



Marylouise Isbell

June 28, 1939 - December 26, 2021

LIFE REFLECTIONS

Marylouise J. Isbell" To everything there is a season and a time to every purpose under the heaven." Ecclesiastes 3:1

A Time To Be Born: Mary Louise James was born in Kingstree, South Carolina on June 28, 1939, to her her loving parents, Reverend Dozier T. James and Rosa Lee Porcher James.

A Time for Education: Mary, affectionately known to her family as "Tedda" or "Sister", started her education in the public schools of Williamsburg County schools. Upon graduating from Tomlinson High School, Mary attended South Carolina State University where she received her Bachelor's degree in Education at South Carolina State University. She went on to North Carolina Central University where she received her Master of Library Science. Mary continued her educational pursuits by obtaining an additional thirty credits after her Master's degree.

A Time to Make an Impact: Mary was a part of history. As a college student,

she participated in a protest and civil rights march with Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in 1960. She vividly recalls being water hosed three times and being arrested when she was involved in protest marches. Sister Isbell proudly remembers marching with a young James Clyburn who went on to become the Majority Whip in Congress and currently serves as a Representative from South Carolina. Mary was proud of her moment in history and continued to stand up for that in which she believed.

A Time to Love: On April 3, 1971, Mary married Phillip Leon Isbell in Washington, DC. They lived in Washington, DC until the birth of their daughter, Melissa Lynette Isbell, on October 30, 1972. Mary, Phillip, and Melissa eventually moved to Upper Marlboro, Maryland. Phillip passed away that same year. Later, Mary added to her family by opening her heart and her home to Candice Pettus and Justin Isbell. Her world extended further with addition of her three beautiful grandchildren, Rickiyia, Chloe, and Joel, who she cared for and loved deeply. A world traveler, Mary loved seeing the world, with her adventures taking her to six continents. She especially enjoyed traveling with her dear sister, Lillie.

A Time for Family: As the eldest daughter of 13 children, Mary took pride in family gatherings and special occasions. An avid scrap booker, she created beautiful photo books for many family members. After retirement she dedicated a much of her time creating amazing preschool educational opportunities for her grand niece and nephew, twins, James & Jasyln. She cherished her family. Mary's close-knit family was one of the things dearest to her heart.

A Time to Labor: Mary retired with more than 40 years of service in the professional field of Library Science. She worked as a Library Media Specialist in the Prince George's County School system. The majority of her

years of service was at Gwynn Park Middle School. Mary also worked with the PG County Memorial Library and the Evening Academy at Allen Chapel AME Church. She was a dedicated member of the Friends of Oxen Hill Library. She continued to keep herself busy by volunteering and participating with the Maryland Retired Teachers. In May of 2017, she was inducted into the Maryland Senior Citizens Hall of Fame. She was a member of the NAACP and numerous organizations. In addition, she is a member of Alpha Delta Kappa, International Honorary Sorority for Women Educators. Mary was an active alumna of South Carolina State University.

A Time to Serve: Marylouise has been a member of Allen Chapel AME church for over 40 years. She was never a seat warmer. She lent a helping hand to anyone in need. Mary has served as the Recording Secretary of the Allen Chapel AME Lay Organization. She was a member of Stewardess Board #3, Usher Board #2, the Sanctuary Choir, the Jr./Sr. Ministry and a dedicated member of the Sunday School Adult Forum Class. Throughout her membership in all of these organizations, she served in leadership roles where her spirit and her love for the Lord has let her lead with great strength. In addition to the service of the church, Mary was a former Director of the Allen Chapel AME Church Evening Academy.

The Master called and Marylouise answered on Sunday, December 26, 2021, at 5:35pm. She lived a life full of service and she is now safe in His arms. Mary sent out messages every day to a host of family and friends to spread cheer each day even when she was hurting. Her love and her heart were unwavering.

Mary was preceded in death by her husband, Philip L. Isbell; her parents, Rev. & Mrs. Dozier T. James; four brothers, Dozier T. James, George E. James, Lloyd A. James, Napoleon P. James; and one sister, E. Roberta Ramsey. She

leaves to cherish her memories and celebrate her life; her beloved and devoted children, Melissa Isbell, Candice Pettus and Justin Isbell; grandchildren, Rickiyia and Chloe Hill, and Joel Isbell; four sisters, Henrietta James Peeples (Edward), Rosa Lee James Graulau, Lillie B. James, Daisy James Echols (Isaiah); two brothers, Rev. Franklin D. James (Sheila), Ernest B. James (Michelle); sister-in-law, Susan James; her godchildren, Franklin Echols and Angela Peeples Brown; and a host of nieces, nephews, and cousins. She will be missed by a community of neighbors, her church family who loved her and her many friends and co-workers who will truly miss her presence.

Cemetery Details

Cedar Hill Cemetery

4111 Pennsylvania Ave
Suitland, MD 20746

Previous Events

Visitation

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

Allen Chapel AME Church
2498 Alabama Ave SE
Washington, DC

Service

JAN 5. 11:00 AM (ET)

Allen Chapel AME Church
2498 Alabama Ave SE
Washington, DC

Tribute Wall



“ *Marylouise Isbell*

October 23, 2023 at 08:15 AM



“ *My sincerest condolences to the family of Marylouise Isbell. Mary was my friend, mentor, leader, and colleague with the Friends of the Oxon Hill Branch Library. She will be missed by me as well as all whose lives that she touched while involved with the Friends.*



Oscar Mardis - January 05, 2022 at 10:40 AM



“ *It is with deep sadness that I write this. I am truly sorry to hear of the passing Mary Louise. May God continue to bless each and everyone of Mary Louise's family.*

Thinking of You,

Ida Patterson

Ida Patterson - January 04, 2022 at 11:19 PM



To the James/Isbell family. We are saddened to hear of Mary-Louise passing. We are praying for the family. May God continue to keep His loving arms around all of and bless you. Surely she will be truly miss at the family reunion. Love Elder Henry James & family.

