



## Valerie Lillian Cole-James

March 9, 1956 - May 31, 2020

“Charm is deceptive and beauty disappears, but a woman who honors the LORD should be praised. Give her credit for all she does. She deserves the respect of everyone.”

(Proverbs 31:30–31)

VALERIE LILLIAN COLE-JAMES, born in Baltimore, Maryland, March 9, 1956, was the eldest of Leonard and Anita Hardy Cole’s seven children. She departed this life suddenly, yet peacefully, on May 31, 2020. In her early years, Valerie was raised by her paternal grandparents, William and Lillian Minor-Cole. They provided the cushion of acceptance and support that she needed and later shared with many. She rejoined her family of origin when she was ready to begin kindergarten. Valerie was educated at St. Ambrose School, Baltimore; Western High School (1974); and University of Maryland, College Park (1978).

Valerie took her “chief sibling” role seriously, becoming a supportive and trusted advisor to her brothers and sisters, and later to a large family of friends.

She met Marine Corps Staff Sergeant Phillip James, Jr. in 1994 and they married in 1999. At the end of her life, she and Phillip were blessed to share their home with their son, Phillip, and their grandchildren, Sage and Reed. Just a few days before her death, Valerie completed the Facebook 7 day Love My Husband Challenge, posting daily photos to celebrate her 21-year marriage. Valerie loved GOD. A member of St. Ambrose

Roman Catholic Church, Baltimore, since 1961 she received all of the sacraments of the faith, including last rites on May 31, 2020. She served her church in many capacities including former Parish Council President and usher. Over the course of her working life, Valerie was employed by Maryland National Bank, Baltimore City Department of Social Services, and the Maryland State Highway Administration — Right-of-Way Division. She retired from the Prince George's County Department of Public Works and Transportation. At the time of her passing, she worked as a realty specialist for Diversified Property Services, Inc., and continued as a member and officer of the International Right of Way Association. Inducted into Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority on March 9, 1990, she transferred her chapter affiliation to Alpha Alpha Sigma Chapter in 1992 and has been a Life Member of the sorority since 2004. She held the office of financial secretary for more than 25 years. She also served as recording secretary and Founder's Day Chair.

She was a constant friend to many, especially Marguerite Bradley, Regina Ravenell, Sonia Foreman and Gina Anthony. She was an active, present godmother for her godchildren: Dana, Britney, Jacqueline, William, Joshua and Mary. Her home was the family gathering place. Each of her nieces and nephews was graced by her loving support. Only GOD knows how one woman was able to bestow loving kindness upon so many people.

She was preceded in death by her grandparents, William and Lillian Cole, and her father, Leonard E. Cole.

Valerie Lillian Cole-James leaves to mourn her passing and cherish her memory: her beloved husband of twenty years, Phillip James, Jr.; her son: Phillip III; her grandchildren, Sage and Reed James; six siblings: Karen Wouldridge, Charita Brown, Kelvin Cole (Andrea), Ernestine Nelson (Emory Sr.), Linda Little (Ronald) and Martin Cole; sixteen nieces and nephews: Jacqueline (David), Liana, Anita, Alecia, Emory Jr., Brandon, Erica, William, Christopher, Camryn, Maiya, Crystal, Victoria,

Xavier, Joshua and Jasmyn; one great nephew, Clayton and one aunt: Betty Cole; devoted cousin: Lela Richardson; parents-in-love: Donald and Ruth Holman; two sisters-in-love: Elizabeth ones and Michelle Smith; her special friends, including the Buffalo oldiers Motor Cycle Club of Central MD; six godchildren; her sorors of The Sigma Gamma Rho Alpha Alpha Sigma Chapter, and a host

Interment Details: Garrison Forest Veterans Cemetery

June 17, 2020

Time: 11:30 am

# Cemetery Details

## Garrison Forest Veterans

11501 Garrison Forest Road  
Owings Mills, MD

# Previous Events

## Viewing

JUN 8. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

March Life Tribute Center - Randallstown  
5616 Old Court Road  
Windsor Mill, MD

