

# Obituary

## Wendy Elaine Ford

October 16, 1963 – December 8, 2024

Wendy Elaine Ford, born on October 16, 1963, in Detroit, Michigan, was sent to her eternal home on December 8, 2024, in Detroit, Michigan, due to complications of diabetes. She was the beloved daughter of Burel and Betty Ford.

Wendy was a shining light in the lives of all who had the privilege of knowing her. Her journey on this earth was one marked by love, compassion, and unwavering faith in God. Her passing has left a void in the hearts of her family, friends, and many more whose lives were touched by her. We ask that you remember her not for the way her life ended, but for the way it was lived, and for the profound impact it had on the lives of those who had the pleasure of knowing her.

Wendy is survived by her loving mother Betty Ford, her brothers Burel III and Mark Ford of Holland, Michigan, sisters-in-law Carol M. Ford of Buda, Texas, and Sonia Coffee Ford of Holland, Michigan, and niece Nicole Lynn Ford of Leander, Texas. She also leaves behind aunts, cousins and dozens of friends who adored her dearly. Most notably surviving cousins Vermel and Craig Tyndal, Gerald Keith Johnson, Alan Davis of Detroit and Rod Rush of Tucson, Arizona. She would also like to recognize long-time friends of 16 and 24 years respectively Chuck Cooper and Mara Ignatius.

After her graduation from Huron High School in Ann Arbor, Michigan, Wendy embarked on a career of profound service: first, as a student at Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti, Michigan, before later transferring and graduating from Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana, with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science. For a few years after graduation, she served as a Congressional Aide to US Representative Mike Johns (D-IN), where she assisted in some major legislation working behind-the-scenes. Shortly thereafter, with an abundance of encouragement from her father, who was an educator for his entire career, she elected to be a teacher. Initially, she wanted to teach in the suburbs despite not having any experience in the field. But when she was not hired there, she felt she could get some experience teaching elementary school in Detroit for one or two years then reapply to the suburbs. However, she loved teaching in Detroit so much that she never left and retired in December 2023 after a 34-year career. During her time as a teacher she earned a Master's Degree from Wayne State University.

Outside of her work, she found considerable joy in music and sang in the choir at her church, Christ Church Detroit. She also could be found walking her dogs and enjoying spending time in her community with close neighbors.

Those who knew Wendy will remember her for her infectious smile and overwhelming laughter, her deep-rooted faith in Jesus, and her unwavering commitment to spreading love and kindness to everyone she encountered. She had a rare gift of discernment and for making others smile and laugh, leaving a lasting impact on all who crossed her path. In addition, she had very high levels of emotional intelligence, common sense, and judgment.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests donations to the Outreach Fund of Christ Church Detroit. The funds raised will go toward touching hearts and continuing the mission of outreach the church performs, which is in keeping with Wendy's passion.

Although Wendy's physical presence may no longer grace our lives, her spirit will continue to inspire and uplift us. May her memory be a blessing, and may we carry forth her legacy of love and compassion in all that we do. As you continue to worship Jesus up there, dear Wendy, your light will forever shine brightly in our hearts.