



# Vanessa B. Pettyjohn

OCT 23, 1957 - DEC 20, 2023



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FUNERAL HOME & CREMATORIUM

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# Vanessa B. Pettyjohn

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## Vanessa's Journey

Vanessa B. Pettyjohn, age 66 of Millsboro, DE departed this life on Wednesday, December 20, 2023. She passed away peacefully at home, surrounded by her family and friends, after a courageous battle with cancer.

She was born on October 23, 1957 to the late Burl and Charlotte (Mosley) Pettyjohn, in Milford, DE.

Vanessa received her education in the Milford School District, graduating in 1975. She soon after began her career with the Sussex County Government, retiring after 46 years and 1 month on December 30, 2022. She was a dedicated employee, often having to sign in with security because she was at work way too early to use her badge for entry. She was the "Mother" of the office and was torn when she decided to retire, feeling like she was leaving behind her "babies".

If you knew Vanessa, retirement meant that she had to get a part time job to go along with the rest of her "well-planned" activities. Vanessa worked in the cafeteria at Sussex Central High school as needed, preferably her two days a week requirement that she had planned out years ago. She loved spending time with her friends: going to the theater, shopping (absolutely loved to shop), journaling, art adventures, and whatever else she could find to do.

She was a member of the Millsboro Fire Company Ladies Auxiliary, recently being honored as a lifetime member. She loved her time with the auxiliary, whether it was working the road rally, flower drive or the infamous egg order preparation. She was of the servant mindset and was always willing to lend a hand to anyone. Her daughter even coaxed her into helping with the catering business, which led to a newfound love of green beans and macaroni and cheese.

Vanessa loved her family and if you were a friend, you also were family. Her cousins were her sisters and brothers. If she wasn't with Peanut, Ronnie, Peaches or Curt, she



## Obituary

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was with her friends. She often said she should be Pettyjohn-Hall as she was a member of John and Bonnie Hall's crew. She spent Christmas mornings with the Fletchers. She was truly loved by her family and friends.

Vanessa was a member of the Millsboro Seventh Day Adventist Church. However, she often frequented their Salisbury sister location and also attended Zoar United Methodist Church in Millsboro as well. Vanessa's faith was everlasting and carried her through her journey. She prayed for her family and friends and even during her final days, she was seeking prayer for others in need.

In addition to her parents, she is preceded in death by her brother, Jerry Harmon. She leaves to cherish loving memories: daughter, Markishia Wise of Millsboro, DE; niece, Nichelle (Rodney) Henderson of Bowie, MD; nephews: Sean (Felicia) Harmon and Duane (Anissa) Harmon, all of Upper Marlboro, MD her close cousins: Estheleta Price, Veronica Pettyjohn, Elizabeth Pettyjohn, Prentice Banks and Curtis Dix; a host of cousins, dearest friends, nieces and nephews, etc.

A graveside service will be held at 1:00 PM on Sunday, January 7, 2024 at Mt. Zion AME Church Cemetery, 18211 Beach Hwy, Ellendale, DE 19941. Pastor David J. Thorpe Jr. will officiate.

Please sign Vanessa's guestbook.





