



## Allison Griffin Payne

February 12, 1964 - September 1, 2021

Allison Griffin Payne departed from this life on Wednesday, September 1, 2021, in Detroit at the age of 57. Allison was born in Richmond, Virginia on February 12, 1964, to Kathryn Griffin Payne and Dana Edward Payne, both who preceded her in death. At an early age, she and her parents relocated to Detroit.

Allison attended Saint Rita's Catholic grade school and later graduated from Detroit's prestigious Renaissance High School for gifted and talented students. Upon graduating from high school, she matriculated at the University of Detroit Mercy where she graduated Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Communications and Business Administration. Allison went on to further her education by earning her Master of Arts Degree in Media and Communications from Bowling Green State University in Ohio. Allison was a member of All Saints Episcopal Church in Detroit.

Allison was blessed with a highly successful professional career in television broadcast journalism in which she attained national recognition for professionalism and excellence in media and news coverage.

She began her career in Toledo, Ohio at WNWO Television as an intern, then as a general assignment reporter and then as an anchor. Following her success in Toledo, she moved to Saginaw, Michigan to become an anchor for

the 6 and 11 p.m. newscasts at WNEM Television.

It was Allison's arrival at Chicago's WGN Television in 1990 that led to her becoming a fixture through cable television in homes throughout the nation in the 1990's until the middle 2000's. She put a real face on stories for local, national, and international audiences for almost 2 decades anchoring prime time newscasts and producing specials. During her career, Allison established a national standard in broadcast journalism being one of only a few African American women to reach such stature at that time. Her career in broadcast journalism was highlighted by numerous achievements such as her coverage tracing former President Barack Obama's roots in Kenya and her coverage of Reverend Jesse Jackson's attempts to broker a peace agreement between Israel and Lebanon in the Middle East.

Allison's hard work and professionalism during her tenure at WGN Television earned her numerous recognitions including nine Emmy Awards for excellence in television journalism. Allison possessed a giving spirit and she sought to share her wealth of knowledge and experience with aspiring journalists and others through her 'Ethics in Journalism Foundation' and the 'Payne Productions Company'. Through these endeavors she taught basics of the television journalism trade undergirded by principles of fairness and objectivity. In Allison's own words "helping new interns who join the newsroom makes me smile". She was a longtime member of the National Association of Black Journalists and a proud member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated where she enjoyed the love of her many sorority sisters.

Anyone who knew Allison knew she never met a stranger. Her beautiful smile lit up a room. Her warmth and kindness extended to everyone she met, and her big heart enabled her to share herself and resources generously and selflessly.

Allison was preceded in death by her beloved parents, Kathryn Griffin Payne and Dana Edward Payne. She leaves to cherish her memory several loved ones including aunts Arnida Allen (Richard) of Virginia Beach, Virginia; Lottie Anderson of Dahlgren, Virginia and Ann Griffin of Petersburg, Virginia; uncle Harold Anderson of King George, Virginia; godfather Wendell Foster of Richmond, Virginia; goddaughter Carmen Pierce of Durham, North Carolina; cousins Jennifer Allen of Virginia Beach, Virginia; Kenneth Allen (Lynn) of Chesapeake, Virginia; Lori Anderson of Lorton, Virginia; Valerie Allen of Virginia Beach, Virginia; Wendy Allen of Charlotte, North Carolina; Stephanie O. Gordon of Virginia Beach, Virginia; Anthony Griffin of Charlotte, North Carolina; Harold Griffin of Charlotte, North Carolina; Tanya Griffin of Charlotte, North Carolina; Cynthia R. Hannah of Virginia Beach, Virginia; Deidra Griffin Harry of Chesterfield, Virginia; Arlene Knight of Richmond, Virginia; Beverly Mills (Stephen) of New York, New York; Diane Pierce (Raymond) Durham, North Carolina; Angela Seaborne of Petersburg, Virginia; Ralph K. Williams of New York, New York; Russell M. Williams, Jr. (Janice) of Annapolis, Maryland and Willi Ann Williams of Henrico, Virginia. She also left a host of other relatives, friends, and colleagues.

## Cemetery Details

**Private**

## Events

**Details are pending.**

# Tribute Wall



“ I remember watching Allison as a child in Saginaw and something was just special about her.

Later, I was so happy to see she moved on to bigger jobs.

She will always be remembered and I'm grateful she graced our town's screens with her lovely presence.

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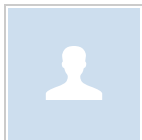
**Melina Paez** - March 23 at 08:32 PM



“ She was a great news anchor and also very beautiful. Miss her on the tv. Jesus Blessings to her family.

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**George Womack,Jr.** - March 03 at 01:10 PM



“ Allison Griffin Payne

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October 13, 2022 at 08:33 AM



“ She was a great news broadcaster in Saginaw! RIP 🙏🕊️ Queen!!!

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**Bradley Garner** - October 17, 2021 at 01:39 AM

MS

“ *Rest in love and peace sweet Soror.... You were amazing and will be greatly missed!*

*Forever in our hearts,*

*Monique*



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**Monique Sneed** - October 03, 2021 at 10:42 PM

GM

“ *Gwen, McKay-Barton lit a candle in memory of Allison Griffin Payne*



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**Gwen, McKay-Barton** - October 02, 2021 at 06:09 AM

NM

“ *My heart, love and prayers go out to all of Allison' Relatives. I remembered her vividly when she anchored the news in Saginaw, Michigan. I was the chairperson for our Saginaw's Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority during that time and we were blessed to have both Allison and Lorna Barrett ( Also a Delta Soror) speak. It was an unforgettable affair. Her love and warmth was evident. I know you will keep her 'memory' alive--- Please remember that God and Time will ease the pain.*

*Most Sincerely,*

*Nora Martin Ph.D.*

*Delta Sigma Theta Soror*

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**Nora Martin** - September 28, 2021 at 10:37 PM

HM

“ *Helen Monroe lit a candle in memory of Allison Griffin Payne*



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**Helen Monroe** - September 28, 2021 at 05:43 PM

PD

“ *Paralee Day lit a candle in memory of Allison Griffin Payne*



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**Paralee Day** - September 28, 2021 at 04:36 PM

PD

*My heartfelt prayers and sympathy to the family of Allison G. Payne. I chose a purple candle, because in the journalism world, she was royalty! She was brilliant, warm, loving and kind. I will miss the long phone conversations we shared during the past three years. Rest in Peace my charismatic Delta Soror.*

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**Paralee Day** - September 28, 2021 at 04:43 PM

IW

“ *Irma Wise lit a candle in memory of Allison Griffin Payne*



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**Irma Wise** - September 27, 2021 at 11:52 PM



IW

*I choose this yellow candle because it reminds me of Allison's fondness for the use of the pineapple symbol in many of her writings, paintings and other communications. I will always cherish those memories.*

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**Irma Wise** - September 28, 2021 at 12:00 AM



GP

*“ The Prather Family loved Allison very much! I will sorely miss my Delta Soror and dear friend. My deepest sympathy and prayers to Allison’s family. Gayle M. Prather*

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**gayle prather** - September 27, 2021 at 07:37 PM



*“ We the March Family and Staff wish to extend our deepest and heartfelt sympathy in the passing of your loved one. Our prayers go out to you and your family in your time of loss. We know and understand that you have received many expressions of love and we will continue to lift you up in prayer. May the memories you cherish of brighter and happier days help to ease your sorrow and comfort you always.*

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**March Funeral Homes** - September 27, 2021 at 11:18 AM