



Giavanni Malia Powell

July 15, 1997 - December 20, 2021

OBITUARY FOR GIAVANNI MALIA POWELL

Giavanni Malia Powell ~~ a movement artist, choreographer, muse, poet, speaker, advocate and activist ~~ a young woman with a voice and vision to honor those that came before her and elevate those who will come after. Love and light was manifested in Giavanni on the day of her birth, July 15, 1997. That radiant light dimmed on earth and ascended to the heavenly realm on December 20, 2021.

Giavanni was born in Washington, DC to her proud and adoring parents, Albert D. Powell, Jr. and Tonia Jones Powell. Giavanni, affectionately known as “Gia”, spent her early childhood in Mitchellville, Maryland. Reared and nurtured both at home and through the watchful, caring eyes of the community, Gia was truly raised by our Village. She had a firm foundation and relationship with the Lord. As a young child, she attended Shabach Christian Academy where she excelled academically and artistically. Outside of school, she attended Dance Expressions in Bowie where her lifelong passion for dance and artistic expression began. She was a dedicated member of First Baptist Church of Glenarden, and she recently graduated from the Queen Esther 18-month Ministry Program in July 2021. She assisted with Sunday School and served in the Card Ministry over the years.

Gia attended schools in Anne Arundel County – Central Elementary, Central Middle and South River High School (SRHS), where she was involved in Black Saga African American History Competition, Math Club, community basketball teams, and of course dance. Gia participated in the Tremaine Dance Convention, Cecchetti Ballet Conferences, Jamel Gaines Creative Dance Outlet in NY, Joffrey Ballet Summer Intensive in NY, and the Anne Arundel County Dance Ensemble.

As a scholar athlete in high school, Gia was a member of the SRHS National Honor Society, National Dance Honor Society, Tri-M Music Honor Society, Orchestra (played violin), SRHS Fashion Club, Global Ambassadors, and the SRHS Dance Team, serving as its Co-Captain in her senior year. She traveled abroad with her high school to Germany, Switzerland, and France and visited places like Auschwitz which deepened her understanding of oppression, bigotry and social injustice. Gia's community service included volunteer work through North Arundel County Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. mentoring programs and through the Arundel Bay Area Chapter, Jack & Jill of America, Inc. (served as Teen Group President and Vice President). Her public service activities included voter registration and education, book drives, can food drives, and providing shelters and nursing homes with food, clothing, and gifts when needs were identified.

A Linehan Artist Scholar, Gia graduated from the University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC) with a BA in Dance and an Entrepreneurship and Innovation minor in 2019. Gia was a member of the UMBC Black Student Union (served as Secretary), in the Achievement and Inspiration through Mentorship Program (served as Social Media Coordinator), and in the UMBC Visual and Performing Arts Living Learning Community (served as Council Representative). She also served as a Student Ambassador for UMBC and worked in the Office of Alumni Affairs. In Fall 2017, Gia became a member of the Lambda Kappa Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. (served as 2nd

Vice President) along with 13 other dynamic young women whose bonds have been strengthened through shared experiences and working together in service to the community on numerous projects.

During her college years, Gia trained in dance at Hubbard Street Chicago, Broadway Dance Center and MODULE with Sidra Bell Dance in NY. She also performed at Alvin Ailey Dance Theatre in NY and with the Baltimore Dance Project. Giavanni has also performed internationally with Culture Shock DC, at the Kennedy Center, the Fillmore, The Lyric Theatre, Sax DC, and other venues. Gia took dance class whenever opportunity presented including on excursions to London, Paris, Barcelona, and in Italy. Giavanni shared her love of dance by teaching ballet, jazz, modern/contemporary, and tap at Dance Expressions, Inc. and Greater Annapolis Ballet. She also taught dance and had experience in arts administration through her work with Joe's Movement Emporium, the Dance Institute of Washington, and Momiestic. She further sharpened her skills as an assistant to college dance professors on the collegiate level at UMBC.