# Events


**Vanessa B. Pettyjohn**

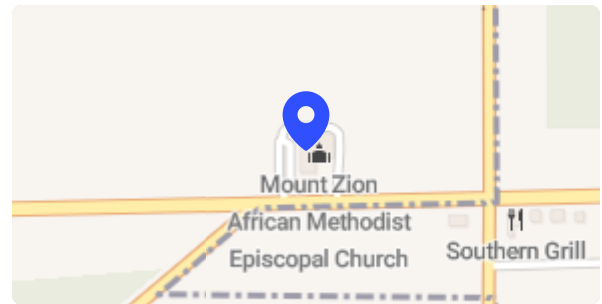
OCT 23, 1957 - DEC 20, 2023

## Graveside Service


 **Sunday**, January 7, 2024

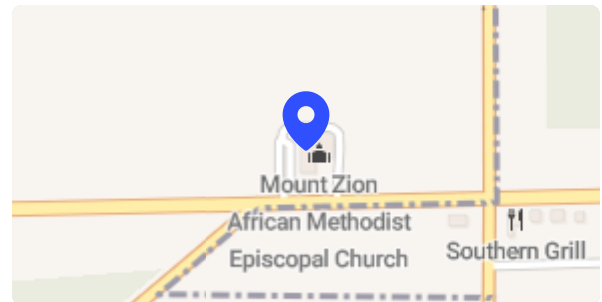
 1:00 PM ET

 **Mt. Zion AME Church Cemetery**  
18211 Beach Hwy, Ellendale DE 19941



## Cemetery Details

 **Mt. Zion AME Church Cemetery**  
18211 Beach Hwy, Ellendale DE 19941





# Tribute Wall

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**Patti** lit a candle in honor of Vanessa.

VanessaShe was the Kind of person who loved people who she thought were "good" people Good not so much in any one particular sense, but good in the down to earth, loving, forgiving and thankful to be alive, learn from your mistakes kind of way, the caring and kind way chosen because you have experienced misfortunes and hard times yourself and in no way want another being to have to suffer through the same thing. Not those who consider themselves good because of their luck to be born into fortune. Not the ugly jealous and miserable kind of way that so many people choose to be at difficult times in their lives. Vanessa was a hard-working, dedicated and loving person. I wish we could have spent some retirement time together like we had talked so much about. She was gone so very quick, like a shooting star, but her brightness and beauty will remain with all who knew her, until we see her again.



□

May 23 at 12:27 PM



**Evelyn Travis** lit a candle in honor of Vanessa.

Evelyn Travis lit a candle in memory of Vanessa Pettyjohn

January 7 at 2:30 PM



**Valarie White** lit a candle in honor of Vanessa.

Valarie White lit a candle in memory of Vanessa Pettyjohn

January 7 at 12:33 PM



**Valarie White** posted:

I meet Ms Vanessa in Moores Crossing in Millsboro. Vanessa and I became good friends, every time we ran in each other at the mailbox. I thought she was the nicest person I ever met. It was a pleasure meeting her. May god bless her family. Your friend Valarie White

January 7 at 12:32 PM



## Tribute Wall

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LA

**Linda Allen** lit a candle in honor of Vanessa.

Vanessa, you were a bright light and shining star to your family, friends, and everyone you came in contact with. I will miss receiving your encouraging text messages and just catching up when I came back home to Delaware for a visit. May God comfort your family and friends and may you rest in peace my dear friend!  
Your Sister/Cousin Linda Allen

January 7 at 9:45 AM



LA

**Linda Allen** shared a photo to the **Vanessa with Family** album.

January 7 at 9:25 AM



DA

**Donna Alexander** lit a candle in honor of Vanessa.

My dear friend. We sure had plenty of laughs at work. Enjoyed our walks and lunch hours together. Thanks for being there for me and my children. RIP hugs Donna & children

January 6 at 9:50 AM



SM

**Suzanne Martin** posted:

Vanessa was always my light when I called the utilities office in Georgetown, she guided me thru the process not just once! She was kind and always such a pleasure to interact with, she is missed by many. Suzanne Martin, Sussex East/West Communities.

January 4 at 9:20 AM

AJ

**Alison Jernigan** lit a candle in honor of Vanessa.

Alison Jernigan lit a candle in memory of Vanessa Pettyjohn

January 3 at 5:56 AM





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AJ

**Alison Jernigan** lit a candle in honor of Vanessa.

Alison Jernigan lit a candle in memory of Vanessa Pettyjohn

January 2 at 6:28 AM



HS

**Helen Steele** posted:

I am heartbroken that another wounded soldier of God is down! Hadn't seen her for years, but reconnected earlier this year when she came to our church. Certainly all the beautiful things said of her in the obituary are true! She certainly did have a kind and loving spirit. But in the "midnight cry" we'll all be going home. I just want to be ready. My condolences to the family, who may not even know me. Peace to all of you!!

