



Joan Sharon James

July 21, 1951 - July 16, 2025

Joan Fells James “Big Mama” departed this life on July 16th, 2025. She was born to Welfert Sherman Fells and Aurelia Melissa Fells on July 21st, 1951. She attended Alexandria Public Schools and graduated from Groverton High School.

After high school, she met the love of her life, David Leroy James, in Caroline County. She then gave birth to their only son, Tracey Lamont James. She worked at MCV Hospital as a payroll specialist for 40-plus years and later retired.

Joan had a great love for family and always went above and beyond for the ones she loved. We all know she loved tradition; she would send two-dollar bills for every birthday and holiday, never missing a beat. And you could always catch her in the yard tending to her flowers. Joan was more than a mother, sister, and Big Mama. She was everyone’s confidant, counselor, advisor, and shoulder to lean on. Joan will be missed beyond words, and her legacy will continue to live on.

Joan is preceded in death by her husband, David James, her mother and father, Welfert “Sherman” and Aurelia Fells, and her brother, Calvin Fells. Joan leaves behind her only son, Tracey James (Arnica), two beloved

grandchildren, Travin James and Akira James. Her siblings Brenda Essex (Ray), Kenny Fells, Gwendolyn Brown, Larry Fells (Cheryl), Rhonda Fells, Michael Fells (Rosalind), Steven Fells, and Jeffrey Fells. She also leaves behind a host of nieces and nephews, cousins, and friends.

Cemetery Details

Roselawn Memory Gardens

13389 Mountain Road
Glen Allen, VA 23059

Previous Events

Public Viewing

JUL **26.** 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Second Mount Zion Baptist Church
31220 Old Dawn Rd
Hanover, VA 23069

Celebration of Life

JUL **26.** 11:00 AM (ET)

Second Mount Zion Baptist Church
31220 Old Dawn Rd
Hanover, VA 23069

Tribute Wall

SD

“ Sandra and Darrell and Devonya planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Joan Sharon James.

Sandra and Darrell and Devonya - July 25, 2025 at 03:33 PM

SD

“ Sandra and Darrell and Devonya purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Joan Sharon James.



Sandra and Darrell and Devonya - July 25, 2025 at 03:33 PM

MC

“ Mattie, DeDe and Chris purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Joan Sharon James.



Mattie, DeDe and Chris - July 25, 2025 at 01:27 PM

LF

“ Lucy Hawkins and family purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Joan Sharon James.



Lucy Hawkins and family - July 25, 2025 at 09:24 AM

MF

“ Mackie Family purchased the Treasured Lilies Spray for the family of Joan Sharon James.



Mackie Family - July 24, 2025 at 02:16 PM

TF

“ The Roseboro Family purchased the Treasured Lilies Spray for the family of Joan Sharon James.



The Roseboro Family - July 22, 2025 at 11:47 PM

TF

“ The Roseboro Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Joan Sharon James.

The Roseboro Family - July 22, 2025 at 11:47 PM

CH

“ To the family
Joan was a sweet and loving person. May you find comfort in knowing she is resting in heavenly paradise with her gentle giant David. Just remember that Earth has no sorrow that Heaven can not heal .

Cathy Harris - July 19, 2025 at 02:06 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 - July 18, 2025 at 03:44 PM