



## LaMont Fernal Toliver

March 12, 1963 - February 28, 2012

LaMont Toliver, Director of the Meyerhoff Scholars Program and Assistant Dean of Undergraduate Education at the University of Maryland Baltimore County, had a massive heart attack and departed this life suddenly at the university on Tuesday, February 28, 2012. He was born March 12, 1963 in Pittsburgh, PA. After the passing of his mother, LaMont grew up in foster care until adopted by Ernest and Rosezella Tennon.

LaMont attended Duquesne High School where his outstanding athletic and academic abilities earned him a full scholarship to the Virginia Military Institute. He received his Bachelor's of Arts and Sciences in Literature in 1985. LaMont also held a Master's in Education from the University of Virginia and was pursuing his doctorate in Public Policy from UMBC.

While attending VMI, he met the love of his life, Ms. Lisa Lynne Redd from Baltimore, MD, who was attending Sweet Briar College in Sweet Briar, Virginia. They married on August 5, 1989.

LaMont was a man of great faith, compassion, and a champion for education. He truly embraced the full meaning of manhood. Lamont's family- his adoptive parents; his wife; his sons: Jacquet, Julian, Jordan and Tristian; his siblings and his wife's parents: Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Redd, all gave him the sense of family that was missing in his early life and was so important to him later in

life.

Among the lessons LaMont liked to pass along, not just to his students, but to others as well was this: “There are so many divisive things around us. We have a tendency to focus on what separates us when we need to focus on what unites us. We all need to believe that our involvement... whatever it is... makes a difference in someone’s life”.

LaMont enjoyed spending time with his family, especially playing and watching sports with his sons. He was also an avid cook and entertainer.

LaMont was a member of the following civic and fraternal organizations:

- \*The Family Tree Foundation (Baltimore, MD)
- \*Big Brothers and Sisters of Central Maryland (Baltimore, MD)
- \*Holy Family Institute Board of Directors (Pittsburg, PA)
- \*First Generation College Bound (Laurel, MD)
- \*Project Success Mentoring Initiative (Baltimore, MD)
- \*Life Member of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity

Throughout his life, he was the recipient of numerous honors and awards for his leadership and service to youth.

LaMont had been with UMBC for 22 years. In a letter to students and staff, University President Freeman Hrabowski writes, “LaMont’s passing is a tragic loss as well for the Meyorhoff’s Scholars Program family and the entire University community. LaMont graced us with his considerable abilities, his leadership and deep compassion, and his wisdom, wit, and determination. His example will continue to inspire us, and the strong community of scholars he loved will comfort us in the days ahead”.

In addition to his mother, LaMont was preceded in death by his foster parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Tennon.

His memory will forever be engraved in the hearts of his wife Lisa of 22 years of marriage; his four sons: Jacquet of Pittsburgh, PA, Julian, Jordan and Tristan of Silver Spring, MD; and one granddaughter, Kamry. He is also survived by one brother, Ernest Tennon, Jr. of McKeesport, PA; four sisters; Jacqueline Tennon of Woodridge, VA, Ramona Wilkes of McKeesport, PA, Rhonda Wright of Pittsburgh, PA and Dr. Sharon McDaniel of Pittsburgh, PA; his biological father, William Toliver and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

# Cemetery Details

## Parklawn Memorial Gardens

12800 Veirs Road  
Rockville, MD 20853

# Previous Events

## Public Viewing

MAR 7. 8:30 AM - 8:00 PM (ET)

March Funeral Homes - West Baltimore  
4300 Wabash Avenue  
Baltimore, MD 21215  
(410) 542-2400  
info@marchfh.com

## Family Hour

MAR 7. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

March Funeral Homes - West Baltimore  
4300 Wabash Avenue  
Baltimore, MD 21215  
(410) 542-2400  
info@marchfh.com

## Wake

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MAR 8. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Peoples Community Baptist Church  
31 Norwood Rd.  
Silver Spring, MD

## Service

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MAR 8. 11:00 AM (ET)

Peoples Community Baptist Church  
31 Norwood Rd.  
Silver Spring, MD

# Tribute Wall

RW

“ To have just discovered the untimely passing of Lamont, I am stunned to learn just one day before his passing, Lamont and I emailed each other as we were becoming reacquainted after we both attended Milton Hershey School in Hershey PA while in Jr. High School, for the first time since 1977.

