



JoAnn Murray

December 20, 1949 - June 22, 2025

On June 22, 2025 our beloved Mother, grandmother, sister, aunt and friend JoAnn Snowden Murray unexpectedly departed this life following a brief illness. JoAnn was born on December 20, 1949 in Washington DC to the late Alonzo Joseph and Vivian Esther Snowden and was one of seven children. She was preceded in death by her husband Lardy “Butch” Murray, brothers Alvin M. Snowden & Kendall A. Snowden, sister Gwendolyn Snowden Stallworth and sisters-in-law Francis Murray Grimes & Mary Murray Wilkerson, niece Nicolette Ratiff and nephew McKinley Ratiff.

JoAnn was raised and educated in Washington DC and was a proud alumni of Anacostia High School class of 1967. After high school she went on to enjoy a long career working office jobs at the Department of Agriculture, Planning Resource Center (where she was introduced to the information technology field and was one of few black women in IT and honed in to the field). She then went to serve as an IT specialist at the National Public Radio (NPR), General Federation of Women’s Clubs (GFWC), The Kennedy Center, and Dumbarton Oaks, from where she retired in 2012, finishing out a successful career that spanned over 40 years. In December of 1969 JoAnn and Butch married and had two sons, Damon and Jeffrey. JoAnn was always the social butterfly. JoAnn had a hand in planning high school and family reunions, bus trips, birthday parties, and her treasured “Lunch Bunch” with her girlfriends. JoAnn never shied away from hosting an event and was a champ at finding

great deals on food to feed all who attended. She loved hosting Christmas at her house and even though each year she threatened that it would be her last year hosting, she never made good on her threat, always ensuring that the family had the traditional oyster stew.

In retirement JoAnn kept busy. She was a realtor, continued socializing with her treasured friends, helped shuttle her grandkids around to activities, enjoyed going to line dance classes and making new friends every Wednesday. She took a heavy interest in politics and caring for plants. While she slowed down on cooking, she never stopped making sure that her grandsons had their “Pooh-Pooh’s” favorite fried chicken, ham, minced BBQ and brownies. She always found time to help neighbors and friends with tasks they were no longer able to do, such as grocery shopping, driving to medical appointments and packing up their homes to get ready for a move. JoAnn was incredibly proud of her family and loved telling her friends all of “her boys” accomplishments. She always took an interest in things going on in her family’s lives and made it a point to ask how your friends are doing, or how was the party you went to on Saturday?

JoAnn leaves to mourn; sons Damon (Nicole) & Jeffrey (Tiffanie), grandchildren Jelani, Damon, Quentin, Elijah and Tatyana. Sisters Geraldine & Denise “Necie” and brother Wayne “Stevie” and a host of cousins, nieces & nephews and amazing friends.

Cemetery Details

Cheltenham Veterans Cemetery

11301 Crain Hwy
Cheltenham , MD 20623

Previous Events

Wake

JUL 1. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Antioch Baptist Church of Clinton
9107 Pine View Lane
Clinton, MD 20735

Funeral Service

JUL 1. 11:00 AM (ET)

Antioch Baptist Church of Clinton
9107 Pine View Lane
Clinton, MD 20735

Tribute Wall

GY

“ JoAnn, thank you so much for being a great supportive friend. You had many roles in my life---AHS underclassmate, alternate driver to the dances on Sunday evenings at the lodge on Suitland Road, hostess at your family beach house etc. We attended powwows with Lena, visited the Black Cultural Museum and the list goes on and on. Loved hearing stories of latest adventures and accomplishments of your sons and grands. In April 2025 we attended the Dallas Texas Dance performance with your relative Robin. Why? because in your words "I know how much you love dance performances". Who does that?...a friend who listens and knows your interest in life. She also introduced me to PBS programs, "Call the Midwife" and "MaryLand". So many memories I'm so thankful for because of you JoAnn. Enjoy your new home with relatives as you get your wings becoming our ancestral angel watching and protecting all of your family members (biological, chosen, dance classmates, AHS lunch bunch and the list goes on and on).

Regret we did not get a chance to sit out on your lanai(as I call it) with Lena eating crabs. Regret you, Clavon and I did not get a chance to go to the Holocaust Museum. Regrets are small compared to delightful joys.

GwenDolyn Yarboroughhall - July 06, 2025 at 05:51 PM

GH

“ GwenDolyn Yarborough Hall lit a candle in memory of JoAnn Murray



GwenDolyn Yarborough Hall - July 06, 2025 at 05:26 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of JoAnn Murray.

June 29, 2025 at 10:25 PM



“ Dear sister, your spirit will forever live on in my heart, and I will miss you dearly. Death ends a life, not a relationship, and our bond will endure for eternity. I love you. Denise

Denise Lee - June 29, 2025 at 10:17 PM



“ The Shepherd Family (Teetsie) purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of JoAnn Murray.



The Shepherd Family (Teetsie) - June 29, 2025 at 05:33 PM



“ Janell and the Pruitt Family purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of JoAnn Murray.



Janell and the Pruitt Family - June 29, 2025 at 03:44 PM



“ *Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of JoAnn Murray.*



June 29, 2025 at 01:53 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of JoAnn Murray.

June 28, 2025 at 04:37 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of JoAnn Murray.*



June 28, 2025 at 04:37 PM



“ *The Little Family purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of JoAnn Murray.*



The Little Family - June 28, 2025 at 03:36 PM

DN

“ Donica Thomas Varner, Ithaca, NY planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Joann Murray.

Donica Thomas Varner, Ithaca, NY - June 28, 2025 at 02:41 PM

DN

“ Donica Thomas Varner, Ithaca, NY purchased the Blue Caribbean Bouquet for the family of JoAnn Murray.



Donica Thomas Varner, Ithaca, NY - June 28, 2025 at 02:41 PM

AC

“ All of us at the Lister Hill Center planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Joann Murray.

All of us at the Lister Hill Center - June 27, 2025 at 08:39 AM

AC

“ All of us at the Lister Hill Center purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of JoAnn Murray.



All of us at the Lister Hill Center - June 27, 2025 at 08:39 AM



“ 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 - June 25, 2025 at 12:31 PM