Henry James - January 05, 2022 at 09:27 PM

NH

“ Nichole Horton purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of Marylouise Isbell.



Nichole Horton - January 04, 2022 at 01:33 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Marylouise Isbell.



January 04, 2022 at 09:29 AM

TF

“ The Pacos and Founding Rocketship Family purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Marylouise Isbell.



The Pacos and Founding Rocketship Family - January 04, 2022 at 09:17 AM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Marylouise Isbell.



January 04, 2022 at 03:55 AM



“ 1 file added to the album *Mama Isbell*



Kelli Mickens - January 03, 2022 at 10:55 PM



“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



Kelli Mickens - January 03, 2022 at 10:49 PM

DB

“ *I do not know Ms Isbell personally but I have known of her since my nephew Vincent McEachin admired her so much during his high school days at Gwynn Park High School (1997). Just a few years ago I got the opportunity to work with her daughter Candice Pettus at Judge Sylvania Woods ES. I finally got to meet her personally and shared my admiration from a distance. It's funny how life connects people. I always felt like I knew her. From my family to yours, my sincere condolences to you and your family Ms Pettus. God bless.*

Dr. Bunns - January 03, 2022 at 09:19 PM

YF

“ *Your Friendship PCS family purchased the Serenity Wreath for the family of Marylouise Isbell.*



Your Friendship PCS family - January 03, 2022 at 08:04 PM

YF

“ *Your Pack and Troop 1650 Family purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Marylouise Isbell.*



Your Pack and Troop 1650 Family - January 03, 2022 at 05:50 PM



“ *Pink Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Marylouise Isbell.*



January 03, 2022 at 05:32 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Marylouise Isbell.*



January 03, 2022 at 05:06 PM

CT

“ It was such a joy to finally meet "Aunt Mary", after hearing so many stories about her from her beloved nephew, Eddie Jay. Her welcoming and warm spirit radiated like none other, and not to mention her continuous support of my children, her fellow South Carolina State Bulldogs! My prayers and love are with the family during this difficult time.

Sincerely,
Crystal Tart

Crystal Tart - January 03, 2022 at 04:58 PM

ER

“ Elizabeth Redd purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of Marylouise Isbell.



Elizabeth Redd - January 03, 2022 at 08:55 AM

MR

“ May God give you strength to endure. Praying for comfort for the family. Maryann Royall



Maryann Royall - January 03, 2022 at 07:46 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Marylouise Isbell.*



January 02, 2022 at 12:59 AM



“ *My beautiful sweet Godmother. My mom choose well. I thank you for all the prayers the sweet words you always had for me. I love you and will miss you dearly
Thank you Melissa,Justin, and Candice for sharing her with me. Each of your are in my prayers.*



Carla - January 01, 2022 at 11:36 PM



“ *Miss Mary, you are going to be missed. Ever since I met you, you were welcoming, you were warm hearted, you were loving and you just overflowing with the spirit of the Lord. Thank you for allowing me to experience you. May you rest in perpetual peace and may the light of Christ shine upon you always.*

*Love
Sharon Willingham and Family.*

sharon Willingham - January 01, 2022 at 08:11 PM

GD

“ I had the honor of working with MaryLouise through the Prince George's Public School Retirees Association. Mary served the association and our members in a number of positions, and always put her entire being into her service. Despite her various health issues, Mary was always smiling and upbeat. She worked for our members right up to the end. We will miss her smile and bubbly personality. George Denny

George Denny - January 01, 2022 at 06:12 PM



Melissa Isbell

Thank you Mr. Denny. My mother enjoyed her work and looked forward to her the meetings. I am glad she was able to remain active in the Association.

Melissa Isbell - January 04, 2022 at 06:22 PM

DG

“ Daisy Flowers Glover purchased the Fairest of All for the family of Marylouise Isbell.



Daisy Flowers Glover - January 01, 2022 at 02:03 PM

ST

“ For the past six years, it has been a pleasure partnering with Marylouise Isbell on the PGPSRA Community Service Committee. We shared some of life's wisdoms and laughter during many of the school's projects. You will be missed.

Stanley Tweedy

Stanley Tweedy - January 01, 2022 at 10:59 AM



CT

It was a joy to finally meet "Aunt Mary", since I had heard so many stories about her from her beloved nephew, Eddie Jay. I will never forget her welcoming spirit and her constant support of my children, her fellow South Carolina State Bulldogs! My prayers and love are with the family during this difficult time.

*Sincerely,
Crystal Tart*

Crystal Tart - January 02, 2022 at 09:58 PM



Melissa Isbell

Thank you so much for such kind words! We appreciate you Crystal.

Melissa Isbell - January 04, 2022 at 06:19 PM



Melissa Isbell

Thank you Mr. Tweedy for your message. We truly appreciate you caring message.

Melissa Isbell - January 04, 2022 at 06:20 PM



“ *Lavender Tribute Casket Spray was purchased for the family of Marylouise Isbell.*



December 31, 2021 at 09:05 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 - December 30, 2021 at 11:19 AM



Melissa
Isbell

The family of Marylouise J. Isbell would like to thank Mr. Norman Whitted and the staff of Marshall March Funeral Home (Suitland) for their support and kindness. You have made this difficult time much easier by leading the way during the planning. Thank you!

Melissa Isbell - January 04, 2022 at 06:18 PM