December 28 at 7:03 AM

LW

**Lucius Webb** posted:

Vanessa was a wonderful student at Milford High School, Funny, A Joy to know. God's blessings Vanessa from your HS Gov't Teacher

December 27 at 1:06 PM

SM

**Susanne J Messicj** posted:

I met Vanessa when I started working for Sussex County. Vanessa is one of the most memorable employees & one of the most dedicated. She did it correctly & if you weren't she let you know but in a straight forward manner that didn't hurt your feelings. She made friends with everyone who had contact with her. She set a wonderful example. I remember how dedicated she was to her father; her mother having passed when Vanessa was young. I would like for Vanessa to have had many more years of life, I'm sorry she had this illness & she will be greatly missed.

December 27 at 11:53 AM

DB

**Denise Burns** lit a candle in honor of Vanessa.

May God hold you close as your new journey begins.... you will be missed dearly. Condolences to Vanessa's family.

December 27 at 5:51 AM





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CM

**Cynthia Martin** posted:

I will miss Vanessa. She was one of the best ladies I have had the honor of being friends with. Vanessa was one of a very few people I have known to truly live her Faith.

December 26 at 5:07 PM

CD

**Curtis D.Dix** posted:

The times we spent together shopping at our favorite stores. Boscov's, Sam's Club, Hobby Lobby.It was happy times. Just naming a few things so numerous to mention. But our Love for each other your Little Brother. Rest in Peace/Curt.Love You

December 25 at 2:43 PM

SS

**Susan Steen** lit a candle in honor of Vanessa.

Susan Steen lit a candle in memory of Vanessa Pettyjohn

December 25 at 12:42 PM



DI

**Diane** lit a candle in honor of Vanessa.

Diane lit a candle in memory of Vanessa Pettyjohn

December 24 at 3:26 PM



AW

**Alisa Reed West** posted:

So many memories....you will live in my heart forever. Alisa Reed West

December 23 at 1:39 PM

LL

**Linda L Lecates** posted:

One in a million, I was very fortunate to call Vanessa a friend. Vanessa was our Mother Hen in the office who looked out for all of us. My heart is broken but I know that God has called His angel home. Vanessa was and is loved by so many and I know how much she loved her family and friends too. Rest in peace Vanessa. Love you, Linda LeCates

December 23 at 11:35 AM



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**Bonnie Wootten** posted:

My heart is broken. Your friendship always meant so much to me . Your heart and soul was in everything you did . I will miss our talks . Save me a seat up there ❤️ until I see you again . Love you Bonnie

December 23 at 9:38 AM



**Carol T. Pfordt** December 26 at 10:46 AM

I met Vanessa when I moved to Moore's Crossing in 2008. It wasn't long before our friendship grew into something special. She loved my cat and would make frequent visits to deliver treats and toys. Vanessa was happiest when she was able to do something for others, be they pets or humans. Her faith in God was immeasurable, and she never hesitated to recommend prayer and thanksgiving to others if she sensed they were struggling. I miss our talks and text messages. Now, when I look out my kitchen window, her home is dark. This makes me sad. But, despite her ever cheerful attitude, I know she suffered during her final months, and I am thankful that painful time has ended for her. My dear Vanessa, May You Rest In Peace. Carol Pfordt



**Christine Fletcher** December 25 at 1:02 PM

We will miss you my friend. With love all your Fletcher crew. Ernie , Chris, SadieBlake, Jess, SophiaJacob & Taylor



**Anonymous** sent a Pink Tribute Spray to the Pettyjohn family.



December 23 at 9:32 AM



Linda Allen shared a photo to the **Vanessa with Family** album.

January 7 at 9:25 AM



Vanessa with her Aunt Betty and Cousin Peanut



## **Memories only last if you share them**

Join us in honoring Vanessa by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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