



Diane Huffman Driskill

November 30, 1937 - June 12, 2024

Barbara Diane Williams Huffman Driskill was born on November 30, 1937 in “Frog Pond,” Newport, Tennessee. In true Southern fashion, no one called her by her first name, everyone called her Diane. She was granted heavenly wings and regained her angelic voice when she entered heaven before the sun came up June 12, 2024. Alzheimer’s and cancer had been cruel to her, but what stories and songs she can share now!

Diane was blessed with two talented and strong parents, Edith and Fred Williams and three sisters growing up: Emily Ball, Jan Fancher and Sherry Sartain Trudeau.

Diane’s first love came at an early age...music! She played the piano for Sunday worship at Lincoln Avenue Baptist Church while in High School, and sang and acted whenever asked at community and school events. Also during high school she was active with basketball and as a “marching band sponsor,” because her parents could not afford to rent a band instrument. After graduation she moved to Knoxville as a student and worked as a live-in Nanny while getting her associate degree at Draughon’s Business School. She returned to Newport for employment at Wall Tube and met her second love, Charles Maurice Huffman... everyone called him Diz! After marrying Diz, she moved her life across the street to the First United Methodist Church. She was very involved through the years, singing in the choir, teaching Sunday school, serving on many committees, playing in the hand bell choir, directing the youth, and singing and leading worship at the midnight candlelight service

in the Chapel with her favorites, the Arnold family, and eventually earned the title “Cornbread Queen”.

Her career took a back seat to her third love, her children: Anderson Kurt Huffman (Tricia Motte), Kristie Diane Huffman (Rick Drybread) and Kellye Elizabeth Huffman (Greg Carson). While raising her family, she sold Mary Kay Cosmetics, was a Girl Scout leader for many years and loved to camp with family and friends in a camper that the family built together. She appreciated a beautifully decorated table, no matter the season, location, or meal served! She spent countless summers teaching Red Cross Swimming Lessons at the City Park Pool, loved her Beta Sigma Phi girls and exhausted herself supporting the high school band program selling popcorn at football games and citrus fruit to the community while creating fabulous memories with her three children at band competitions. She was appointed to the Cocke County Election Commission in 1974. She enjoyed her work, but she more specifically enjoyed the people she worked with at the Cocke County Court House and later at the Court House Annex. Meeting the new people moving into our area gave her an opportunity to share her love of East Tennessee, until she retired in 2004.

While juggling teenagers in 1983, Diane lost Diz to ALS, also known as Lou Gehrig’s disease (another terrible disease). God placed her next love in her life the following year, Clyde Driskill Jr. Their love was powerful and adventurous! Love and empty nesters can change the world! Diane coordinated Homecoming `86 for Cocke County, held the first Street Festival for Newport, and was a founding member of the Newport Theatre Guild, to which she was appointed President Emeritus. Diane was proud to be part of the first Dead Pigeon River Council and she adored and supported the Stokely Memorial Library. Diane & Clyde were commentators for the first televised Newport Christmas Parade. Her adventures included trips to Mount Le Conte and Mount Denali two different times. Visits to New Zealand and Australia’s Sydney Opera House were among her favorites, but she always came home for Pat Summit and the Lady Vols and time on the lake with

Clyde. She was “washed again” in the River Jordan and kissed the Blarney Stone (What will we do with all the photo albums?). Diane was an advocate for love, kindness, and the right thing to do and she wasn’t afraid to tell you what needed to be said! Tragically and quickly, she lost her precious Clyde to a Glioblastoma (brain cancer), but not before becoming “Grams.”

The final loves in her life were her three grandchildren: Abbott Williams Huffman Drybread, Devon Charles Huffman Drybread and Olivia Diane Smith. She adored each one of them and passed some incredible DNA down to each of them, in heart, in mind, adventure and talent! Sadly, Alzheimer’s slowly started taking our “Grams.” Experts tell you that Alzheimer’s is a “long and painful death”... That’s truly an understatement! Slow death of your independence. Slow death of your relationships. Slow death of your desires and lifestyle. Slow death of your health. Slow death of your memories... but not all of HER memories! That evil Alzheimer’s didn’t completely take her love of music! She could still hum a note with perfect pitch be it from a musical or classic gospel!! Her final years have been spent with some incredible humans at Wellington Manor who through the years have become good friends and a lot like family.