*I had been wondering why he stopped writing back assuming he was just very busy, never fathoming this outcome.*

*One thing he said during a phone conversation relative to his family and position with UMBC that I will never forget, and demonstrated his humble character, was in reference to himself, "I have been blessed immeasurably in spite of myself"*

*So sorry you left this world too soon brother!*

*My sincerest condolences to Lamont's family, friends, UMBC staff, and students.*

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**Ron Weaver** - March 08, 2023 at 01:03 PM



“ *LaMont Fernal Toliver*

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October 13, 2022 at 08:33 AM

JS

“ In the short time that I've had the privilege of knowing Mr. Toliver, he made such a tremendous impact in my life... and continues to do so to this day. I have a print-out of his "Ode to a Scholar" poem, hanging on my wall right above my desk. I find myself re-reading the poem every now and then when I'm feeling overwhelmed or need guidance. Doing so reminds me of the conversations and interactions that Mr. Toliver and I shared... Reminiscing on how he has constantly challenged me to pursue the best version of myself, all while either encouraging me to reflect or making me laugh. He had a truly special gift for helping others believe in themselves well before recognizing their own gifts and potential. Now, as his spirit continues to live on in all of us, I often think back to the advice and support he blessed me with, and that "to whom much is given, much is required." I miss you Mr. Toliver, and I thank you for all the inspiration, guidance, love, and knowledge that you shared with us. Thank you for being a mentor, a supporter, a confidant, a father away from home, and so much more. Your memory will continue to live on and inspire others! Sending all my love to the Toliver family.

~Juliette Sardin (M23)



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**Juliette Sardin** - May 16, 2022 at 10:35 AM

RT

“ I don't know if anyone is still reading this, but I am writing a piece for an NSF program and am reflecting on LaMont's significant contributions to the program, and to so many lives. He is not forgotten!

-Renetta Tull  
UMBC

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Renetta Tull - December 11, 2015 at 05:20 PM

FF

“ Met LaMont and Lisa in Laurel MD years ago.  
LaMont was frat (OPP) and Lisa worked with my wife, Terri, at Fannie Mae.  
We seem to hit it off as friends... then as family... until life happened and we simply feel out of touch.

Wow, its funny what things you find out later on in life.  
I never knew until now.  
It never even crossed my mind.

LaMont was a good brother... he passed doing just what God wanted him to do.  
God bless you, bruh!

Yeah, I know I'm late with this, but I can't go without saying.  
Love ya and miss ya bruh.  
Peace.

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Freddie Frazier - October 10, 2014 at 03:20 PM

KH

“ When one is called to be with our Father, we can rejoice in knowing it was his time. However, we also realize the pain and sorrow that occurred when LaMont was so called. It is the mark of a Man when he leaves such an impact on society and we all mourn his loss and pray for his expanded family that includes his BRs. Ken '85

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**Ken Hirlinger** - April 14, 2012 at 01:35 PM

MS

“ 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 3yrs 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 loved one again in the coming Paradise here on earth! Again so sorry for your loss!!

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**Ms Springer** - March 10, 2012 at 11:18 AM

JL

“ Lamont was an inspiration to me our first year at VMI when we were roommates. He was a great moral support in the Rat Line. I'll never forget crawling through the mud when we broke out of the Rat Line on February 17, 1982. Lamont was in front of me like a bulldozer. It took five upper classmen to hold him down, but we made it through. He's continued to be an inspiration ever since. I only got to see him at our VMI reunions, but I'll miss him a lot.

*Peace, Lamont, in know you're in heaven.*

*Jay Lucas - VMI '85*

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**Jay Lucas** - March 10, 2012 at 09:54 AM

J8

“ *Big Man, You always made me laugh at the Institute. That was important and thank you for that. I have always been in awe and proud of your achievements at UMBC. What you did influenced so many young people in a positive way. So thank you for that as well. :-)*



*Take care Brother and God Bless.*

*John Adams '85*

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**John Adams VMI 85** - March 09, 2012 at 07:34 PM

NL

“ *LT, I know you're up in Heaven making everyone smile. Words cannot express my condolence to the Toliver family. Lamont was one of the first guys I met when we showed up at VMI, and was one of those that made the years fly by with so many wonderful memories. He's left a fantastic legacy with all that he's done since too, and will be sorely missed.*