In 2020 during the height of the COVID pandemic, Gia collaborated with others and founded the Black Onyx Movement, an organization dedicated to raising awareness about the social injustice that plagues Black and Brown America as highlighted by the horrific death of George Floyd and too many others. Gia helped organize and execute multiple protests in Washington, DC, attended protests in Baltimore, and used her voice to help correct the ills of injustice. She met with representatives from the Department of Justice and collaborated with other grass roots organizations. Inspired by the tumultuous events of 2020 and by artists / activists such as Nina Simone and Nikki Giovanni, the first iteration of Gia's short movement film entitled Facade was created and features her original choreography, poetry and production. Facade was released in December 2020 under her project, Murano

Woman. Giavanni used dance and other art mediums as a communicative and reflective tool in evaluating the current socio-political climate.

Gia was blessed with numerous accolades and awards, including the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) award for her Black History Month Performance (2020), 37th Annual Choreographers Showcase Award, (performed hEATed My Place-choreographer – Shaness D. Kemp) (2020); UMBC Dance Summer Research Award (2016), Excellence in the Arts Award from Baltimore County Alumnae Chapter (Delta) (2016); Colonel Charles Young Memorial Continuing Education Scholarship (2015 – 2019); the National Coalition of 100 Black Women Award (2012), among others.

In September 2021, Gia accepted a dance apprenticeship with Deeply Rooted Dance Theatre in Chicago. She performed in the 25th Anniversary Showcase, danced on Good Morning America with the company to the music of Gospel singer Donald Lawrence, and danced at Purdue University in the span of 2 and a half months. While living in Chicago, Gia also worked in a program assisting those with Alzheimer's and dementia with home care and therapy. Her passion for assisting elderly in this regard grew out of her personal observation of family members with dementia.

Giavanni was a natural leader, communicator, and organizer with an irrefutable appetite to help people. Gia gave her time and talent supporting many organizations and she always found the good in all situations and uplifted those around her. A kind and compassionate young woman, she gave the best of herself to others.

Giavanni leaves to mourn her parents Albert and Tonia (Jones) Powell, her brother Bakari Ahmad Powell, grandmother Rita Hines Brooks, grandmother Josefa Borba Powell, great grandmother Evelyn Smith, uncle Tony Powell; aunt Cheryl Brooks Hayes (Glenn), uncle Melvin Brooks, Jr., uncle Brock A.

Brooks (Diane), uncle Alvin Jones, Jr., devoted sister-cousin, Octavia Gould, and a host of uncles, aunts, cousins, family and friends.

Cemetery Details

Gate of Heaven Cemetery

13801 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20906

Previous Events

Wake

JAN 4. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

March Life Tribute Center, P.A. - Laurel
7601 Sandy Spring Road
Laurel, MD 20707
(301) 490-1550
info@marchfh.com
<https://www.marchlifetributecenter.com>

Viewing

JAN 5. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

First Baptist Church of Glenarden
3600 Brightseat Rd
Landover, MD 20785
(301) 773-3600

Service

JAN 5. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

First Baptist Church of Glenarden
3600 Brightseat Rd
Landover, MD 20785
(301) 773-3600

Tribute Wall



“ *To View the Webcast of the Funeral for Giavanni Malia Powell, Please Click the Link below.*



Marshall-March Funeral Homes - December 29, 2021 at 09:04 AM



“ *Giavanni Malia Powell*

October 23, 2023 at 08:15 AM



“ *This world is horrible. I was in love with this girl since I was 8. I never forgot you Giovanni, rest in power.*

Randall - April 11, 2023 at 11:15 PM



“ *Sharing your sadness as you prepare to say good bye to your love. Our father of tender mercies has himself experience the loss of a love one. Pour out your heart to him in prayer concerning our personal grief. With caring thoughts.*

Evans family - January 15, 2022 at 07:57 AM

DG

“ Joel, Danielle and Avery Grey send condolences to the family. Our hearts, prayers and love are with you. We may not understand today, but we know for sure God is in control and his love, wisdom and understanding reign supreme.

Danielle Shipp Grey - January 05, 2022 at 09:10 PM

CH

“ Charlene Hicks lit a candle in memory of Giovanni Malia Powell



Charlene Hicks - January 05, 2022 at 08:53 PM

KB

“ My heart and prayers are with the Powell family. My fond memories of Gia watching her brother play basketball with my son, Kellen, will be with me always. Karen Brooks

Karen Brooks - January 05, 2022 at 10:54 AM

MB

“ Mildred Baker lit a candle in memory of Giovanni Malia Powell



Mildred Baker - January 05, 2022 at 09:55 AM

CD

“ Cheryl Duckett-Moody lit a candle in memory of Giavanni Malia Powell



Cheryl Duckett-Moody - January 05, 2022 at 09:45 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Giavanni Malia Powell.