If you want to honor the life of Barbara Diane Williams Huffman Driskill, please don’t send flowers. Make a difference and make a donation in her name to Alzheimer’s research, ALS research or Cancer research. Even better... Go have an adventure in her memory and send the family a photo!

She was cremated per her request and the family will hold a private burial at a later date.

Family and friends may sign the guest register online at www.manesfuneralhome.com.

Arrangements with Manes Funeral Home.

Tribute Wall

TH

“*Kristie I'm so sorry to learn that your sweet mom has passed! She was always special to me and I loved her! Sending you hugs!*
Tammy Hopkins”

Tammy Hopkins - July 22, 2024 at 07:23 PM

LC

“*I'm so thankful I had the pleasure to get to know Grams. She was beautiful inside and out. My thoughts and prayers are with the family.*
Peace, Love and prayers, Lisa Calfee”

Lisa Calfee - June 26, 2024 at 10:06 AM

PP

“*My thoughts and prayers are with Dianne's family and friends! May God bless you!*”

Pauline Proffitt - June 22, 2024 at 03:10 PM

DB

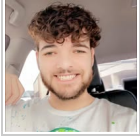
My thoughts and prayers are with the family. Dianne was such a beautiful person. I remember her activeness in the United Methodist Church when I was a little girl growing up in that church.

Donna Ball - June 25, 2024 at 12:20 AM

CL

“*We send deepest sympathies to all the family.*
Bill & Charlotte Leibrock”

Charlotte Leibrock - June 22, 2024 at 02:59 PM



“ Rick Kristie and family sorry for your loss! She was an amazing woman and will be missed prayers for you all in the upcoming days.
-Dakota Keller

Dakota Keller - June 18, 2024 at 08:51 PM



“ PRAYERS AND CONDOLENCES TO FAMILY OF DIANE. MY WIFE ANNETTE WORKED WITH HER AT THE ELECTION COMMISSION AND WE HAD FOND MEMORIES OF THOSE RIME.

DONN H BERNEY - June 18, 2024 at 03:58 PM



“ Love and prayers go rest high on that mountain Diane



Cookie Ramsey - June 18, 2024 at 03:36 PM



“ Sorry for your loss.
Richard & Lois Meadows, LuAnn Carrell

Travis N LuAnn Carrell - June 17, 2024 at 07:36 PM



“ What a remarkable, special lady. My heart goes out to you as you grieve the loss of this wonderful, talented woman.

Jennifer Hooper - June 17, 2024 at 02:02 PM

RM

“ *What a beautiful tribute to a very special lady! Your family will continue to be in our prayers! You have our sincere sympathy.*

Rob and Lisa Myers - June 16, 2024 at 11:49 PM

RO

“ *What a wonderful tribute. Payers and love to the family.*

Rochell - June 15, 2024 at 03:29 PM

JS

“ *Diane, or Grams as I knew her, was a one of a kind lady. I'll never forget the memories I have hanging out with her and Abbott at her house. She was a special woman to so many people. We love you guys and are praying for you.*

Jonah Suggs and Jacie York

Jonah Suggs - June 15, 2024 at 12:01 PM

MH

“ *Our avenue to Diane is through her beautiful daughters. And through each encounter with her - and through every story including her - it was always so evident that Diane embodied the spirit of the perfect Tennessee mom. Strength and resourcefulness, bound in abundant layers of charm.*

Kristie, Kellye, Kurt, our prayers and thoughts are with you and your families as you navigate this world without Grams. We know that each of you can use that same strength you've been taught by Diane to hold your focus on all the joys that she brought to your family, and to everyone. And on her now heavenly perfect body and mind.

__ox Marcia & Scott

Marcia Harrison - June 15, 2024 at 09:39 AM

SH

“ So sorry for your loss. I always said hi to her at Wellington. She had the sweetest smile. Prayers for comfort. She was a special lady



sandy hurley - June 15, 2024 at 06:27 AM

VB

“ Diane was one of the first friends I met upon moving to Newport. Our special friendship led to years of shared meals, fun outings and lots of music rehearsals! Diane had a vibrant smile, beautiful features and a quick wit that brightened many a moment . I am deeply grateful for the memories of our time together and send my deepest love to every family member and for the joy of being in your life as well!

