



Arethea Angela Coles

July 24, 1967 - January 3, 2011

Arethea Angela Coles, known as Rita, suddenly departed this earthly world for a more glorious one on Monday, January 3, 2011. She was preceded in death by her father, Armistead W. Coles.

Rita was born July 24, 1967 to Annie Chandler (Smithers) and Armistead Coles in Richmond, Va. She graduated from John Marshall High School. After high school, Rita attended James Madison University, where she majored in Political Science and Theater. She received her Juris Doctorate from Regent University Law School. Rita worked most recently with the U.S. Department of Justice where she was employed at the time of her death as a civil rights attorney.

Rita was very passionate about many things in her life and enjoyed spending time with her family and friends. She especially took pleasure in being with her nieces, nephews and children of friends. She was affectionately known as Aunt Rita to many. Rita was definitely the "favorite" Aunt and would not hesitate to spoil them, correct them and advocate for them with their moms and dads. Rita enjoyed performing, either as a singer or an actress. At JMU, she participated in theater productions and was part of the school improvisational comedy group, Cillia. Rita starred in several local theater productions, including "The Colored Museum" where her opening performance as a flight attendant was a highlight of the show. Rita was also a founding

member of the Richmond improvisational comedy group, Take 5.

Rita loved to give of herself to help others. If anyone needed her assistance, she was there to help in any way possible. She is a founding member of The Gloucester Institute (TGI), where she was an active member of TGI program for young professionals, which provides career guidance and encourages community involvement. Rita was instrumental in getting the young leaders program off the ground, providing vision and acting as a faithful donor to the program.

Rita loved traveling and had the opportunity to take the trip of her life-The Great European Vacation with one of her best friends, Tracy. With no real schedule these two traveled from England, to Germany and France, crashing at friends' homes and staying at youth hostels. She possessed an adventurous spirit and a love of people in general. Rita touched the lives of many and possessed a general belief in the good that could be found in each individual.

Rita will forever be remembered by her devoted family. She leaves to cherish her memory and celebrate her life a loving and devoted mother, Annie Chandler; stepfather, Andrew Chandler; stepmother, Jonell Coles; four sisters, Allison Coles-Johnson (Charles), Adriene Ellis (Kevin), Andrea Arthur (Kendrick); brother Anthony Coles; stepsisters, Anglique Chase, Pandora Cosby (Leslie); stepbrothers, Bryan (Aleatha), Bruce and Craig Chappelle; and a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends. Devoted aunts, Kay Coles-James and Connie Cauththorne, devoted friends, Quinn Walker, Pauls Crump, Tracy Camp-Johnson and Chris Carlson.

Cemetery Details

Riverview Cemetery

1401 S. Randolph Street
Richmond, VA 23220

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 7. 12:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

March Funeral Home -Laburnum Chapel
2110 E. Laburnum Ave.
Richmond, VA 23222

Family Hour

JAN 7. 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

March Funeral Home -Laburnum Chapel
2110 E. Laburnum Ave.
Richmond, VA 23222

Service

JAN 8. 12:00 PM (ET)

First African Baptist Church
2700 Hanes Ave
Richmond, VA 23222

Tribute Wall



“ *Arethea Angela Coles*

October 13, 2022 at 08:33 AM



“ *Rita roo, My Greenie Green.. There is not an hour or day.. That I dont think about you and all of what our life was.. I will always be in love with you.. death is just a blink until I see you again... You are always my greatest light.*

KK - May 24, 2012 at 08:14 AM



“ *Rita was my best friend and my sister. There will never be another like her.*

Paula Crump

paula crump - August 28, 2011 at 01:24 PM



“ *Rita worked with us in Memphis in her capacity as Civil Rights Attorney with DoJ. She helped us through some very difficult situations with our jail. She was always courteous, professional, balanced and helpful. Her work resulted in a much improved jail system here and we are a better community for it. We are all saddened by this news and want to express our sincere condolences to all of her family and friends.*

*Bill Powell
Criminal Justice Coordinator
Shelby County Government*

Bill Powell - January 13, 2011 at 06:28 AM

RG

“ I would like to express my condolences to each family member as they cope with the loss of their loved one. A wonderful hope is held out for each one of us from God’s word the Bible, in Revelation 21:4. “God will wipe every tear from their eyes, and death will be no more, neither will morning nor out-cry nor pain be anymore.” In Psalms 37:10,11,29 “ But the meek ones themselves will possess the earth and they will indeed find their exquisite delight in the abundance of peace.” For how long? “The righteous themselves will possess the earth, and they will reside forever upon it.”

Rowland Gaunt - January 10, 2011 at 06:34 AM

SH

“ Please accept my condolences for your loss. Acts 24:15 declares "There is going to be a resurrection." May you receive much comfort and strength when you think about this wonderful hope that will be made possible by Jehovah God and his only-begotten son Jesus Christ.

Sharon Hill - January 08, 2011 at 01:29 PM



“ We the March Family and 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.

March Funeral Homes - January 05, 2011 at 03:51 PM