



Gayle Fields Blakey

June 14, 1963 - January 4, 2013

Gayle Felicia Fields was born in Richmond on June 14, 1963 and spent her early years with her mother Rosa in her grandfather's home at Church Road, Dinwiddie, County Virginia, before joining the Moody family there. Gayle liked being outdoors where she climbed trees and got to mow the lawn on a good day. She was an excellent student, a baton twirler, and a competitive runner. Her Dinwiddie High School Chess Team won a marathon that put them in the Guinness Book of World Records. Gayle entered college with an academic scholarship and finished George Mason University in 1985 with a major in American Studies.

Gayle entered the Peace Corp, making two tours in Togo, West Africa between 1986 and 1989. Gayle was a learner, always looking for something more to know. She completed a French language course at the University of France, Paris ("the Sorbonne"), earned a MA degree in communications at Ohio University in 1992, and attended the Master's program in Public Health at the University of Texas, Houston.

She came to Washington, DC and worked for several years in public relations at the American Society of Civil Engineers, including managing editor of their annual report. She returned to Virginia in 2001 and taught Media Ethics at Virginia Commonwealth University and J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College.

In 2006, Gayle married Dr. Michael Blakey who she had met in Washington and they lived at Cappahosic, Virginia and Silver Spring, Maryland. In Silver Spring, Gayle taught an amazing range of courses including English, French, and Mathematics in Montgomery, County primary and secondary schools. At Cappahosic, Gayle learned to be an expert gardener and kept flowers in the summer and vegetables through fall, trading gardening summers with sailing seasons, as she and her husband sailed their yawl, Aranjuez, on the Intracoastal Waterway from the Chesapeake Bay to Titusville, Florida over the course of 4 years. They were always heading for Jamaica.

A life touched by God, always ends in touching others.

She is survived by her husband, Michael; stepson, Tariq Blakey; mother, Rosa Fields Moody; father, Herbert "Ronnie" Moody; sisters, Karen Wallace and Tomeika Moody; brother, Brent Moody; nephew, Drake Wallace; nieces, Olivia and Georgia Rash; and a host of other relatives and friends.

Cemetery Details

Private/Richmond

Previous Events

Public Viewing

JAN 10. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

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

Memorial Service

JAN 13. 12:00 PM (ET)

March Funeral Home-Laburnum Chapel
Richmond, VA 23222

Tribute Wall



“ *Gayle Fields Blakey*

October 13, 2022 at 08:33 AM



“ *I am so sorry for your loss. May you find comfort in the scriptures at Revelation 21:4 " he will wipe out every tear from their eyes and death will be no more ".*

Ms. Howard - January 31, 2013 at 09:53 AM



“ *I'm so sorry for your loss and would like to offer my condolences to your family. Death is such a terrible thing for a family to go through, I actually lost my mom about 4yrs ago. I'm truly grateful that I have the truth about death and look forward to the future when there will be a resurrection of both the righteous and the unrighteous.”— ACTS 24:15. I'm sure you would love to see your dead loved one again in the coming Paradise here on earth! Again so sorry for your loss!!*

Ms Springer - January 21, 2013 at 07:06 PM

BP

“ *Gayle was an entering Peace Corps Trainee during my last summer as Country Director. Though I didn't get to know this new group very well, since we were in the process of moving back to the states after four years in Togo, Gayle's vibrant, dynamic presence as a newly arrived Trainee really stands out as an indelible memory from that last summer. She was so excited to be there. She was a leader in her group, pressing hard for more cross-cultural training and local language. Her broad smile, boundless energy and positive attitude provided inspiration for everyone around her - trainees and staff alike. I was sad when she had to leave early due to an injury, but was not surprised to find she'd arranged to return with another group at a later date, an unprecedented occurrence! The world needs more people like Gayle. She was truly an exceptional human being. My only consolation is knowing that God is watching over her now. I send my sincere condolences to her family and friends.*



Bill Piatt - January 13, 2013 at 11:06 AM

LS

“ I (Lois Shorten) and my husband (James Shorten) meet and developed a friendship with Gayle when she was a Peace Corp volunteer in Africa and continued that friendship when she moved to Houston, TX.

What I most remember about Gayle was her quiet humor, that great and infectious smile.

Subsequently, we all went our separate way, but stay a friends through a mutual friend (Ruth Kravitz-Clark).

James Shorten passed on November 18, 2010.

Be at peace and I will miss you.

Lois Shorten

Lois B Shorten - January 12, 2013 at 10:26 AM

“ *Michael, Tariq and family,*

I am so sorry for your loss.

To Michael, Gayle loved you very much and always told me how lucky she was to have you in her life.

To Tariq, Gayle says you are about the best kid she could ever ask for.

To Gayle's family, all I ever heard was how wonderful you guys are.

I remember Gayle as a great and wonderful force of nature who made me a better person. Gayle has the best smile of any human I have ever met. For twenty years we walked when we lived close and talked when we lived apart. Gayle is such a powerfully brilliant person that I think I can remember every conversation as if we had it a minute ago.

Whether it was in The Peace Corps, working in public health, education or with her family, Gayle made the world better. I consider myself blessed for having met Gayle and for having her in my life for twenty years. I remember the very best New Years' Eve was with Gayle and, ironically, I can remember one of the only football games I actually watched from start to finish was with Gayle as we talked about politics and life and our hopes.

How honored I am that Gayle loved my children so much. I am hopeful that i can follow her advice about family and work and life. To know someone as strong and giving and thoughtful as Gayle is something I consider one of the most wonderful things that could have happened to me.

Thank you Gayle for the joyful times in Houston, in Washington, DC and in Virginia. Thank you Gayle and Michael for your love to us.

I will miss Gayle very much.

Ruth Kravetz - January 12, 2013 at 09:42 AM

RK

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Ruth Kravetz - January 12, 2013 at 09:02 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 - January 10, 2013 at 04:13 PM