Vickie Butler - June 14, 2024 at 09:30 PM

KB

“ Kurt, Kristie, & Kellie \$ family,
What a gem your mother was! I had the privilege of knowing her since we (her children and I) were in high school, and she was ALWAYS such a beautiful, kind, and friendly lady! I loved getting to see her and chat when I'd visit my dad at Wellington. (He beat her to Heaven in January.) The obituary was so well written and such a testimony of a life well-lived. May your memories and the promise of getting to see her again bring you much peace. May the Lord comfort you in your loss.
Kathy Willis Brooks CCHS 1979



Kathy Willis Brooks - June 14, 2024 at 05:22 PM

BL

“ *Barbara Lewis sent a virtual gift in memory of Diane Driskill*



Barbara Lewis - June 14, 2024 at 04:25 PM

RS

“ *What an incredible, sweet, talented lady with a servant heart of gold. She will live on through each of her family members. Wishing you peace to bring comfort, strength to face the days ahead, and loving memories to forever hold in your heart.*

Rosa Sutton - June 14, 2024 at 04:09 PM

TP

“ *Diane was a beautiful person, inside and out. She was a bright spot in any day, always there to offer encouragement, and the best band mom!*
She will always be loved, always be missed, and always beautiful. Condolences to the family, prayers for peace and understanding.

Teresa Perry - June 14, 2024 at 03:03 PM

DG

“ *Sending my Deepest Condolences to All of the family and friends* 🙏🙏🙏🙏❤️



Debra Gann - June 14, 2024 at 02:16 PM

JS

“ *Our Deepest Sympathy*
Doug and Joyce Shoemaker

Joyce Shoemaker - June 14, 2024 at 01:15 PM

AW

“ *Sending thought and prayers for your loss. No words can truly describe what a wonderful woman that has gained her wings. She will be truly missed!*

Amanda Walker - June 14, 2024 at 12:51 PM

DP

“ *Beautifully written obit! Our condolences to the family. Knowing Diane and her family was one of the great honors of our lives.*

David and Sandie Popiel

David and Sandie Popiel - June 14, 2024 at 12:47 PM

JD

“ *I had forgotten lots of the things mentioned about your mom. I remember her as one of the neighborhood moms whose house we could run in and out of while playing all around Indian Hills. Bless you guys and may God grant you peace.*

Jolynn Doty - June 14, 2024 at 12:28 PM

PL

“ For the past 17 months while my mother has been at Wellington, I've had the pleasure of seeing Diane each day. I knew Diane for years and watched her enjoy life to the utmost. She buried two husbands that suffered 2 horrible diseases but bounced back to enjoy her life and share her talents once again. Alzheimer's is a heartbreaking disease. As I did volunteer work at Wellington, I watched Diane bring joy to the staff, residents, and me when she smiled or raised her hand during Penny Auction or another activity. If she reached out to take my hand or my mother's hand to hold for a moment, it was a Kodak moment. For a brief moment, Diane was with us. Such joyful moments!

Alzheimer's is a cruel disease. She fought it with dignity. Her family was right there for her every step of the way. She is at peace now and enjoying all of her talents in her new home, heaven, reunited with her past friends and loves. My prayers for her family.

Pamela Lewis

Pamela Lewis - June 14, 2024 at 10:48 AM

AD

“ Kristie & family, I am so sorry for your loss. Diane was such a kind and funny lady. She was one of a kind. I will be keeping you in my thoughts and prayers. Love you!

Amy Burnett Dorsey

Amy Dorsey - June 14, 2024 at 10:16 AM

SO

“ I’m so sorry to hear about Diane passing away. She was an absolute true lady in all aspects of her life. I always thought she was so classy, and had the best personality ever....always sweet and kind. Everyone knew Diane, and everyone loved her. She and my Aunt Pearl Gray were the best of friends. Rest in peace Diane. You will sure be missed. Many prayers for this precious family. God be with you in the days ahead. 💔



Susie O'Dell - June 14, 2024 at 10:01 AM

JJ

“ What an amazing tribute! So sorry for your loss of this outstanding woman. My first real taste of activism was at the ripe old age of 9 when I participated in my first Pigeon River protest in the 90's(My picture even ended up in the news paper ;)). I ended up attending more protest and even wrote my leadership paper in high school on the pollution of the Pigeon and what we need to do to help save it! Its awesome to see she helped make that passion possible. The world lost an amazing woman but gain an even more amazing angel!