## Wake

JUN 9. 1:30 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

March Life Tribute Center - Randallstown  
5616 Old Court Road  
Windsor Mill, MD

## Service

JUN 9. 2:00 PM (ET)

March Life Tribute Center - Randallstown  
5616 Old Court Road  
Windsor Mill, MD



# Tribute Wall



“ *View and Download the Funeral Program*

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**March Life Tribute Centers** - October 27, 2022 at 10:43 AM



“ *To View the Webcast of the Funeral for Valerie Lillian Cole-James, Please Click the Link below.*



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**March Life Tribute Centers** - June 09, 2020 at 10:59 AM



*i clicked on the link it said it starting at 1:45am EST.*

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**Jay Morrow** - June 09, 2020 at 12:11 PM



*Jay - I got the same message. I am hoping it is a typo.*

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**Kris** - June 09, 2020 at 01:29 PM



*May GOD bless this family. Valerie thanks for your friendship I'll always treasure our time & talks. Rest well my sister.  
Rayvon Daniels 4546 Finney Ave*

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**Rayvon Daniels** - June 09, 2020 at 01:59 PM



“ *Mattie Renee lit a candle in memory of Valerie Lillian Cole-James*



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**Mattie Renee** - June 04, 2022 at 08:51 PM



“ *Tammy Daughton lit a candle in memory of Valerie Lillian Cole-James*



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**Tammy Daughton** - June 09, 2020 at 06:02 PM



“ *Josie Johnson and Tammy Daughton would like to extend our condolences to the family. You are in our prayers at this most difficult time. Peace be with You. 🙏*

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**Tammy Daughton** - June 09, 2020 at 05:59 PM



“ *My prayers and condolences to the family of Valerie Cole James. Gale Fulton.*

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**Gale Fulton** - June 09, 2020 at 04:38 PM



“ *The Spirit of God shines on this family because of the lost of this life. Let the Spirit of God guide and lead as we find peace and love for one another. Richard E Richardson.*

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**Richard Richardson** - June 09, 2020 at 12:57 PM



“ *Prayers Continued for this Family  
Love Darrell, Finney Ave Neighbor*

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**Darrell Taylor** - June 09, 2020 at 12:17 PM

KT

“ *Phil, Mrs. Anita Cole, and the entire Cole and James families, we were deeply sadden to hear of Valerie's sudden passing. Valerie's beautiful smile and presence, as well as her amazing way of witnessing in the sharing of God's word to her St. Ambrose Church Family will be tremendously missed.*

*Family, 1st Peter 5:7 reminds us to "Give all worries to Him, because he cares about you."*

*Please know our prayers and condolences are with you all during your time of breavement. God Bless you always.*

*Love you, Ken and Norma Townsend and family*

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**Ken and Norma Townsend** - June 09, 2020 at 10:49 AM

AC

“ *Andrea Cephas-Fuller sent a virtual gift in memory of Valerie Lillian Cole-James*



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**Andrea Cephas-Fuller** - June 09, 2020 at 10:36 AM





“ No words can express my feelings now, May God bless and comfort 🙏 your family during this time of Bereavement. Kim Barnes-Ohanwe, St Ambrose Church.

Kim Barnes - June 09, 2020 at 04:25 AM

KS

“ Karen E. Sutton lit a candle in memory of Valerie Lillian Cole-James



Karen E. Sutton - June 09, 2020 at 12:44 AM

GJ

“ Our condolences to Phil and Mrs. Cole and all the family. Valerie will be missed at church. God bless the family. The Jiggetts.

Gloria Jiggetts - June 08, 2020 at 04:36 PM

MK

“ Marcus and Kris Keene purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Valerie Lillian Cole-James.



Marcus and Kris Keene - June 08, 2020 at 11:03 AM

NF

“ *Neale,Harrison and Wouldridge family purchased the Pink Tribute Spray for the family of Valerie Lillian Cole-James.*



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**Neale,Harrison and Wouldridge family** - June 08, 2020 at 07:20 AM

WG

“ *MY prayers and condolences to the Cole and James Families. I will miss seeing her grace and beauty sitting in a bench or two in front of me at mass every Sunday. May She Rest In Peace..*

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**Wilhelmina Greenidge** - June 07, 2020 at 04:40 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Valerie Lillian Cole-James.*



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June 07, 2020 at 03:00 PM



“ *Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Valerie Lillian Cole-James.*



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June 07, 2020 at 02:31 PM

CL

“ Claude and Lillian Lamb purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Valerie Lillian Cole-James.