*- Neil Lowenstein*

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**Neil Lowenstein** - March 09, 2012 at 12:36 PM

MC

“ *Here's a guy, that ALWAYS had the uncanny knack of showing-up and providing that "morale lift" that you needed when you were down. Everpresent "Mr. Upbeat", right now, he's cheering up a weary-soul that just entered heaven...*

*Take a load-off BR, its your turn*

*Mick Chang VMI-85*

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**Michael Chag** - March 09, 2012 at 12:00 AM

MJ

“ I am sure the Lord worked through Lamont by the volumes and numbers of folks reminded by what he did for and meant to them - this will be his legacy and the Lord will continue to work through Lamont's life by all he touched. Rest on that highest peak BR - Farewell until we meet again.

*Michael Johnson VMI '85*

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**Michael Johnson** - March 08, 2012 at 03:10 PM

G'

*Lamont and I were the football rats that also were in Band Company. Although his musical skills were much better than mine it was nice to have someone else in the company that was on the team. He always had a kind word and will be missed. The memories of his smile and kindness came flooding back upon reading the news. His life after touched many and is such a strong legacy. Until we meet again ....*

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**Greg Enterline VMI '85** - March 27, 2012 at 09:19 AM

MH

“ My heart and prayers go out to the Lisa and the Toliver family. LaMont was my roommate for 2 years, best man in my wedding and one of the few people I could call upon if I ever needed anything. He touched so many lives and his legacy will live on in our hearts and minds. I'm reminded at this difficult time that God doesn't make mistakes, so I guess there must have been Angels in glory who were in need of a good mentor. Rest in Peace my friend...see you when I get there

*Mike Herndon VMI 85*

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**Michael D. Herndon** - March 08, 2012 at 12:48 PM

SS

“ Warmth, kindness and a genuine regard for others. He will be missed. Shane Sullivan '85



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**Shane Sullivan** - March 08, 2012 at 11:38 AM

RI

“ Big man, bigger heart. RIP BR.  
R. McIntire 85



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**Robert L. McIntire, III** - March 08, 2012 at 06:51 AM

AV

“ It has been a moving experience to read from so many people from all spectrums of life that have witnessed to LaMont's touch in their lives. He was my Brother Rat at VMI and we survived through the rigors of that to go on to do bigger and better things. Unfortunately, I wasn't able to keep in contact with him over the years. When I heard of his death, I realized that of the memories of those four years, LaMont has always been one of mine. He was a man that was positive in the face of what seemed so negative, he knew there were possibilities when others said there wasn't, and he just couldn't do anything without that memorable smile on his face. I have enjoyed reading about some of his students whom he challenged, encouraged and endeavored to persevere. Afterwards, I realized that he had kept on just like he did when I knew him. He was a special man. LaMont, I will pray for you and your family. I have remembered all of you in my Rosaries and at Mass and will continue to do so. I wish you Godspeed my friend. It was an honor to have known a gentleman such as yourself. Until we meet again. God Bless.

*Andy Valenzuela VMI 85'*

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**Andy Valenzuela** - March 08, 2012 at 12:53 AM



“ I have had the pleasure of knowing Lamont for 30 years. Words can not explain how sad and confused I was to hear of LaMont's passing. We spoke at length Monday 2/27 in the evening. Although we dipped in and out of each other lives for weeks/months at a time somehow we always managed to check in and pick up right where we left off. Our competing first question ... How is the family? Our conversation ended Monday with have a safe trip back and the not so subtle B-Day reminder which went " I left you a message ON your birthday monkey don't forget mine!



*Lisa, I am praying for your strength. "Boys" your father was very of proud of each and everyone of you. May your memories bring you comfort and peace. Please take care of Lisa. With Deepest Sympathy. Jerri Johnston-Stewart*

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**Jerri Johnston-Stewart** - March 07, 2012 at 10:55 PM

MD

“ Lamont's easy chuckle, his generous nature, his strength and drive, his wisdom even as a young cadet, made him a valuable comrade and teammate. He genuinely cared about his classmates and his team. Truly one of the most unselfish people I have had the pleasure of knowing. His love for and pride in his family, unshakeable. Thanks for the example, brother. I will surely seek you out on the other side. -Matt Daniel, '85



