difficult days ahead.



Milner Family (Sylvia and Martrez) - January 28 at 02:37 PM

HF

“ Hopkins & Brawner Family lit a candle in memory of Sylvia Akers



Hopkins & Brawner Family - January 28 at 12:34 PM

CN

“ Charline & Avery Niles lit a candle in memory of Sylvia Akers



Charline & Avery Niles - January 28 at 11:53 AM

JM

“ JANICE Mills lit a candle in memory of Sylvia Akers



JANICE Mills - January 28 at 10:48 AM

MC

“ Monique Casky lit a candle in memory of Sylvia Akers



Monique Casky - January 28 at 10:25 AM

KB

“ Kim Brown lit a candle in memory of Sylvia Akers



Kim Brown - January 28 at 10:06 AM

DN

“ *Denise G Neal lit a candle in memory of Sylvia Akers*



Denise G Neal - January 28 at 09:50 AM

TF

“ *The Underwood/Banks Family lit a candle in memory of Sylvia Akers*



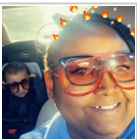
The Underwood/Banks family - January 28 at 09:50 AM

GM

“ *Gloria Maddox sent a virtual gift in memory of Sylvia Akers*



Gloria Maddox - January 28 at 09:15 AM



“ *Lucinda McIntosh lit a candle in memory of Sylvia Akers*



Lucinda McIntosh - January 28 at 08:42 AM

DB

“ *Daphne Brownlee lit a candle in memory of Sylvia Akers*



Daphne Brownlee - January 27 at 08:39 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Sylvia Akers.



January 27 at 04:33 PM

JN

“ Johnny, David & Annese Norman planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Sylvia Akers.

Johnny, David & Annese Norman - January 27 at 04:33 PM

AR

“ Ann Rucker lit a candle in memory of Sylvia Akers



Ann Rucker - January 27 at 03:45 PM

AR

My condolences to the family 🙏🙏🙏🙏🙏

Ann Rucker - January 27 at 03:47 PM

AR

May Jesus have all the glory

Ann Rucker - January 27 at 03:49 PM

WT

“ Wanda Tabor-Jenkins sent a virtual gift in memory of Sylvia Akers



Wanda Tabor-Jenkins - January 27 at 08:05 AM

MS

“ MS. C. ELAINE SIMS sent a virtual gift in memory of Sylvia Akers



MS. C. ELAINE SIMS - January 26 at 08:49 PM

ML

“ Marion Lott sent a virtual gift in memory of Sylvia Akers



Marion Lott - January 26 at 05:51 PM

CJ

“ Cassandra Jenkins lit a candle in memory of Sylvia Akers



Cassandra Jenkins - January 26 at 12:35 PM

CJ

God Bless You 🙏 thank you for your friendship as our paths cross. God knows best!

Cassandra Jenkins - January 26 at 12:38 PM

BW

“ Barbara Wilkins sent a virtual gift in memory of Sylvia Akers



Barbara Wilkins - January 25 at 05:33 PM

TH

“ *Tanya Holland lit a candle in memory of Sylvia Akers*



Tanya Holland - January 25 at 05:16 PM

KW

“ *Sylvia had a sweet, loving heart. I am so very sorry to hear of her death.*

Ken Weeks - January 25 at 01:38 PM

KW

“ *Ken Weeks lit a candle in memory of Sylvia Akers*



ken weeks - January 25 at 01:29 PM

JM

“ *JANICE Mills lit a candle in memory of Sylvia Akers*



JANICE Mills - January 25 at 06:28 AM

JM

“ *Juanita Muckle sent a virtual gift in memory of Sylvia Akers*



Juanita Muckle - January 24 at 11:07 PM

CH

“ Candace Hudson lit a candle in memory of Sylvia Akers



Candace Hudson - January 24 at 08:52 PM

TG

“ Tasha Gaudlock sent a virtual gift in memory of Sylvia Akers



Tasha Gaudlock - January 24 at 08:41 PM



“ Sylvia Akers I am going to miss talking to you on the phone with each other on our birthday I am going to miss you so much



Marion Akers - January 24 at 07:34 PM

SJ

“ Star Johnson lit a candle in memory of Sylvia Akers



Star Johnson - January 24 at 06:40 PM

SJ

“ Star Johnson sent a virtual gift in memory of Sylvia Akers



Star Johnson - January 24 at 06:40 PM

SJ

“ *Star Johnson sent a virtual gift in memory of Sylvia Akers*



Star Johnson - January 24 at 06:40 PM

GY

“ *Grover E & Janice C Young sent a virtual gift in memory of Sylvia Akers*



Grover E & Janice C Young - January 24 at 04:20 PM

ER

“ *Elisa Bonds Ratliff sent a virtual gift in memory of Sylvia Akers*



Elisa Bonds Ratliff - January 24 at 03:32 PM

NN

“ *Sylvia was a true light in this dark world
Her master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness Matthew 25:21*

Natalie Niles - January 24 at 03:20 PM

DO

“ *Don lit a candle in memory of Sylvia Akers*



Don - January 24 at 02:42 PM

SC

“ I always thought of you as a very kind soul they broke the mold when they made you you will be missed and you are loved deeply rest in peace

Sharon Cannon - January 24 at 12:36 PM

DS

“ Dorethia Styles lit a candle in memory of Sylvia Akers



Dorethia Styles - January 24 at 12:12 PM

KG

“ Prayers for family and friends 🙏 You will be missed

Kim Gerrin - January 24 at 10:40 AM

BW

“ Such a sweet spirit! !!