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**Claude and Lillian Lamb** - June 06, 2020 at 08:16 PM

WJ

“ Walter Jr. purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Valerie Lillian Cole-James.



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**Walter Jr.** - June 06, 2020 at 05:39 PM

FK

“ Prayers and blessings for Valerie's family at this sad time. I worked with Valerie at Diversified Property Services, and also in our volunteer work with IRWA. I'll miss Valerie's smile and her commitment to her work and volunteer associations.  
So sad

*Frank Knapp*

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**Frank Knapp** - June 06, 2020 at 04:57 PM

WJ

“ *Our deepest condolences to the Cole-James family.*

*And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.*

*-Revelations 21:4*

*Uncle Walter James, Sr. & Carolyn James  
Faith, Sammy, Josh, Jamir, Lamont Jr. & Samaj*

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**Walter James** - June 06, 2020 at 04:46 PM

RB

“ *Cousin Val,  
I still can't believe your gone. I'll miss you but know that you are forever in my heart. Phillip Jr. and family, our thoughts and prayers are with you. We pray your strength to get through this difficult time.*

*Love you all,*

*Solomon and Rena Burgess*

*Heaven, Ronald & Cam'Ron*

*(Daughter and Son-in-Law of Walter James Sr.)*

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**Rena Burgess** - June 06, 2020 at 04:31 PM

JJ

“ *Cousin Valerie,  
I will miss your yearly visits to Florida and your beautiful smile.*

*Joshua E. James*

*(Son of Walter James Sr.)*

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**Joshua James** - June 06, 2020 at 04:26 PM

UF

“ *Uncle Walter James, Sr. & Family purchased the Graceful Grandeur Casket Spray for the family of Valerie Lillian Cole-James.*



Uncle Walter James, Sr. & Family - June 06, 2020 at 04:17 PM



“ *Gerberas and Palms Spray was purchased for the family of Valerie Lillian Cole-James.*



June 06, 2020 at 10:55 AM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Valerie Lillian Cole-James.*



June 06, 2020 at 08:02 AM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Valerie Lillian Cole-James.*



June 05, 2020 at 03:12 PM

FH

“ You have my deepest sympathy, I just found out about the loss of Valerie and she was loved by all. God has wrapped His arms around her and she will be safe. May we keep you in our prayers and God Bless the family and protect them during this time we are facing with the virus.

Fannie Harris - June 05, 2020 at 01:37 PM



“ Crystal Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of Valerie Lillian Cole-James.



June 05, 2020 at 10:33 AM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Valerie Lillian Cole-James.



June 04, 2020 at 10:24 PM

LA

“ Love, Gina M. Anthony purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Valerie Lillian Cole-James.



Love, Gina M. Anthony - June 04, 2020 at 05:49 PM

JR

“ It is with deep heartfelt sympathy that I extend condolences to the Cole-James family. Valerie was always a loving person and friend for more than 35 years. She always exhibited strong character, faith and duty toward family. These are traits not seen as often in the world in which we currently live. I believe the world would be a much better place if we followed her lead in demonstrating how we engage our family, friends, professional co-workers and others in general. We know that God was in her life and she allowed His goodness to shine through! For those who know Him, "to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord." May God continue to cover Phillip and family as they go through this difficult time. God is Love.

*James and Valerie Ratliff*

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**James Ratliff** - June 04, 2020 at 02:02 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Valerie Lillian Cole-James.*



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June 04, 2020 at 01:57 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Valerie Lillian Cole-James.*



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June 04, 2020 at 01:55 PM

LF

“ Valerie was my soror, and in fact one of the first sorors I remember meeting 15 years ago, and feeling a connection for when I moved to Baltimore. She was absolutely the warmest person. Even though I wasn't active, Valerie stayed in touch with me, kept that connection, encouraged me when I was down. I cannot believe that she is gone.

