



Etta Virginia Butler

December 10, 1939 - April 12, 2025

Etta Virginia Butler departed this life unto eternal rest on Saturday, April 12, 2025, at MCV Hospital. Etta Virginia Butler was preceded in death by her parents, James Edward Butler Sr. and Virginia Marie Rose Butler; Two sisters- Joyce Butler Bailey and Glenda Butler Stewart; Six brothers- James Edward Butler Jr., William Calvin Butler Sr., Payton Tyrone Butler Sr., Charles Henry Butler, “Baby” Theodore Butler and Albert Rose. Etta Virginia Butler is also preceded in death by her beloved uncle Theodore “Teddy” Butler and other family members.

Etta was born on December 10, 1939, in the Newtown/Jackson Ward area of Richmond VA. She grew up in a large family, her being the oldest girl of eleven children and received her early education in the Richmond Public School System.

In 1987, she received her MSW degree in Clinical Work/Public Administration from Virginia Commonwealth University; in 1984, she graduated cum laude from Virginia Union University and received her B. S. degree in Social Work with a minor in Gerontology. At VUU, she was an honor student listed in the “Who’s Who” among Students in American Colleges and Universities. Etta graduated as the highest-ranking student in the School of Social Work and was inducted into the Community of Scholars. In 1981, she graduated cum laude and received an Associate/Applied Science degree in Community and Social Services from J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College.

Etta’s employment included various areas of social work and teaching. She was an Adjunct Professor at J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College-Downtown Campus and at now closed St. Paul’s College-Lawrenceville VA. She also served many in her position as a Clinical Social Worker for Bon Secours. Numerous awards and recognitions were presented to her for outstanding and dedicated service.

Previous membership and leadership in civic organizations include the Delver Junior Women’s Club Inc. and Graduate Chapter Member, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc.

Etta was a member of Cedar Street Baptist Church of God for over 50 years and served

faithfully until her health began to decline. She served as a member of the Diaconate Ministry and as a Deaconess. Other ministries she served were the Mary McPherson Harris Memorial Scholarship, the Royal Ushers, the W. L. Butler Memorial Ushers, the Busy Bee's, the La Vie, Vacation Bible School, the Women's Ministry, Combined Choir and the Mass Choir.

"Etta Bee", "Etta Mae", "Auntie", "Aunt Etta", "Cletus" as she was affectionally called was a loving, caring and compassionate matriarch of our family. She loved all her family and always demonstrated this love whenever you were in her presence. She enjoyed cooking, entertaining, talking, teaching, helping others, singing and cheering for the Dallas Cowboys. She hosted many family and friends' cookouts, reunions, holiday gatherings, birthdays and just one on one memories at her home. Anyone who met her will never forget her. She was the "Queen Bee".

Etta Virginia Butler leaves to cherish and honor her loving memory devoted brother and sister; Harvey Butler (Bertha) and Pat Merritte (Richard), special nieces and nephew; Keisha Prealeau (Dwight), Krystal Merritte-Goode and Kevin Merritte (La Wanda), great nieces; Breyanna and Yasmine Merritte, great-great niece; A'mara (That Lil Girl) Merritte.

Etta Virginia Butler is also survived by 11 nieces, 10 nephews (beloved Lee Stewart and William Lynch) and a host of great nieces, great nephews and extended family and friends.

Cemetery Details

Oakwood Cemetery

3101 Nine Mile Road
Richmond, VA 23223

Previous Events

Public Viewing

MAY 5. 11:00 AM - 6:00 PM (ET)

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

Sorority Ceremony

MAY 5. 4:30 PM - 5:30 PM (ET)

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

Celebration of Life

MAY 6. 11:00 AM (ET)

Cedar Street Baptist Church of God
2301 Cedar Street
Richmond, VA 23223

Tribute Wall

SW

“ Wow I'm going to miss mrs butler she was so sweet to me I shared dialysis treatment at the same center.....we always talk about our team the dallas cowboys and how the center has changed over time.....my condolences to the family.....may she rest in heavenly peace.....Samuel Waddey

Samuel Waddey - May 06, 2025 at 08:21 PM

BY

“ Sending condolences and prayers to the family of my dear friend. Etta was a sweet and loving lady. Very stylish & at times, very funny. I will forever cherish my friendship with her.
Brenda Gray

Brenda Y.Gray - May 03, 2025 at 04:00 PM

JR

“ My deepest condolences to the family. May God provide you with peace and comfort. Our hearts are saddened by the loss of our sister. Jannette Ricks, Rho Eta Omega chapter



Jannette Ricks - May 02, 2025 at 10:58 AM

DC

“ Deepest Sympathy and Prayers for the Family of my Delver Woman's Club Sister Etta Butler. Rest in Peace.
Dr. Carolyn Campbell



Dr. Carolyn McCovey Campbell - May 02, 2025 at 09:24 AM

CW

“ Condolences to Deaconess Etta Butlers Family...



Crystal Starks Williams - May 01, 2025 at 08:52 PM

LM

“ *Etta and I grew up in the same neighborhood, she and my siter Barbara were in class together it was a joy working with her in Delver Womans club she will be trully miss RIP my sister*

Lolita S Moses - May 01, 2025 at 05:33 PM

JF

“ *Jean A. Foxworth lit a candle in memory of Etta Virginia Butler*



Jean A. Foxworth - May 01, 2025 at 04:07 PM

KH

“ *My condolence to my friend Krystal and her family in their time of need. Krystal and I've have many conversations about her auntie that I started calling her auntie whenever I'd ask about her, though we've never met. Ms Etta you sounded like a very nice, sweet classy lady. Take your rest in God's arms. May God continue to to cover the family.*

Kimberly Horne - April 30, 2025 at 11:21 AM



“ *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 - April 29, 2025 at 01:04 PM