January 05, 2022 at 08:49 AM

KJ

“ Sending Love to the Family. Although some days may be full of hardship and sadness, each breath, heartbeat, and thought illustrates the beautiful gift of the life Gia. Keep the positive memories alive and thank God. I(Keli) thank God that I was in her present and shared the love of dance and the Arts with her. You will be missed baby girl but never forgotten. Love and Light, Keli, Barry, Barri and Xavier Jones



Keli Jones - January 04, 2022 at 07:11 PM

JD

“ *Julie Dickerson lit a candle in memory of Giavanni Malia Powell*



Julie Dickerson - January 04, 2022 at 07:11 PM

SD

“ *Soror Julie Dickerson lit a candle in memory of Giavanni Malia Powell*



Soror Julie Dickerson - January 04, 2022 at 07:09 PM

FP

“ *Giavanni Malia was a beautiful, creative and graceful shooting star. I thank God for sharing her with us. Rest in peace, my Soror.*

Francello Phillips-Calhoun - January 04, 2022 at 07:06 PM

NA

“ *Gia, your beautiful spirit will be missed. You were always poised, just like your mom. Though you are physically gone, we know your spirit will guide your loved ones and friends. I pray for ease and peace for your parents and brother, and all those who love and mourn you. Rest Easy.*

Natiya - January 04, 2022 at 06:50 PM

YK

“ Yvette, Duane, Jabari, Aliyah, Khari purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Giavanni Malia Powell.



Yvette, Duane, Jabari, Aliyah, Khari - January 04, 2022 at 06:50 PM

JB

“ Extending our deepest sympathy to your family during this time. I didn't know Giavanni, but she seemed to be so beautiful inside and out and will be missed by many. No amount of words can express the pain that you're going through, right now. We are sending your family love and prayers and hope that you're able to find strength during this time.

"Death leaves a heartache that no one can heal, love leaves a memory no one can steal."

Love you,

Alex and Janet Brown

Janet Brown - January 04, 2022 at 06:34 PM

VJ

“ Gia,

Thank you for so many memories for the world to CHERISH, Thank you for you obedience to GOD. We will love you always. Rest in Peace/

Agape Love,
Aunt Verna and Uncle Gary

verna jones - January 04, 2022 at 06:33 PM

KW

“ Kelly White lit a candle in memory of Giovanni Malia Powell



Kelly White - January 04, 2022 at 06:21 PM

JB

“ Janet Brown lit a candle in memory of Giovanni Malia Powell



Janet Brown - January 04, 2022 at 06:21 PM

BR

“ My prayers are with you and the family during this time. God will be with you to guide you during this time. Joy will come on the Morning. Losing the one you love is hard. I am praying hard for your family for peace and comfort or whatever you are in need of. 🙏 Soror Barbara Redden



Barbara Redden - January 04, 2022 at 06:15 PM

VT

“ Prayers of comfort, support and love to the family. Gia's radiance and gifts forever live within those she encountered. The joy she brought to others' lives will not be forgotten and neither will she. Our prayers are with you; please know you are in our thoughts and in our hearts. God bless, Valarie Gray Turner

Valarie Gray Turner - January 04, 2022 at 05:43 PM

TR

“ Taylor Ramos lit a candle in memory of
Giavanni Malia Powell



Taylor Ramos - January 04, 2022 at 04:53 PM

KS

“ Love and light Gia! May God embrace you with His loving arms and
keep you until we see you again in Glory!
Karen & Cameron Spruill

Karen & Cameron Spruill - January 04, 2022 at 04:33 PM

SF

“ Thank you being my dance partner on the
2019 NACAC boat ride. I will always
remember you infectious smile, big and
bright! Sleep well



Sherry D Freeman - January 04, 2022 at 04:21 PM

JE

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Jeffrey - January 04, 2022 at 02:51 PM



“ Our beautiful little dancing angel will be miss, but in our hearts forever..

Uncle George, Aunt Ellen.

Alice Hines - January 04, 2022 at 01:38 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



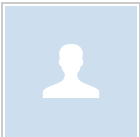
Jeffrey Hitchens - January 04, 2022 at 12:14 PM



“ Cherie - Re/max - (Gambrills Office) purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Giovanni Malia Powell.



