



Professor Karl Von Norman

February 22, 1955 - July 16, 2022

Services for Karl Von Norman streamed live and archived at https://fb.watch/eRQiSio4k_/ Funeral services will be held on Saturday, July 23, 2022, at 10:00 A.M. at the Campus of Grambling State University, T.H. Harris Auditorium, Corner of Reed St. and South Main Street, Grambling, LA 71245, for Professor, Karl Von Norman, 67, who entered eternal rest on Saturday, July 16, 2022 at Northern Louisiana Medical Center surrounded by family and loved ones.

Interment will be in Bellevue Memorial Park following the Mass of Christian Burial, Deacon Charles R. Richard, Officiant. Father Patrick J. Madden will officiate the Mass of Christian Burial.

Karl leaves to cherish his memory and celebrate his legacy, his loving wife Hilda Hardy-Norman, of Grambling, LA, his children: Kwency Von Norman (Sheena) of Waldorf, MD, Nicole Norman-Ivory (Christopher) and Zenia Norman-Jones (Quinn) both of Houston, TX; siblings: Keith Norman of New Orleans, LA, Margo Latour (Patrick) of Houston, TX, Karen Williams (Nixon) of Corpus Christi, TX and Iris Malone (Lester) of Lafayette, LA; (4) grandchildren: Nyelle, Nevaeh, Avah and Kolton and a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and special friends.

Karl was preceded in death by his parents, Clifton "Duke" Norman and Theresa Guillory Norman.

The family requests visiting hours be observed on Saturday, July 23, 2022 from 8:30 A.M. to 9:30 A.M. at T.H. Harris Auditorium – Campus of Grambling

State University.

Share words of comfort with the family of Professor Karl Von Norman on his Permanent Life Tribute Page at www.williamsfuneralhomes.net. Be the first to post your most treasured memory of Karl. Show your support by sharing a personal message or story, meaningful photo or video, or record a video message using your webcam. On behalf of the family, we encourage you share your personal experiences and preserve the memory of Karl Von Norman for future generations to come.

The family request sympathy floral be directed to St. Benedict the Black Catholic Church at the campus of Grambling State University.

Final arrangements entrusted to Williams Funeral Home of Opelousas, 817 E. South Street, 337-942-2037.

Cemetery Details

Bellevue Memorial Park

4833 Hwy 182 S.
Opelousas, LA 70570
<https://www.bellevuememorialparkcemetery.com/>

Previous Events

Floral Delivery

JUL 23. 8:00 AM - 8:30 AM (CT)

St. Benedict the Black Catholic Church
Campus of Grambling State University
Grambling, LA 71245

Visitation

JUL 23. 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM (CT)

Campus of Grambling State University, T.H. Harris Auditorium
Corner of Reed St. and South Main Street
Grambling , LA 71245

Mass of Christian Burial

JUL 23. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Campus of Grambling State University, T.H. Harris Auditorium
Corner of Reed St. and South Main Street
Grambling , LA 71245

Tribute Wall



“ *Professor Karl Von Norman*

January 28, 2023 at 08:52 AM



“ *Mr. Norman was an awesome instructor. He directed me in Dream Girls and Rumpelstilskin while I attended Grambling State University. He was the advisor for the Theatre Guild when I pledged Spr 89. He always brought out the best of us artistically and I will forever be indebted. He always had that beautiful smile to encourage you. RIH Mr. Norman. Respectfully Submitted, Dr. Stephanie L. Brown.*

Dr.Stephanie L Brown - November 04, 2022 at 12:45 PM



“ *My deepest Sympathy & Condolences to your family now Hilda. From your first cousin Joseph/Clyde in Las Vegas, NV. May the Peace of Christ be with you and your Family now. With Love & Prayers. Clyde 702-635-4631...*

Joseph Smith - July 28, 2022 at 10:50 PM



“ *Fred Singleton lit a candle in memory of Professor Karl Von Norman*



Fred Singleton - July 28, 2022 at 08:30 AM

CU

“ My sincerest condolences to the Norman and Grambling State University family. Professor Norman was a mentor and stellar director. He guided me in several performances in the early/mid 90’s including my most memorable role as a deaf mute in “Hunter” in 1993.

His directorial style has been very influential as I have gone on to write and direct my own plays. His heart and spirit has always been with me and it always will!

RIP to a giant! #FLS

Chris Utley - July 25, 2022 at 12:34 PM

VP

“ A kind and gentle man. We worked together at GSU and I also took classes under his guidance. He will be missed.

Virgie Broussard Pradia - July 25, 2022 at 08:46 AM

DG

“ Heartfelt thoughts go out to the Norman Family in this time of sorrow.

Dr. Judy A. Guilbeaux-James - July 24, 2022 at 06:18 PM

KI

“ Mr. Norman was my public speaker teacher at Grambling.