*I extend my deepest sympathies to her family; may you find comfort in all of the wonderful memories that she leaves in your hearts.*

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**Lauren Foster** - June 03, 2020 at 07:38 PM



“ I met Valerie at Prince Georges County Gov't/ Dept. of Public Works and Transportation - Office of Project Management - she and I became instant friends - she gave good advice and was instrumental in me going to the new office 311 Call Center. I'm very sadden to hear of her passing. May you RIP Val. and my sincere condolence to your husband and family.



*Truly gone to soon*

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**Gwendolyn Lewis** - June 03, 2020 at 05:50 PM



SE

“ To the James and Cole families from Sandra David Everett, former sister-in-law to Valerie.

*Within the Everett family unit we supported each other. She was a daughter to our mother-in-law, Nona Everett. She was the first person I told I was pregnant.*

*I remember she created a maternity outfit for me, during the advanced stages of pregnancy, and I had nothing to wear to a family occasion. She and the Cole family would babysit Alesta, who she loved as her own daughter and kept up/visited with throughout the years - for which I am eternally grateful. She was a working professional of many years.*

*She was among the ‘First Wives Club’ of the Everett family and we were bonded by our experiences through subsequent marital separation, her divorce and my widowhood.*

*We spoke infrequently, but I knew of the happiness, joy and peace she found in the new life she created with her true husband and family.*

*Gone too soon!*

*Rest in the power of everlasting love, Sweet Val ❤️*

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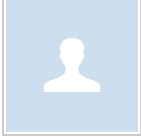
**Sandra Everett** - June 03, 2020 at 05:26 PM



“ Words cannot adequately express how I am feeling after learning of the passing of my longtime neighbor and friend. Valerie was a jewel and will always be remembered for her sweet, sweet spirit. I lift Phillip, PJ, her mom, her siblings and the entire family in prayer during this time of bereavement. I am only a phone call away and please know that you have my sincere condolence. ~Penny Howell-Foster

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**Penny Foster** - June 03, 2020 at 05:15 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Valerie Lillian Cole-James.*



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June 03, 2020 at 03:34 PM



“ *I'm quite sure that everyone who knew Valerie is shocked and saddened to hear the news of her passing. I've known her for more than 30 years - first in a professional capacity, but over time we became good friends as well. We worked together for a while, but later we generally kept up with each other by email and through our participation in the International Right of Way Association, in which Val was a longtime member - and a very active one. Valerie was someone who didn't hesitate to speak her mind, a trait I think is most admirable. If she disagreed with you, she'd let you know, and her reasons why. It was never "personal" with her. Like so many others, I will miss seeing her broad smile, and giving her a big hug. What a dear woman .....*

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**Mike Jones** - June 03, 2020 at 02:19 PM

VW

“ We often wonder why our God calls some people before others .Those that have given so much through their life and smiles. To understand our God is such a challenge but yet we believe that the plan was set before we are born. But yet we cry when the call is made to the ones we love. It's a silent call that only that only they hear. So may we truly be Blessed that our God has a plan for us all. For the years that I have known Valerie & her family will be my thoughts of Love & Happiest. We all will be part of God's plan. Just listen for your name like Valerie because only you will able to hear his voice. With Love & Prayers, Vernon Watkins & Family.

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**vernon watkins** - June 02, 2020 at 06:05 PM

VW

“ We often wonder why our God calls some people before others .Those that have given so much through their life and smiles. To understand our God is such a challenge but yet we believe that the plan was set before we are born. But yet we cry when the call is made to the ones we love. It's a silent call that only that only they hear. So may we truly be Blessed that our God has a plan for us all. For the years that I have known Valerie & her family will be my thoughts of Love & Happiest. We all will be part of God's plan. Just listen for your name like Valerie because only you will able to hear his voice. With Love & Prayers, Vernon Watkins & Family.

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**vernon watkins** - June 02, 2020 at 06:04 PM