Beverly Wilson - January 24 at 10:10 AM

CC

“ CHERYL CASTLEBERRY lit a candle in memory of Sylvia Akers



CHERYL CASTLEBERRY - January 24 at 09:57 AM

BW

“ Barbara Wilburn sent a virtual gift in memory of Sylvia Akers



Barbara Wilburn - January 24 at 09:47 AM

HT

“ *Sylvia was one of a kind and she her presence will be missed!* ”



Herrita Thompson - January 24 at 08:45 AM

AD

“ *Amy Dorsey lit a candle in memory of Sylvia Akers* ”



Amy Dorsey - January 24 at 06:40 AM

CB

“ *Christine Burrows lit a candle in memory of Sylvia Akers* ”



Christine Burrows - January 24 at 05:28 AM

CB

“ *Cynetia Banks lit a candle in memory of Sylvia Akers* ”



Cynetia Banks - January 24 at 12:40 AM

KS

“ *Kimberly Sims sent a virtual gift in memory of Sylvia Akers* ”



kimberly sims - January 24 at 12:31 AM

KB

“ Sending prayers of comfort and condolences to the family

Kimberly Bryant - January 23 at 11:11 PM

KB

“ Kevin & Laura Bailey lit a candle in memory of Sylvia Akers



Kevin & Laura Bailey - January 23 at 10:42 PM

AR

“ Angela Richie lit a candle in memory of Sylvia Akers



Angela Richie - January 23 at 08:45 PM

NF

“ I remember the first time that I met you. I never knew that we were related until one of my mom's cousins told me. I learned so much from you while you were alive. I love you so much!



Nikiya Few - January 23 at 08:28 PM

DC

“ Thanking God for the blessing of our friendship. Asking God to send strength, peace and healing to her family and friends at this difficult time. 🖤💛 East Hall



Dr. Monica Hudson Cook - January 23 at 07:46 PM

DC

“ Deborah Collins sent a virtual gift in memory of Sylvia Akers



Deborah Collins - January 23 at 06:00 PM

DC

Such a beautiful spirit! R.I.P. 🕯️ 🌹 🌹

Deborah Collins - January 23 at 06:01 PM

WC

SYLVIA was one of a kind !!! I will miss her KINNESS .
Prayers for the family. Wilburn Cantrell

Wilburn Cantrell - January 24 at 11:42 AM

TA

“ Tammy lit a candle in memory of Sylvia Akers



tammy - January 23 at 05:19 PM

AC

“ April Coleman sent a virtual gift in memory of Sylvia Akers



April Coleman - January 23 at 04:41 PM

AC

“ April Coleman lit a candle in memory of Sylvia Akers



April Coleman - January 23 at 04:40 PM

PM

“ Priscilla Martin lit a candle in memory of Sylvia Akers



Priscilla Martin - January 23 at 03:46 PM

FC

“ FAYE COCHRAN lit a candle in memory of Sylvia Akers



FAYE COCHRAN - January 23 at 02:55 PM

PJ

“ Patience Jackson lit a candle in memory of Sylvia Akers



Patience Jackson - January 23 at 02:25 PM

MM

“ Mary Moore sent a virtual gift in memory of Sylvia Akers



Mary Moore - January 23 at 02:13 PM

GM

“ Gloria Maddox sent a virtual gift in memory of Sylvia Akers



Gloria Maddox - January 23 at 01:49 PM

SB

“ Shirley Barnes sent a virtual gift in memory of Sylvia Akers



Shirley Barnes - January 23 at 01:47 PM

SB

“ Sandra M. Borders lit a candle in memory of Sylvia Akers



Sandra M. Borders - January 23 at 01:44 PM

SB

*To the Akers Family
JUST REMEMBER THAT EARTH HAVE NO SORROW THAT HEAVEN CAN NOT
HEAL !
YOU HAVE OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY !!!, Our Patient will truly be missed
Sandra Borders
And The Lenscrafters Staff*

Sandra M. Borders - January 23 at 01:54 PM

RH

“ Regina Harris sent a virtual gift in memory of Sylvia Akers



Regina Harris - January 23 at 01:27 PM

DT

“ Deon Turner sent a virtual gift in memory of Sylvia Akers



Deon Turner - January 23 at 12:45 PM

TM

“ Praying peace and comfort during this difficult time to family and all loved ones .She had a beautiful spirit inside and out. Will definitely be missed! ❤️
Rest Well Dough Belly.



Terry and Ann (Lewis) Morrow - January 23 at 12:30 PM

GC

My condolences to your family 🌹🙏🏻💔

Gloria Carruth - January 23 at 01:13 PM

DS

I love you Teach, save me a seat.

Don S - January 23 at 02:30 PM