



## Deborah McCray

December 4, 1952 - June 29, 2025

### Life Reflections

Deborah Patricia Bland McCray, of Varina, Virginia was born on December 4, 1952, in Richmond, Virginia. She celebrated her heavenly birthday on Sunday, June 29, 2025, peacefully passing away at home following a prolonged illness. She gracefully endured with a defined spirit of determination.

Deborah, affectionately known as “Dee”, was the second eldest of three children born to Eleanor Ruth Burke Bland and Willie Archer Bland. Dee attended the Richmond Public School system and was the proud graduate of Maggie L. Walker High School, the Mighty Green Dragons, where she enjoyed cheerleading, drama/theatre club, chorus, and a vigorous team spirit.

Dee accepted Christ as her personal savior at an early age at Moore Street Baptist Church, under the pastoral leadership of the Rev. Dr. Gordon Hancock. Continuing her spiritual growth, Dee was a faithful member of Richmond Christian Center where she joyfully ministered in song with the Praise Team and One Voice. Preceding her illness, Dee was an active member of Mountain of Blessings/City Church in East Henrico, Virginia under the leadership of Pastor Nicole Bradley, where she participated in the Praise Team ministry. Dee truly loved the Lord and she believed that “whoever believes in Him, shall have everlasting life”.

Dee had a long love and dedication for music ministry. She initially joined a group called The Gospel 6, under the leadership of her cousin, Larry Bland. Following that, she continued to share her musical talents by performing with Larry Bland and the Volunteer Choir.

Dee started her career with C&P Telephone Company, which later became Bell Atlantic and is now known as Verizon. Dee retired after 30 years of dedicated service. While working at the phone company, she met the love of her life, James McCray, Jr., and they wed on August 1, 1998. Through that union, they nurtured a blended family of two daughters and one son. She was blessed with her husband James, who for 26 years was fully dedicated to her.

Dee experienced a full life. She loved modeling, singing, traveling, aerobics, zumba, casual walks and most importantly spending time with friends and family. She and James embraced healthy living. Fitness was an active part of their life. Although Dee was small in stature, she loved a three-course meal.

Deborah was preceded in death by her parents, Eleanor Ruth Burke Bland and Willie Archer Bland. She is survived by her loving and dedicated husband, James McCray, Jr.; daughter, Yvette Bland Vick; one step-daughter, Jamika McCray; one step-son, Eric McCray; two sisters, Constance Bland Alexander and Darlene Samantha Bland; two sisters-in-law, Beulah Harley and Florence Gaddis; eight grandchildren and one great-grandson; one God-daughter, Monique Washington-Jones; lifelong childhood friend, Marva Jones Williams; and a host of cherished nieces and nephews, cousins, extended family, church family and dear friends.

# Cemetery Details

## Riverview Cemetery

1401 S. Randolph Street  
Richmond, VA 23220

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUL 10. 9:30 AM - 6:00 PM (ET)

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

## Family Hour

JUL 10. 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

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

## Celebration of life

JUL 11. 11:30 AM (ET)

City Church  
4700 Oakleys lane  
Richmond, VA 23231



# Tribute Wall

TB

“ *The Witherspoon Family in Baltimore purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Deborah McCray.*



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**The Witherspoon Family in Baltimore** - July 10, 2025 at 05:43 PM

KA

“ *My thoughts and prayers go out to Dee's family and friends. Dee was such a lovely child of God, inside and out. What I remember most is her beautiful smile and caring spirit. She will be missed. I know she is singing up there in heaven. Till we meet again.*  
*Karen Allen*

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**Karen Allen** - July 10, 2025 at 02:17 PM

SK

“ *This is very sad news, I'm sending condolences to her family. I knew her well and she will be missed. God's love and blessings be unto you all,*

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**Sylvia Kenney** - July 09, 2025 at 10:27 PM

PW

“ *SIP COUSIN. YOU WILL TRULY BE MISSED*

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**PRISCILLA WIGGINS** - July 09, 2025 at 08:24 PM

JH

“ My thoughts and prayers are with Dee’s family. She was lovely in so many ways it’s difficult to remember them all. I can vividly remember when I met her for the first time at our former employer. Dee went above and beyond to make me feel welcome and comfortable. Have a good ride with Jesus, Dee. You’re on your way home. I look forward to when I will see you again in Heaven. God bless. ❤️

Jeff Hall - July 09, 2025 at 06:30 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Deborah McCray.



July 08, 2025 at 10:29 PM

AY

“ We send our Love, Prayers, and Condolences during this time following the transition of our sister in Christ, Deborah "Dee" McCray. “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted” - (Matthew 5:4). Archbishop Gwendolyn G. Young

Archbishop Gwendolyn G. Young - July 07, 2025 at 05:38 PM

WW

“ Prayer and Condolences to the McCray Family. God will see you through your loss.

William Patron (Dorey Park Walker) - July 07, 2025 at 03:02 PM

JO

“ Rest in paradise Aunt Dee, you will be truly missed! From:Jovanie and Brian

jovanie - July 07, 2025 at 12:57 PM

SG

“ To the Family, I was saddened to learn of Deborah's passing. May God Comfort and Keep You Now and Always.

Shirley Green - July 06, 2025 at 06:48 PM

AR

“ To my dear dear friend Deborah. The extra special times we spent together singing in the Volunteer Choir with your cousin Larry Bland. Girl the fun we had and how much fun I had with Yvette. We will always be family. Take your rest.

Audrey Robinson - July 04, 2025 at 08:02 PM

NB

“ Sending my love and condolences to our family? Deborah was my second-cousin and she will always be missed even though I haven't seen her in a while but she lives in my spirit& in my heart&soul(I love you cuzzo and kiss our momma for us and grandma as well)

Nikisha Bratten - July 03, 2025 at 10:24 AM

JU

Sending Condolences to the family of cousin Deborah. Praying for your guidance, strength and peace at this difficult time. We will miss you little cousin. George (Big Bro) and Juanita 🙏

Juanita - July 04, 2025 at 02:19 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.

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**March Funeral Homes** - July 02, 2025 at 03:43 PM

SR

*Sending our Prayers and Condolences during your hours of bereavement. “Blessed are they that mourn; for they shall be comforted” Mathew 5:4. Sam and Florence Rhue*

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**Samuel Rhue** - July 05, 2025 at 03:06 PM

SJ

*Though our hearts are heavy with this loss, we also have such wonderful memories of time spent with our sweet friend, Dee. From going to concerts in the park, to visiting Yorktown Beach; from listening to her powerful voice belting out such lovely music, to going on short road trips.... Dee was always the same; sweet, fun to be with, and easily sharing that beautiful smile. You will be missed, dear, dear friend!*

*Condolences to James and the family.  
Your Friend Always, Sandra*

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**Sandy Justice** - July 07, 2025 at 08:01 PM