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**Matt Daniel** - March 07, 2012 at 09:41 PM

SW

“ Though I had not seen Lamont since VMI '85 graduation, I will always remember his smile and big heart! He could light up a room then and he obviously has been doing the same for his family and many young people in Baltimore for a long time. We were all blessed to have known him!  
God Bless!  
Spencer Williamson, VMI'85

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**Spencer Williamson** - March 07, 2012 at 08:14 PM

TS

“ I enjoyed LanMont's friendship while at VMI, and following his accomplishments over the years since. I remember his great smile and joy, and it was my honor to know him. Remebering his family in prayers today. Todd Southard, VMI '85

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**Todd Southard** - March 07, 2012 at 11:59 AM

FM

“ Rest in Peace Brother Rat. Fred Miller '85



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**Frederick L. Miller** - March 07, 2012 at 11:34 AM

DJ

“ I still remember how LaMont filled the room with his warm presence and big smile. I read about his achievements helping people and there is so much to be proud of. My family will say a blessing for him and remember him at our Mass this Sunday.  
Rest in peace Brother Rat.  
Dan Jordan, VMI '85

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**Daniel Jordan** - March 07, 2012 at 10:28 AM

KG

“ Kyle Goldsmith lit a candle in memory of LaMont Fernal Toliver



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**kyle goldsmith** - March 07, 2012 at 10:14 AM

KG

*I was blessed with the VMI experience in my life but it was specifically because of my BR's. Each one has a special place in my heart but, of course, there are those like LaMont that added that "bigger than life" piece to it. My hunch is he is now playing ball on a golden field with some of the best. God speed BR. It was an honor.*

*To the family - may God constantly remind you of the blessings and joy LaMont provided.*

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**kyle goldsmith** - March 07, 2012 at 10:26 AM



“ *It will be the little things  
that you will remember,  
the quiet moments,  
the smiles, the laughter.  
And although it may seem  
hard right now,  
it will be the memories  
of these little things  
that help to push  
away the pain  
and bring the smiles  
back again.*

*Now is the time to celebrate the life of a great Man, he touched all of  
us in his own special way. You will be missed my Brother.*

*Timothy Harris III  
VMI '85*

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**Timothy Harris** - March 07, 2012 at 09:22 AM



“ *William Wieners lit a candle in memory of  
LaMont Fernal Toliver*



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**William Wieners** - March 07, 2012 at 09:09 AM

WW

*Larger than life and a heart twice as big as that. Always a smile and genuine interest in everything anyone said and a thoughtful response. A laugh that lit up the room and energy that was impossible to miss. He left us too soon and we will miss him. Our sincerest sympathies to LaMont's family, friends, peers, students, neighbors and co workers. Celebrated in life and never forgotten in death... RIP LaMont... you really made a difference in this life to so many...*

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**William Wieners** - March 07, 2012 at 09:12 AM

KK

“*Like everyone I was shocked to learn of Lamont's passing so soon. I didn't know Lamont well at VMI, but my recollection of him is vivid. He was a big man with a commanding presence, big voice and a always a big smile. He seemed to always be smiling, joking or laughing. Good tips for succeeding at VMI and in life afterward. I was aware of Lamont's professional success with the Scholars program through the VMI alumni and publications grapevine. His devotion in that area and success with it are not surprising. He left this world far too soon and I grieve for his family expecting how difficult these and future days will be. I wish for them what peace and comfort they may draw from family, faith and the warm recollections of their husband, son, father here on this board.*

*Rest in peace Brother Rat. Your tour of duty in this world was too short, but your accomplishments, memories and your family legacy ensure your immortality among us as your faith does in the hereafter.*

*Kerry D. Kirk, VMI Class of '85*

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**Kerry D. Kirk** - March 07, 2012 at 08:41 AM

CP

“ *LaMounts lcgpittmanife enthusiastically. His presence will be missed by all.*

*Rest in peace.*

*Craig Pittman, VMI 85*

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**Craig Pittman** - March 07, 2012 at 08:10 AM

GH

“ *I was very saddened to hear of LaMont's passing. He was one of a kind and will be missed! May God bless you and keep you and give you peace. Rest in peace, my friend.*

*George Halages*

*VMI 85*

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**George Halages** - March 07, 2012 at 07:41 AM