Jennifer Jenkins - June 14, 2024 at 10:00 AM

RS

“ What a strong and straightforward lady, Diane was. I was thinking of her the other day, wondering how she was doing. She was a very competent Election Registrar and a pleasure to work with while covering elections. My condolences to all of those she loved.

Ray Snader - June 14, 2024 at 09:29 AM

KI

“ I’m so sorry for your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with you all.
Karen Greene Isaacs

Karen Greene Isaacs - June 14, 2024 at 09:19 AM

ML

“ I am so sadden to hear Diane passed. She always had a smile and I loved talking with her at the bank. I worked part time for her at the Election commission for a year or so and loved it. She will be sadly missed

Michelle Lovel - June 14, 2024 at 09:18 AM

BE

“ My condolences to the family. For Diane, she is in heaven where she will be when we arrive there. She was a remarkable lady and knew where her loyalties would lay.

Betsy - June 14, 2024 at 09:11 AM

DM

“ My sincere condolences...

Debbie Murr McGaha - June 14, 2024 at 07:06 AM

DG

“ Deepest Condolences to all of the family and friends 🙏🙏🙏🙏🙏💕💕💕



Debbie Gann - June 14, 2024 at 01:39 AM

RF

“ My sincere condolences to each of you. Oh how my Mother loved the Williams girls. What a remarkable life she lived, and her eagerness to enrich our community was much needed. We were all blessed to have known her. Prayers uplifted !

Ray Fancher - June 13, 2024 at 11:40 PM

JP

“ I remember your Mother and some other ladies always spending their Labor Days working the phones for the Jerry Lee Lewis Telethon
Locally, they worked at WNPC Radio station office. It was there I met this super sweet lady. Later after she had met and married Mr. Driskill, they were at the studios recording commercials for Driskill and Ray Furniture. One afternoon, it was cold and peppering the snow. She insisted that if I could not make it home, that I call Clyde to come pick me up and spend the night with them. She will be missed; take comfort in all the great memories. Love and prayers for each of you.

Johnnie Sue Phillips - June 13, 2024 at 11:12 PM

AD

“ My heartfelt Prayers, Sympathy, Thoughts and LOVE.
Adell S. Davis

Adell S. Davis - June 13, 2024 at 10:16 PM

VL

“ Beautifully written. Such fond memories growing up - of all of the family in English Hills. She was such a fun, spunky, special lady. I am thinking of each of you and praying for comfort. ❤️

Vicki Layman - June 13, 2024 at 09:55 PM

AG

“ She was an amazing lady. What a wonderful example her life was to so many others. Praying for the family.

Angie Hux Gentry - June 13, 2024 at 09:49 PM

LD

“ Thank you for being a friend"..... You became one of my dearest friends, and I've missed our fun times together for awhile, but I will never forget how much you loved me and my family, and I loved you and yours. (Unless the evil Alzheimer's or dementia gets me!) What a beautiful tribute about you, and oh, such wonderful memories! I knew how wonderful you were when I saw how two of the best men in our town loved you. I remember telling you one time how lucky you were, and you let me know...."they were the lucky ones"! Ha! So like you! And boy, you were right! I guess I heard most of your solos, but I always loved to hear you sing, "His Eye is on the Sparrow" and "You'll Never Walk Alone" Absolutely beautiful! I sure thought you were one of the best cooks in Newport, and I always enjoyed anything shared with me at your beautifully set table. And what a wonderful card writer and gift giver you were! Always so complimentary. And such a classy dresser! I guess "Steel Magnolias" and "The Tall Woman" brought us closer than anything else. Clarie', please tell Ouiser, and M'Lynn and Bob hello for us, and we'll all be together again before much longer. You were the best Mom and Grams ever, and yes, you surely did leave such a wonderful legacy. We are seeing it now in those great children and wonderful grandchildren. You will be missed greatly, but I am so happy you are not sick or suffering anymore, and that you are with God and your loved ones that were waiting for you. We certainly send our love and prayers to Kurt, Kristie, Kelly, Abbott, Devon, and Olivia. I Love You, my friend.



