



KARVA LaShawn COWARD

August 26, 1969 - May 15, 2025

Karva LaShawn Coward, a beloved educator, partner, mother, daughter, sister, and friend, passed away on May 15, 2025, in Bellingham, Washington, at 55 years old.

Born in Gainesville, Florida, on August 26, 1969, Karva brought warmth, light, and laughter to everyone around her. Her love for sunshine followed her throughout her life, even as she made a home in the Pacific Northwest.

Karva went to college at both Cookman University and Western Washington University, earning her degree in early childhood development. Her calling led her to the Seedling Early Learning Center, where she became a wonderful and dedicated educator. Known for her compassion, vibrant spirit, and a classroom full of joy, Karva made a lasting impact on her students and colleagues alike.

Karva was known for her kindness, sense of humor, and big heart. She lived each day with love and purpose. Her partner, Ryan G. Hayes, often called her a “superhero,” and everyone who knew her understand why. Her laughter could light up a room. And, anyone who had the pleasure of knowing Karva knew how much she loved the color purple.

She loved spending quality time with her family, especially when out camping

and hiking in the sun, and watching all of the Star Wars and Star Trek movies.

She is survived by her partner, Ryan Hayes; her children, Justice Hayes, Luke Hayes, and her two foster sons; her mother, Angie Coward; and her brother, William Coward III. She is preceded in death by her father, William Coward Jr.

A service for Karva will be held on May 22nd at 1pm at the Cornwall Church located at 4518 Northwest Drive, Bellingham, WA 98226. In place of flowers, the family welcomes donations to local early learning programs, a cause close to Karva's heart.

Tribute Wall

MM

“ I met Karva at Western. She was so kind and friendly. My sincere condolences to her family.

Maureen McKenney - May 26, 2025 at 12:00 AM

HN

“ Deepest condolences to all the family from your relatives in Northern Ireland thinking of you you all and send our love and sympathy

Hilary , Peter & Carly Niblock - May 23, 2025 at 12:00 AM

HS

“ I'm so sorry for your loss. Karva was so wonderful and so special. She made both of my children babybooks that have adorable pictures of them together. We've been looking through it all week. Our family was so lucky to know her.

Haley, Justin, Charlotte and Grant S. - May 22, 2025 at 12:00 AM

CC

“ Karva was such a wonderful person! She took care of both of our children, Adley and Shayne, from the time they were infants until they graduated from the Seedlings at age five (including through Covid). We appreciated her so much-her love for children was so apparent! She has a very special place in our hearts and will be greatly missed. ~Cara, Josh, Adley and Shayne Clark

Cara Clark - May 22, 2025 at 12:00 AM

KB

“ So sorry for your loss. My prayers are with you all. One of your World Airways family members.

Karen Brooks - May 22, 2025 at 12:00 AM