Kimberly - July 23, 2022 at 09:44 PM

DD

“ We were blessed to know such a wonderful spirited soul. Our condolences to the family.

Donald Ray and Jennifer Dorsey - July 23, 2022 at 12:52 PM

MH

“*To the Norman family,
Thank you for sharing such a wonderful man with us. He was talented, nurturing and enriching to my life at Grambling and beyond. As a television anchor, I still use “A drum...A drum... Macbeth doth come” and many of the other vocal exercises Mr. Norman drilled us on before practice. He developed me into an award-winning collegiate thespian—once in a script I learned over a weekend. He had a wonderful way about him that was a gift—and we are all better for being in the classroom of his life.*

Marvin Hurst

Marvin Hurst - July 23, 2022 at 10:19 AM

TS

“*My thoughts and prayers are with the family
Your class mate and friend Theresa Gallien Savoy*

Theresa Gallien Savoy - July 23, 2022 at 10:18 AM

AN

“ I struggled.....

God allowed us to encounter the magnificent Mr. Norman. He certainly played a major role in my life. It was because of him that my "grandmother" character took centerstage. His influence afforded me the opportunity to receive the coveted Irene Ryan (Granny from the Beverly Hillbillies) nomination. He not only believed in me but he believed in my friend Kim Bryant as he put her in one of the plays and we had a blast travelling to perform under his vision and wisdom. He was cast as a mentor, leader and remarkable director in the lives of many thespians. I was privileged to hear him utter the words "I am proud of you" as I followed in his footsteps and became an instructor and director and returned to the National Association of Dramatic Arts where my students from Philander Smith College competed against his students. He was extremely proud that i debuted one of his premiere students' work entitled Hope's Return by Nicole Clay. Mr. Norman was an influential joy. He was energetic and we would laugh at the 'bee pollen supplements he would take to give him extra fuel. Every GSU homecoming I made a beeline to see him first. One of my last visits he gave me a book. Now Mr. Norman has joined the Performing Arts section in heaven teaching the angels blocking. He has exited stage left but not without leaving indelible imprints in the wonderful world of theatrics. End scene Mr. Norman. Bravo! Well done our good and faithful servant. 🙌

ANGELA NEWKIRK - July 23, 2022 at 12:52 AM

DF

“ To the Norman Family: It is with great sadness that I offer my condolences on the passing of your loved one. He was a dedicated teacher and some one who represented the best of the faculty of Grambling State University. This is evidenced by the long hours that he devoted to his dicipline and students. He made a great impact at GSU and will be sorely missed.
Sincerely, Dr. Steve A. Favors

Dr. Steve A. Favors - July 22, 2022 at 10:17 PM

CJ

Rest well Most Noble Thespian ❤️
My deepest condolences to Hilda and all of his family.

I will forever carry with me the many precious memories that we shared as students offering our blessed gifts of talent in the classroom, on the stage of Dunbar Hall, and across the USA as Grambling Players.

Carolyn Jennings-Wright
GSU 1972-1976

Carolyn Jennings-Wright - July 23, 2022 at 03:32 PM

KJ

“ KARL JACKSON purchased the Delightful Dieffenbachia for the family of Professor Karl Von Norman.



KARL JACKSON - July 22, 2022 at 02:23 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Professor Karl Von Norman.



July 22, 2022 at 12:47 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet* was purchased for the family of Professor Karl Von Norman.



July 22, 2022 at 11:52 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Professor Karl Von Norman.



July 21, 2022 at 09:39 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Professor Karl Von Norman.



July 21, 2022 at 08:32 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Professor Karl Von Norman.*



July 21, 2022 at 01:03 PM



“ *Mr. Norman, you served as a theatrical inspiration, mentor, and motivator while I was at Grambling as a student. I can remember you standing behind stage whispering lines that were forgotten during our on-stage performances. You will truly be missed.*

To the family, you are in our prayers.

Mrs. Tessie Sanders-Matlock, M.Ed.

Tessie Sanders-Matlock - July 20, 2022 at 11:05 PM



Thank you for allowing my creative talents to flourish as a Director, playwright, and producer. I owe a great deal to you in combing the perfect balance of acting and musical theater into making a literary text come alive as an artistic work of art. You will be missed.

Dr. Dessie M. Sanders - July 21, 2022 at 04:06 PM



To add, the musical gospel sataire "Fatbacks & Collard Greens," was created and written under Mr. Norman's academic direction during my undergraduate career. Every class lead by him; every play; every Greenroom experience; and every National Speech & Dramatic Arts conference would never be the same without his calm nature allowing the unique personality of all his 1988 - 1995 students to, ACT AH plumb FOOL sometimes. And we did it in every creative way possible, to. Thank you, sir, I don't know how you put up with us all.

