



James Turnage, IV

July 4, 1982 - November 25, 2022

James Columbus Turnage IV, affectionately known as Smurf, was born on July 4, 1982 in Richmond, VA. He was the first-born son of Felicia Milton and James C. Turnage III. He spent his early childhood years in the home of his grandparents, the late Rev. Irma L. Turnage and the late James C. Turnage Jr, who cherished and cared for him as their very own while his father served his country. After their death, he moved into the home of his father and step-mother, Iris Turnage, where he remained until he left for college. James began his formal education in Henrico County Public Schools. He graduated from Henrico High School in 2000 where he was an honor student who studied Vocal Music and Theater in the Center for the Arts and participated in the Honors, Advanced Placement, and International Baccalaureate Programs. He performed in and worked on costume and set design for productions such as *The Wiz* and *Into the Woods*. Upon graduation, he attended James Madison University majoring in Classical Vocal Performance with a Music Education component and International Affairs with a minor in African-American Studies. While there, he served as a Resident Advisor in his dormitory and a Senator-At-Large in JMU's Student Government. In his professional life, his career took shape in three main areas: Food and Beverage Management, Promotional Marketing and Office Administration. His journey in the world of Food and Beverage began in high school at Paramount King's Dominion. His upward progression continued with titles such as Banquet Captain and Food and Beverage Supervisor at Richmond Marriott West (Columbia Sussex),

Food and Beverage Manager at Westin, and ultimately, a principal executive at La Tartine Group where he helped open more than seven bakery cafes in the San Francisco Bay Area. He achieved numerous awards for his excellent service and leadership. He employed his office administration and customer service skills in his work for The Commonwealth of Virginia (ONA, VDEM, JMU, and Appeals), Wellpoint, Inc., and Manpower. In the area of Promotional Marketing he was a top performer who worked as a Brand Ambassador, Team Leader, and Field Manager to advance brand recognition, drive sales, and promote the image of the many companies he represented. He concluded his career at Havas Street where he was Logistics Coordinator for the BSI Control Logistics Program in Virginia. Faith, family, and community were of central importance in James' life. He accepted the gift of salvation and was baptized at an early age as a member of St. Matthews United Holy Church under the late Elder Roger M. Lynch. As an adult, he continued to serve GOD at Good Shepherd Baptist Church, The Uptown Church of Christ in San Francisco, CA, and Cornerstone United Holy Church. He served the community through organizations such as: Richmond Hill, VA Opera, Big Brothers & Big Sisters, Henrico High School's Choral Music Department, USA Track and Field's Youth Program, The Armstrong Leadership Academy, Meals on Wheels, Elder Partnership, and Sports Backers. He impacted and will be greatly missed by many communities from coast to coast and internationally. After a challenging, but courageous battle with advanced stage heart failure, James departed this life on Friday, November 25, 2022. He was proceeded in death by his grandparents, James C. Turnage Jr and Reverend Irma L. Turnage; his aunts, Theresa Turnage, Estelle Turner, and Gwendolyn Washington; his uncles, James Christian Jr and Lloyd Turner along with a host of other beloved family members. He leaves to cherish his memory his parents, Felicia Milton and James C. Turnage III; his step-mother, Iris Turnage, his grandparents, James Christian Jr, Mary Christian, and Phyllis Milton; two brothers, Andrew Christian and Antoine Christian (Chanda); four sisters, Aarenne Milton, Chantelle Milton, Shanea Turnage, and Shantelle Guigma (Issaka); a former brother-in-

law and cherished friend, Willie Valentine; four devoted cousins and honorary siblings, Antonio Henry (Amber), Glen M. Henry (Monica), Tonisha Frazier (Lamar), and Denisha Solomon (Joshua); five aunts, Angela Christian, Crystal Christian, Glenda Henry, Jennifer Ingram, and Gloria Turnage; four uncles, Richard Milton, Cornelius Turnage (Sonya), Corwin Turnage (Carolyn), and Anthony Washington; five nieces, 10 nephews, three honorary nieces, five honorary nephews, and a host of other family members, friends, and loved ones.

Cemetery Details

Riverview Cemetery

1401 S. Randolph Street
Richmond, VA 23220

Previous Events

Public Viewing

DEC **9**. 9:30 AM - 6:00 PM (ET)

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

Celebration of Life

DEC **10**. 11:00 AM (ET)

New Birth Fellowship Ministries
5745 Orcutt Lane
Richmond, VA 23224

Tribute Wall

ST

“ *Shane’a Turnage sent a virtual gift in memory of James Turnage, IV*



Shane’a Turnage - April 18, 2025 at 03:37 PM

ST

Miss you brother ☐☐

Shane’a Turnage - April 18, 2025 at 03:38 PM

IT

“ *Iris Turnage lit a candle in memory of James Turnage, IV*



Iris Turnage - April 18, 2025 at 03:03 PM

IT

Miss talking to you! Wishing you were still here ❤️

Iris Turnage - April 18, 2025 at 03:04 PM

IT

Missing you ❤️

Iris Turnage - April 18, 2025 at 03:05 PM

AC

“ *Angela Christian lit a candle in memory of James Turnage, IV*



Angela Christian - December 10, 2022 at 10:27 AM

AC

I will miss you Smurf 🥺

Angela Christian - December 10, 2022 at 10:29 AM

KM

“ *Karen Mallory lit a candle in memory of James Turnage, IV*



Karen Mallory - December 09, 2022 at 09:35 PM

ST

“ *I will miss you big brother our laughs our jokes we shared and how you always was so genuine love your baby sis*

Shanea Turnage - December 09, 2022 at 07:40 PM

CB

“ *My deepest condolences to the family, you are in my prayers 🙏*

Christil Blowe-Cates - December 09, 2022 at 06:03 PM

CC

“ *We love , miss you Smurf*

Chanda Christian - December 09, 2022 at 06:14 AM



“ I will greatly missed my nephew. Love Aunt Gloria - Ms. Gloria Turnage

Gloria Turnage - December 09, 2022 at 02:17 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 - December 07, 2022 at 05:24 PM