CL

“ *I was shocked and saddened to hear of LaMont's untimely passing. He had achieved so much in his life. He worked hard to give opportunities to so many to achieve their dreams. He raised a wonderful family. He will be missed by all. May God bless LaMont, his wife, his sons, his family and friends.*

*Rest in Peace Brother Rat*

*Craig Lamb, VMI '85*

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**Craig Lamb** - March 06, 2012 at 11:01 PM

KA

“ *Kaileen T. Alston lit a candle in memory of LaMont Fernal Toliver*



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**Kaileen T. Alston** - March 06, 2012 at 11:09 AM

BR

“ We are so highly blessed to have known you all of these years! I was initially deeply saddened and confused beyond belief. Now, I look upon the hearts and minds that you have touched for so many years. Your legacy will live. Many prayers for the entire Toliver family. May God grant you His peace. In loving memory of my friend, Byron and Family.

Byron Ross - March 04, 2012 at 12:15 PM

JB

I remember Lamont as a fit, strong, good natured football player as well as a true gentleman in every aspect of the word. It is a true shame he has been taken from us too quickly...and a wife and children will mourn on a level greater than all of us can imagine. He lived a full and happy life (albeit all too short)...he made a difference during his lifetime. May we all do that.

Jerry E. Brooks  
VMI '85

Jerry E. Brooks - March 07, 2012 at 08:52 AM



“ Karen Sutton lit a candle in memory of LaMont Fernal Toliver



Karen Sutton - March 03, 2012 at 12:19 PM



Lisa, Julian, Jordan & Tristan my deepest sympathy. Know that he is in a better place, and that you all will be together again someday. Julian and Jordan, I remember when you were in my AFST class, and all the nice things you said about your father. Sorry I can't be with you physically for the service. My prayers are with you all! -- Professor Karen E. Sutton

Karen Sutton - March 03, 2012 at 12:40 PM

DH

“ Lisa, Julian, Jordan & Tristan - my heart aches for you because I know the weight of the loss you feel right now. But you will ALWAYS have the memories of what a great and loving dad, husband, father and friend Lamont was and will forever be. I will continue to pray that God hold you in his loving embrace as you move through this difficult passage in your lifetimes. Remember that you have already been blessed beyond measure to have had him in your lives. Love you all! - Donna

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Donna Hardy - March 02, 2012 at 01:45 PM

DH

“ 1 file added to the album Memories of My Friend Lamont



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Donna Hardy - March 02, 2012 at 01:39 PM

DH

“ 1 file added to the album Memories of My Friend Lamont



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Donna Hardy - March 02, 2012 at 01:38 PM

DH

“ 1 file added to the album *Memories of My Friend Lamont*



Donna Hardy - March 02, 2012 at 01:37 PM

LN

*Lisa, Julian, Jordan and Tristan the hurt in your hearts and souls is beyond words for us to explain. God gives us special people for extra special assignments, i.e., Lamont Fernal Toliver. We would like to comment on the great impact Lamont Fernal Toliver left on many people he touched, befriended friend and mentored that only God can number. Lamont was the model for a husband, to see him in his role as a loving husband was a lesson for all men that were in his presence, age not a factor; to see him as the quintessential father to his sons made all men in his presence know what a real father was, again age not a factor.*

*Oh Lord Our God, Thank You for sending Lamont Fernal Toliver this way. May the strong arms of our Savior, Jesus Christ hold and comfort you all in the hours and days ahead.*

*Linda and Tyrone Nunnely*

Linda and Tyrone Nunnely - March 04, 2012 at 06:23 PM

DH

“ 1 file added to the album *Memories of My Friend Lamont*



Donna Hardy - March 02, 2012 at 01:36 PM

DH

“ 1 file added to the album *Memories of My Friend Lamont*



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**Donna Hardy** - March 02, 2012 at 01:36 PM

DH

“ 1 file added to the album *Memories of My Friend Lamont*



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**Donna Hardy** - March 02, 2012 at 01:35 PM

EH

“ *Sorry to hear about your loss, but the bible says at Isaiah 25:8 that “He (God) will actually swallow up death forever, and the sovereign Lord Jehovah will certainly wipe the tears from all faces.*

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**Evyn W. S. Howard** - March 02, 2012 at 09:46 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.*

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**March Funeral Homes** - March 02, 2012 at 08:36 AM