Dr. Dessie M. Sanders - July 21, 2022 at 04:14 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Professor Karl Von Norman.*



July 20, 2022 at 07:06 PM



“ *Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Professor Karl Von Norman.*



July 20, 2022 at 05:14 PM



“ *Mary Colomb sent a virtual gift in memory of Professor Karl Von Norman*



Mary Colomb - July 20, 2022 at 05:08 PM

“ ‘Grief and Gratitude’ at the Passing of Mr. Karl Von Norman, My [Our] Grambling Theater Dad

I can only speak for me, but I hope the sentiment, the essence, the vibration of my words rings true for other Grambling Theater students across the nation and the world. As I sit in a hotel room in Indiana, I am overcome with a deep feeling of grief, yet at the same time I have a deep feeling of gratitude.

The fact that grief and gratitude can exist inside of me, occupying the same space and time in my heart and my head, causing tears to fall from my eyes, as I smile at the memories of being a 20 something graduate student at Grambling is because some 30 years ago, I was being guided and mentored by Karl Von Norman or ‘Mr. Norman’ as we lovingly called him.

I have grown much in 30 years but it was those foundational moments at Grambling, when I was searching for what it meant to be Black, to be a Theater Artist, to make determinations about ‘right’ and ‘wrong’ behavior is when Mr. Norman did what the Black men I grew up around did, he was Father, Uncle, Cousin, Friend in his capacity as a Professor but most importantly as a Family Man. He extended the deep, profound love he had for his own children to us, and for those actions of honesty, care, compassion, and unwavering support even long after we left GSU, I, as I type these words, am ‘grieving yet grateful’.

I would often see Mrs. Hilda around campus and their children were quite young at this time. To the Norman Family, Mrs Hilda, Kwency, Nicole, and Zenia, THANK YOU for sharing your husband, your father with so many students at Grambling.

I am never one to try to say ‘how much’ Mr. Norman loved us as his students, but I will step out and say ‘how’ Mr. Norman loved us. He gave us a mere fraction of the love he deeply felt for each of you.

I recognize this love because it is a Louisiana man's kind of love. It was present in my childhood in Shreveport in the manner, mood, and measure of the Anderson men of Keithville and Shreveport. Mr. Norman took great pride in being a Family Man and we were his extended family through his love for theater and his love for the work done at Grambling State University.

As I leave Indiana tomorrow to drive back to Vermont where I am the Edmundite Fellow at Saint Michael's College, I will hold in my heart, head, and hand the memory of Mr. Norman. I will carry with that memory the will to follow his example, to love, to share, to be honest, to support, and to always have an encouraging word absent of judgement and filled with the hope for the absolute best for others. This is what I think and feel when I remember Mr. Karl Von Norman.

On behalf of my family (my daughter Nadja and the Anderson Siblings of Shreveport) may you find comfort in your time of sorrow.

May Mr. Norman find "Rest... Sweet Rest, beyond the River".

*I love you all,
Jolivette "Jolly" Anderson Douoning*

Jolivette 'Jolly' Anderson-Douoning - July 20, 2022 at 04:47 PM



“Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Professor Karl Von Norman.



July 20, 2022 at 04:18 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Professor Karl Von Norman.*



July 20, 2022 at 12:00 PM



“ *Gerald and Gracie Amos purchased the Love's Journey for the family of Professor Karl Von Norman.*



Gerald and Gracie Amos - July 20, 2022 at 07:33 AM



“ *My heartfelt condolences to Hilda & the Family. He was the most talented man that always gave 100%. Whether on stage or just having a conversation. Rest In Heaven my brother.*

Jacinta Frank-Parrish - July 20, 2022 at 07:15 AM



“ *Glenda Young sent a virtual gift in memory of Professor Karl Von Norman*



Glenda Young - July 20, 2022 at 01:41 AM

GY

“ *Glenda Young lit a candle in memory of Professor Karl Von Norman*



Glenda Young - July 20, 2022 at 01:41 AM

GY

“ *My heart is so heavy this evening as I learned of the passing of my dear longtime neighbor, friend, and classmate, Karl Von Norman. We grew up together on the "Hill" attending first through twelve grades becoming graduates of the OHS Class of 1973. We took speech and drama together under the direction of our beloved teacher, Ms. Charlotte Mouton. I have such fond memories of Karl as a great Orator and an Outstanding Actor. He set the bar really high and inspired everyone around him to give it their all. My heartfelt sympathy goes out to his family. You're in my thoughts and prayers, and I hope it helps to remember that your loved one is in God's care....*

Glenda Young - July 20, 2022 at 01:39 AM

DC

“ *Sending my heart and love to the entire Norman Family. Thank you for sharing him with us. He was the best mentor of my life and so many others. I thank God for Mr. Norman's blessed and wonderful life. Love always Daylene Ross- Carter GSU/FLS Class of '95*

Daylene Carter - July 19, 2022 at 10:53 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Professor Karl Von Norman.*



July 19, 2022 at 09:17 PM



“ *I owe my career from all of the positive feedback and motivational chats we had while I attended GSU Drama. May you now rest in sweet peace. I love you Mr. Norman. Forever inspired ---
Jwaundace Candece*

Jwaundace Candece - July 19, 2022 at 08:39 PM

SG

“ To the Norman Family,
Thinking of you and wishing you moments of peace and comfort during this most difficult time.