Cherie - Re/max - (Gambrills Office) - January 04, 2022 at 11:18 AM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Giovanni Malia Powell.



January 04, 2022 at 11:13 AM

MS

“ *Marvette, Kaa & Lauren Smith purchased the Sweet Tenderness for the family of Giovanni Malia Powell.*



Marvette, Kaa & Lauren Smith - January 04, 2022 at 09:49 AM

MP

“ *Ms. Garland Perkins lit a candle in memory of Giovanni Malia Powell*



Ms. Garland Perkins - January 03, 2022 at 10:44 PM

MP

“ *Speak of me as you have always done.
Remember the good times, laughter, and fun.*

*Share the happy memories we've made.
Do not let them wither or fade.*

*I'll be with you in the summer's sun
And when the winter's chill has come.*

*I'll be the voice that whispers in the breeze.
I'm peaceful now, put your mind at ease.*

*I've rested my eyes and gone to sleep,
But memories we've shared are yours to keep.*

*Sometimes our final days may be a test,
But remember me when I was at my best.*

*Although things may not be the same,
Don't be afraid to use my name.*

*Let your sorrow last for just a while.
Comfort each other and try to smile.*

*I've lived a life filled with joy and fun.
Live on now, make me proud of what you'll become.*

*With hearts full of love!
Garland and Garland*

Ms. Garland Perkins - January 03, 2022 at 10:43 PM



“ *Tender Tribute was purchased for the family of Giovanni Malia Powell.*



January 03, 2022 at 08:38 PM



“ *Phyllis Atkins-Mackey lit a candle in memory of Giovanni Malia Powell*



Phyllis Atkins-Mackey - January 03, 2022 at 07:54 PM



“ *Love, Ron, Chalissa, Kayla, & Evan Taylor purchased the Love's Journey for the family of Giovanni Malia Powell.*



Love, Ron, Chalissa, Kayla, & Evan Taylor - January 03, 2022 at 06:43 PM

NC

“ On behalf of our Deeply Rooted Dance theater family, we express our deepest sympathies to the Powell family. Gia was love personified.



Nicole Clarke-Springer - January 03, 2022 at 05:06 PM

NC

“ Dr.mov

Nicole Clarke-Springer - January 03, 2022 at 03:38 PM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Giovanni Malia Powell.



January 03, 2022 at 12:48 PM

YD

“ Yolande Dickerson lit a candle in memory of Giovanni Malia Powell



Yolande Dickerson - January 03, 2022 at 12:05 PM



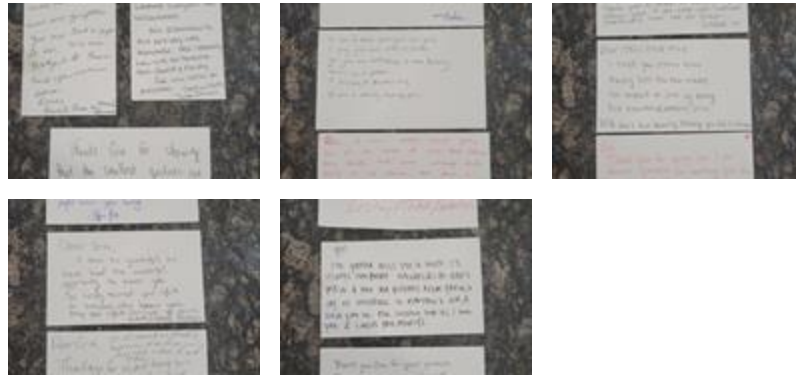
“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Giavanni Malia Powell.* ”



January 03, 2022 at 11:45 AM



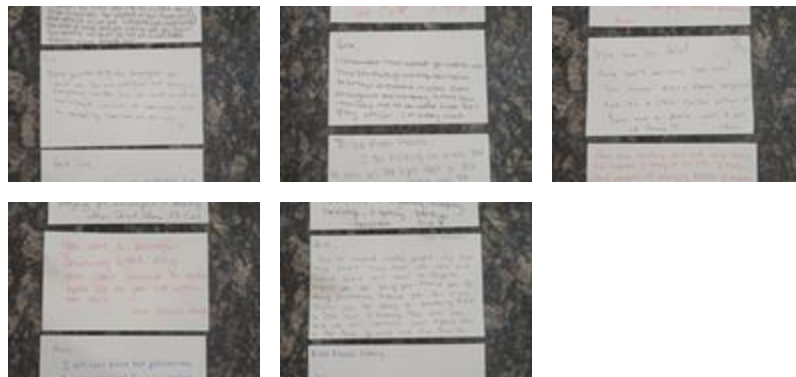
“ *5 files added to the tribute wall* ”