Linda & Bud Dawson - June 13, 2024 at 07:28 PM

JL

“ I knew her from my aunt (Pearl Gray) they were great friends and on a lot of committees together. So I knew her from my early teen years. She was always so kind and pretty. She was also my friend as I grew up. Always enjoyed talking to her. She will be missed by so many. Prayers for all her families.



Joy Large - June 13, 2024 at 05:38 PM

JS

I got acquainted with her working at the court house. lovely lady, her sister Jan is a good friend also. I'm sorry for your loss children, grandchildren, but there's a better day coming. Thank you Lord

Janice sexton - June 13, 2024 at 08:16 PM

RL

“ Kurt, Kristi and Kelly --
Your mother was certainly a talented person, contributing so much to FUMC, Newport. I hope your wonderful memories sustain you in this difficult time.
Russell Lamb

Russell lamb - June 13, 2024 at 04:58 PM

CO

“ *What a beautiful tribute to Diane. I have fond memories of Diane growing up in the same neighborhood with the Huffman family. I also attended school with her children. I remember Diane’s angelic voice. She was a very beautiful classy and fashionable lady. I got to visit with Diane at Wellington where my Mom currently is living. She and my Mom shared their meals together and became instant friends even with Alzheimer’s taking over Diane. I know this journey has been a hard and emotional battle for her family. Much love and prayers to them. Love and prayers to her Wellington family as they lose a loved one as well.* ❤️🙏

Cindy Valentint Owen - June 13, 2024 at 04:29 PM

DO

“ *What a beautifully penned tribute! Our sympathy*

Duay, Kay, Amber, and Connor O’Neil - June 13, 2024 at 03:36 PM



“ *So sorry for your loss you were so blessed to have her as your Mom and Grams. Beautiful memories.*

Pat N Patricia Taylor - June 13, 2024 at 03:13 PM

AB

“ *It was truly an honor to get to know Diane . Despite meeting her later in her life after the Alzheimer’s she still had personality! Being a caregiver is beyond rewarding and being able to love the ones we care for is a blessing! We became so close I knew what she was feeling just by her infamous rolling of the eyes 🙄 It was wonderful to talk with her children as well! You can tell that they have a wonderful mother! No more pain my sweet darling sing those heavenly notes!*

Angelina Brown - June 13, 2024 at 02:30 PM

EG

I am so sorry for your loss. You all were blessed to have her. Love and prayers.

Emily Grooms - June 13, 2024 at 06:08 PM

MS

“ *I had the honor and privilege of taking care of Miss Diane at Wellington for a short time. She was my absolute favorite resident. I loved her dearly! Her smile was infectious and she lit up the room when she smiled. HEAVEN is a lot brighter with Miss Diane there. Sending the family lots of love and prayers. Miss Diane will be greatly missed.*

Melinda Sane-Norton - June 13, 2024 at 02:22 PM

CF

What a beautiful obit for Diane! She was a very special person and a very good friend to Newport!

Carolyn Maloy Fox - June 13, 2024 at 04:37 PM

DE

*Peace, love, and prayers for you all. She was a special lady that will be missed...but I am sure she is having a wonderful reunion in Heaven.
Love you
Deb, Duane & Birk/Pleak bunch!*

Debbie - June 13, 2024 at 10:05 PM

DD

She was a wonderful lady and role model. Her tireless efforts in our community and our Newport First United Methodist Church were an inspiration to us all. Our sympathies go out to her family, especially daughter, Kristie, grandsons, Abbott and Devin and her sister, Jan. Lloyd and Diane

Diane Dibble - June 14, 2024 at 11:29 AM

JB

Diane was so very talented in so many ways and has been missed all of these years by so many people in Newport who were the benefits of her special talents! Thank you, family, for sharing her with us! Much Love to and for you for all each one of you have given to make her as comfortable as possible. She is missed!

Jeanne Birdwell - June 16, 2024 at 10:16 PM

EP

A great class mate and a wonderful basket ball player! Elizabeth Ann Ford Page, Class of '53, CCHS

Elizabeth Ann Ford Page - June 17, 2024 at 08:45 PM

GM

*So sorry for your loss, My sincere condolences.
Glenda Gowan-McSween*

Glenda McSween - June 18, 2024 at 09:07 AM