As I think of our family relationship, it goes back to J. S. Clark, “Duke Norman, and Margaret Guillory’s drop off of his favorite food. Then came Charlotte Mouton, Opelousas Senior High Speech and Drama Instructor, “KARL VON NORMAN” and we all ended up at Gram!

GREATNESS with GREATNESS!!

Hilda, Halana, Margo, Karen and Iris from The Guillory (Opelousas) and McCarty (Houston), are holding each of you close to our heart in thoughts and prayer.

Many hugs of comfort,
Sondra Guillory-McCarty and the Guillory Family

Philippians 4: 7

”And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Come to me, all who are weary and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Matthew 11: 28

Come to me, all who are weary and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Sondra Guillory-McCarty - July 19, 2022 at 08:19 PM



“ Pink Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Professor Karl Von Norman.



July 19, 2022 at 08:17 PM

AB

“ My prayers and condolences are offered to the Norman, Guillory, Hardy, and extended families, and also Karl’s friends, colleagues, students, and associates.



Andrea Brisco - July 19, 2022 at 07:29 PM

BS

“ I remember him teaching my Public Speaking class. He was a great teacher

Bryan Sanders - July 19, 2022 at 06:53 PM

DW

“ Doug Williams purchased the Simply Elegant Sp athiphyllum for the family of Professor Karl Von Norman.



Doug Williams - July 19, 2022 at 06:17 PM

DW

“ Rest in Heaven 🙏 I knew he had great acting talent; it showed in our English our Freshman year 🙏 We will keep his family in prayers

Doug Williams - July 19, 2022 at 06:05 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Professor Karl Von Norman.*



July 19, 2022 at 05:24 PM



“ *Thank you for the knowledge you gave me while being a student at Grambling State University. May you rest in perfect peace. Thinking of you Zenia & Family.*

*Monique Pruitt
Shreveport, LA*

Monique pruit - July 19, 2022 at 04:27 PM



“ *Professor Norman was my most memorable professors at GSU... He was my public speaking teacher and he was a awesome!! It was because of him I developed a love for speaking!! My prayers and thoughts are with the family.*

*Yolanda Critton-Hampton
GSU Class of 91*

Yolanda Hampton - July 19, 2022 at 04:20 PM



“ *So sorry to read about Karl---we attended GSU together and taught there together as well---Please receive my sympathies and my prayers....praying for all...Bettye Jackson Chisley (also Speech/Drama Major)*

BETTYE CHISLEY - July 19, 2022 at 03:27 PM

CP

“ My sincere condolences to the family. Karl's Mom & I were 1st cousins. I was taken aback when I heard of his passing. Each year prior to his Mom passing , all the children & their kids would meet at Theresa's house in Opelousas to celebrate her birthday. I was always invited bcz she & I were very close as cousins. I still remember the many visits she & Duke made to Lake Charles b4 he passed. I didn't have the opportunity to stay in touch over the years with Karl and his siblings after Tee passed on. However, I still felt a bond of family unity even though we all live in different areas of the country because our remain as One. Much love to the family.
Charleta Pitre and family in Lake Charles, La.

charleta Pitre - July 19, 2022 at 11:21 AM

BG

“ My Deepest Prayers and Condolences to the Norman Family. Mr. Karl lived a good and successful life, God said it's time for him to rest May you Rest I peace,Mr Karl, a good and faithful servant. 🙏🙏🙏🙏💔



Brenda Green - July 19, 2022 at 11:20 AM

RM

“ Rosalie Meullion lit a candle in memory of Professor Karl Von Norman



Rosalie Meullion - July 19, 2022 at 11:19 AM

GA

“ *In these moments of loss, words are useless. God rest his soul in peace and may his spirit always be there with you*

Gerald Amos

Gerald Amos - July 19, 2022 at 10:36 AM

RP

“ *Sending Heartfelt Condolences and Prayers to the Family! So sorry for your Family loss! R.I.P Karl 🙏🙏*

Rita Gradnigo Pickens - July 19, 2022 at 05:45 AM

CL

Sincere condolences to the family and fond memories of my college schoolmate who made the hours in play practices and on the radio bearable. RIP

Consuella Wiley Lockhart

Consuella Lockhart - July 28, 2022 at 08:33 PM