



Talaya James

May 19, 2021

Talaya James, talented and accomplished woman, was born in Washington, DC in January 1972 to Charles and Rosie Ford. She parted this earth to walk with God on May 19, 2021.

Some would have described Talaya as quiet, nice, and the personification of class. For those who knew her life's story, they would describe her as a strong, self-confident, resilient fighter who was divinely blessed.

She was educated at many of the finest schools in the DMV including: the Burgundy Farm Country Day School, Our Lady of Lourdes School for middle school, Regina High School and Archbishop John Carroll High School. Talaya graduated college from Tuskegee University.

Talaya was a multi-talented musician. She had an exceptional ear for music in addition to a remarkable memory and sense of interpretation of music. She played the violin for the DC Youth Orchestra which afforded her the opportunity to play in various countries such as China, Russia, and Spain. She studied classical piano and she sang with the Men and Women of Gospel in Washington, DC. Talaya enjoyed adjudications and competitions.

Talaya was an excellent Science Engineering, Math, and Technology (STEM) student, culminating in earning a BSME degree from Tuskegee University and

attending the Engineering Graduate School program at George Washington University. She was a member of the National Society of Black Engineers Professionals where she participated in community outreach to increase the number of people from underserved communities to pursue STEM careers. While participating in NSBE, Talaya met Mark James .

Talaya worked for 10 Years as an Engineer for the US Park Service, the Patent office, USDA and Charles Ford and Associates. Talaya also pursued interests in gourmet cooking, sewing, and gardening.

Talaya's greatest joy was her daughter Janine. She sparked Janine's early interest in computer programming through hours spent together playing video games, solving puzzles, attending science fairs, and completing STEM activities. She often shared stories of her experiences as a woman in engineering and instilled in Janine that she could accomplish anything.

Talaya spent countless hours volunteering at Janine's school serving as team mom for her basketball, soccer, and softball teams. She assisted as a referee for her robotics tournaments. Even though her health deteriorated, she continued to support Janine by driving her to activities at her high school which included band, sports, and competitive robotics.

Talaya was an intelligent, nurturing, and dedicated wife and mother who was blessed with many talents. Her memory will live on in the hearts of those who loved her.

Talaya leaves to mourn a devoted husband, Mark; daughter Janine; and her parents Charles and Rosie Ford. She is also survived by two maternal great aunts in SC; one uncle in Birmingham, AL; one uncle in Laurel, Maryland; one aunt in Silver Spring, Maryland; one aunt in Washington, DC; and one aunt in Baton Rouge, LA. She also leaves to mourn many cousins and other relatives

and friends.

Events:

Viewing: June 9, 10:00 AM- 10:45

Funeral MASS June 9, 11:00AM -1:00PM

St. Joseph Catholic Church (mask mandatory)

2020 St. Joseph Dr., Upper Marlboro, MD 20774

Phone: 301-773-4838

LIVE ONLINE VIEWING at time of Mass: www.facebook.com/StJosephLargo

Cemetery Details

National Harmony Memorial Park

7101 Sheriff Rd
Landover, MD

Previous Events

Viewing

JUN 9. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Joseph Catholic Church
2020 St. Joseph's Dr
Upper Marlboro, MD 20774

Service

JUN 9. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Joseph Catholic Church
2020 St. Joseph's Dr
Upper Marlboro, MD 20774

Tribute Wall



“ *Talaya James*

October 23, 2023 at 08:15 AM



“ *I am so sorry to hear about the death of my childhood friend. I had not been in contact with Tayala since were kids. But looking back for pictures of the two of us, I realize that we spent more time together doing more things that I had even remembered! The Brownies, violin, birthday parties, and more. She was a constant presence in my life when I was young. May she rest in peace. Enid Logan Allen, in St Paul MN*

M James - June 12, 2021 at 01:18 PM



“ *May God be with you and the family always.*
Mike & Yolanda Mitchell



Yolanda Mitchell - June 09, 2021 at 07:40 AM



“ *The Brady And O'Neal Family sent a virtual gift in memory of Talaya James*



The Brady and O'Neal family - June 07, 2021 at 10:05 PM

YE

“ Yvette & Family, Barbara, Arthur, Keir, Richard E purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Talaya James.



Yvette & Family, Barbara, Arthur, Keir, Richard E - June 07, 2021 at 09:34 PM

HW

“ My deepest thoughts, prayers and Love are with Mark and Janine during this sad time.. Talaya was a wonderful person and loving mother... I met her around the same time as my best friend Mark did through our NSBE chapter and was later blessed to be part of Mark & Talaya's wedding ... There is no greater love than that of a Mother for her child and the fantastic intelligent young lady that Janine has become is a testament to her great parents!
May Talaya rest in Heavenly Peace... 🙏

Hugh Watkins - June 07, 2021 at 07:52 PM

DJ

“ I will always remember Talaya as a person who welcomed and drew out our rather introverted fourteen year old daughter the first time that Charles and I stayed with her at Mark and Talaya's home a couple of years or so after they moved into their house. We were there to celebrate a James family event. Talaya was delightful--talking to our daughter and to me about a shared favorite topic--books. She kept us laughing and engaged, describing what she called a new sub-genre "chicken and biscuit" novels. She and Lynette also shared their love of the violin. Lynette had joined her high School's "String Ensemble and was so happy to talk about that with her very talented aunt. This remains one of my warmest memories--seeing the two of them together--deep in conversation, animated and relaxed. We will miss her. Dee James

Deborah James - June 06, 2021 at 04:08 PM



“ Enduring Grace was purchased for the family of Talaya James.



June 06, 2021 at 02:39 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Talaya James.



June 06, 2021 at 12:08 PM

TF

“ *The James, Wilkerson, and Hill Families purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Talaya James.*



The James, Wilkerson, and Hill Families - June 06, 2021 at 02:05 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Talaya James.*



June 05, 2021 at 08:10 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Talaya James.*



June 05, 2021 at 02:05 PM

DJ

“ One of my favorite memories of Talaya happened when Mark's brother Charles and I visited along with our daughter two or three years after they had moved into their home. Talaya was sweet and kind of quiet, but our daughter was also an introvert. Talaya made her so welcome and quickly put her at ease, talking about books and her work as an engineer. They also had a love of the violin in common. Our daughter was part of her high school Strings group and was delighted to know that Talaya was such an accomplished player. She had us laughing about some of the things her book club was reading and other interesting things. What stood out for me was how gently and warmly she pulled our daughter from her self consciousness, and how relaxed and easy it felt to be there. She was a blessing. Deborah James

Deborah James - June 04, 2021 at 06:19 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 - June 04, 2021 at 11:29 AM