Tonia Jones Powell - January 03, 2022 at 11:04 AM



“ *20 files added to the tribute wall* ”



Tonia Jones Powell - January 03, 2022 at 11:01 AM

RE

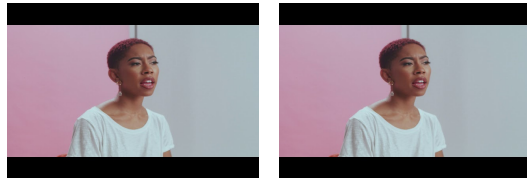
“ *REMAX Leading Edge purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Giovanni Malia Powell.*



REMAX Leading Edge - January 03, 2022 at 10:33 AM

BA

“ *2 files added to the album Memories Album*



Bakari - January 03, 2022 at 10:25 AM

MB

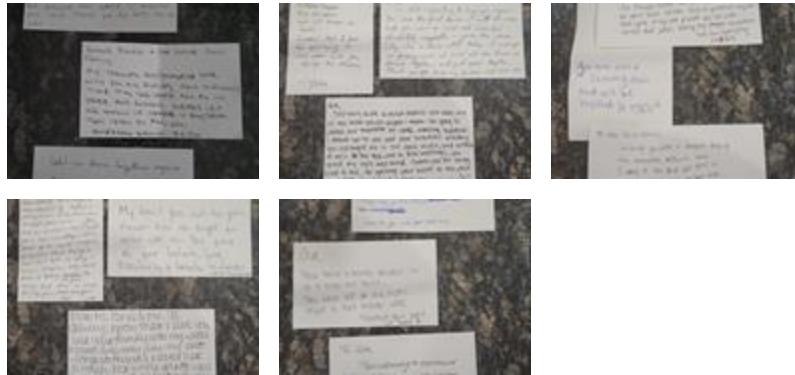
“ *Mildred Baker lit a candle in memory of Giovanni Malia Powell*



Mildred Baker - January 03, 2022 at 10:14 AM

TP

“ 19 files added to the tribute wall



Tonia Jones Powell - January 03, 2022 at 10:14 AM

TM

“ Tia and Maurice McNair purchased the Divine Light for the family of Giovanni Malia Powell.



Tia and Maurice McNair - January 03, 2022 at 09:01 AM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Giovanni Malia Powell.



January 02, 2022 at 02:19 PM

MB

“ *Mildred Baker lit a candle in memory of
Giavanni Malia Powell*



Mildred Baker - January 02, 2022 at 12:59 AM

MB

“ *Mildred Baker lit a candle in memory of
Giavanni Malia Powell*



Mildred Baker - January 01, 2022 at 05:42 PM

BA

“ *2 files added to the album Memories Album*



Bakari - December 31, 2021 at 12:15 AM



“ *Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for
the family of Giavanni Malia Powell.*



December 30, 2021 at 05:54 PM

LC

“ *Members of the Northern Arundel Cultural Preservation Society, Inc. send condolences to the Powell family. We will long remember Gia's sweet spirit and humble attitude in graciously accepting the organization's invitations to share her gift of dance during our annual African American historical dramatizations. To audiences, Gia's creative performances always helped to elevate the dramas, and brought more meaning and understanding of Black Saga in American History. Thank you, Gia.*

Lillie Caldwell - December 30, 2021 at 04:24 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Giavanni Malia Powell.*



December 30, 2021 at 02:22 PM



“ *3 files added to the album Memories Album*



Marshall-March Funeral Homes - December 29, 2021 at 04:52 PM

RR

“ *Ritza Reese lit a candle in memory of
Giavanni Malia Powell*



Ritza Reese - December 29, 2021 at 12:05 PM



“ *We the March Family and Marshall-March 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.*

Marshall-March Funeral Homes - December 28, 2021 at 08:41 PM