



## Regina Melinda Ward

December 20, 1958 - April 17, 2025

On December 20, 1958, Regina Melinda Ward was born in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. Daughter of the late Ray Alvie Cunningham and Mary Annie Laura (Hughes) Cunningham Keith, Regina grew up in Taylorville, Alabama and attended Pepperell Schools in Opelika, Alabama.

Regina made a profession of faith as a young girl and was baptized in the Englewood Southern Baptist Church in Tuscaloosa.

As a young girl, Regina moved to Pontiac, Michigan for a short period of time before returning to Alabama.

After returning to Alabama, Regina met a young man by the name of Robert Graydon Ward. They began dating and she moved to the dairy farm in Missouri with him in 1987. They were united in marriage on Valentine's Day, February 14, 1989, in Lynchburg, Missouri. Between the two of them, Regina and Robert shared five children: Stacy, John, April, Amanda, and Robert.

Regina has been a hardworking woman since her teenage years when she began working in a screen-printing shop. After coming to Missouri, she held various jobs, including housekeeping for numerous local hotels, serving as janitor for Dr. Jenkins, EDP on Fort Leonard Wood, Piney Ridge Center, and owning her own flea market "Indian Swamp Collectibles". Mostly, Regina was

privileged to be the best homemaker, wife, and mother to her husband and children.

In her spare time, Regina enjoyed being outdoors while working on the farm helping with the cattle, fishing, camping, paddle boating, and horseback riding. She had a “green thumb” which was evident in her flower gardens and plants that she tenderly cared for, and she always enjoyed the spring when the dogwoods would bloom. Regina loved listening to country music, was an avid Alabama Roll Tide fan, and everyone that knew her, knew her love for her favorite drink, Dr. Pepper.

Regina’s first love was her family. She loved them dearly and treasured all the time that they could spend together, especially with the grandchildren. Regina made every moment together as special as she could because she knew that the most important thing in life was her family.

Regina passed away Thursday, April 17, 2025, in the University of Missouri Hospital & Clinics of Columbia, Missouri having attained the age of 66 years. She will be sadly missed but fondly remembered by all those that knew and loved her.

She leaves to cherish her memory her husband: Robert “Bobby” Ward of the home; five children: Stacy Ann Blankenship of Opelika, AL, John William Smith of Dixon, MO, April Louise Huerta (Joshua) of Richland, MO, Amanda Koehl (Bobby) of the State of Nevada, and Robert Graydon Pastor of Kansas City, MO; fourteen grandchildren; eight great grandchildren with two on the way; two sisters: Denise Harrington (Larry) of Opelika, AL and Lynn Broome of Dadeville, AL; several nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives and friends.

In addition to her parents, Regina was preceded in death by her brother:

Dennis Cunningham; son-in-law: Maine Wells; grandchild: Taylor Jo; and nephew: Timmy Harrington.

Even though she is gone from our sight, Regina's love for the outdoors and her family will live on in our hearts forever.

Services were held at 11:00 a.m. Friday, April 25, 2025 in the Memorial Chapels and Crematory of Waynesville / St. Robert with Pastor Keith Carnahan officiating. Jeff Bradley, Richard Baptiste, Terry Baker, and Gina's husband, Bobby, shared their wonderful memories of Gina. The songs "You Look Like You Love Me" by Ella Langley & Riley Green, "Sweet Home Alabama" by Lynyrd Skynyrd, "Love Can Build a Bridge" by The Judds, and "In the Garden" by Billy Dean & Susan Ashton. Serving as escorts were Josh Huerta, Atticus Huerta, Micaela Smith, Joshua Holmes, Nathan Stough, Christopher Smith, Robert Smith, and Abigail Holmes. Burial followed in the Sunset Memorial Estates Cemetery of Waynesville, Missouri.

Memorial contributions may be made in memory of Regina Ward to the Shop with a Cop and can be left at Memorial Chapels and Crematory of Waynesville / St. Robert.

# Cemetery Details

## Sunset Memorial Estates Cemetery

Highway 17 South  
Waynesville, MO 65583  
(573) 774-6111  
memorialchapels@embarqmail.com

# Previous Events

## Visitation

APR **25**. 9:00 AM.

Memorial Chapels And Crematory Of Waynesville / St. Robert

## Funeral Service

APR **25**. 11:00 AM.

Memorial Chapels And Crematory Of Waynesville / St. Robert

# Tribute Wall

DH

“ *Love and miss you. Always in our hearts. MY SISTER* ”



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**Denise Harrington** - April 23, 2025 at 10:00 PM

TM

“ *Tina Merritt lit a candle in memory of Regina Ward* ”



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**Tina Merritt** - April 23, 2025 at 08:39 PM

TM

“ When I think of you, I will always think of your love your smile and laugh, and the way you squint your eyes and you give that side eye glance. You broke our hearts when you left but we know that you are at peace am not in pain. I will always remember when you have a car I believe was a Maverick and if you're in the like area, you know what I'm talking about you said don't tell nobody but you would go really really fast going down Cunningham Drive just to jump those railroad tracks and me and Stacey and John and Tim was just laugh and we say do it again do it again but you said no we can't do it again but don't tell nobody this is our secret. This is not goodbye. This is when I see you again and I know you went up there and hug my brother's neck and told him how much he is loved and missed. I love you, aunt Gina and miss you from your favorite niece of all Tina.



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**Tina Merritt** - April 23, 2025 at 07:07 PM

AH

“ I think of you every single day. I miss your hugs and can really use a hug from you mama. 💔



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**April Huerta** - April 22, 2025 at 09:25 PM

AH

“ My mama is and was a big part of mine and my families lives. We did everything together if it was to go to the park to to one of the kids doctors appointment or even a field trip. She would bend over backwards for her loved ones. I could keep on talking about her bit ill save some stories for later there is one pic in here that I added because before her surgery last month I was telling my mama that I won a free photo shoot for the family and how excited I was for update family pics. I told her that she'd be the first to have a new family pic for her wall. We'll we got the pics done 4 days before my mama passed she never got the chance to see them. I love you mama and miss you so much. It's not the same down here with out you. Love you for ever and always



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**April Huerta** - April 22, 2025 at 09:23 PM

SB

“ 17 files added to the tribute wall



Stacy Blankenship - April 22, 2025 at 05:25 PM



“ 119 files added to the album LifeTributes



Memorial Chapels and Crematory - April 22, 2025 at 03:56 PM

SB

“ 12 files added to the tribute wall



Stacy Blankenship - April 22, 2025 at 03:03 PM

SB

“ Stacy Blankenship sent a virtual gift in memory of Regina Ward



Stacy Blankenship - April 22, 2025 at 03:01 PM

LC

“ Linda Cole-Schonbok sent a virtual gift in memory of Regina Ward



Linda Cole-Schonbok - April 22, 2025 at 02:46 PM

MS

“ *Marge Scott lit a candle in memory of Regina Ward*



Marge Scott - April 22, 2025 at 12:46 PM

SB

“ *Stacy Blankenship lit a candle in memory of Regina Ward*



Stacy Blankenship - April 21, 2025 at 02:52 PM

SB

“ *My sweet beautiful mama every memory is special to me this woman right here is a rock she is the strongest woman I know and now she is at peace with God and has earned her wings to know my mama is to love her she was loved by all fly high mama until we reunite rest easy my queen I love u*

Stacy Blankenship - April 21, 2025 at 02:50 PM

MM

“ *Bobby and family, you all are in our thoughts and prayers. I worked with Gina 1993 - 1995. She was an awesome lady. Great to visit with. Love you. Crystal and Michael Mosier*



Michael & Crystal Mosier - April 21, 2025 at 02:39 PM

RW

*Thank You ..... We Loved You Both And Always Enjoyed Our Encounters With Each Other 😊😊😊😊😊😊*

**Robert Ward** - April 22, 2025 at 09:54 PM

RW

*Thank You ..... We Loved To See You Both When We Were Out And About 😂😂😂😂*

**Robert Ward** - April 22, 2025 at 10:29 PM