



## Mary Jefferys

September 1, 1934 - August 22, 2020

Mary Lou Jefferys, was born on September 1, 1934 to the late Doctor and Elnora Kizzie in South Hill, Virginia. A yearn to travel led her from the back roads of Virginia, to the mountains of California, to the bright city lights of New York City where Mary met the love of her life, Sylvester Jefferys. The couple married and three children, Theresa, Sylvester “Jr.”, and Deborah were born of this union.

Mary took all elements of motherhood very seriously. As her children progressed through grade school, she was there so often that the principal offered her a job as a school aide! Affectionately called “Ma J” by students and teachers alike, Mary worked for the NYC Department of Education for 35 years before retiring in 2005. She leaves a rich legacy in the hearts of many public school students.

An excellent cook, Mary took great joy in preparing “pretty” dinners on Sundays, holidays, and special occasions. No one went hungry in her presence—and if you missed the meal, she would be sure to wrap up a plate for you! After cooking, she would often sneak away from the crowd with her plate to go watch sports. Mary was a true sports fanatic; she especially loved football, NASCAR racing, and tennis. She enjoyed annual visits to the Richmond International Raceway to see her favorites, Dale Earnhardt and Dale Earnhardt, Jr. and went to the US Open on several occasions. An avid

reader of novels, magazines, crime mysteries, and cookbooks—it was not uncommon to find Mary taking note of what looked good, usually over her morning cup of coffee.

Mary was incredibly funny, very feisty, and loved a good laugh. She would speak her mind honestly and you always knew where you stood. Her extended family was her greatest joy. Her sisters were her very best friends; she loved her husband “Papa Smurf” (as she affectionately called him), her children, and all of her grandchildren. Emerie, her great-grandson, held a special place in her heart.

On August 22nd, 2020, Mary took one last lap around the track. She was preceded in death by her parents, Doctor and Elnora Kizzie; husband, Sylvester; brothers, Calvin and Hitler; sister, Jane Jones; and one grandson, Tyler Allen Hilliard.

She is survived by her children, Theresa Phayme (Colin) of Richmond, VA, Sylvester Jefferys Jr., and Deborah Jefferys of Queens, NY; one step-daughter, Gloria “Gail” Brame of Champaign, IL; grandchildren, Pamela Phayme Jones (Rael), Ashley Phayme, Chris Jefferys, Corey “Scooter Bob/Babba” Jefferys, and Jayonia “JJ” White; great-grandson, Emerie Jefferys; three sisters, Rosa Hicks (Lawrence), Gladys Kizzie, and Jean Trower (George); a host of sisters-in-law, other relatives, and friends.

# Cemetery Details

## Forest Lawn Cemetery

4000 Pilots Lane  
Richmond, VA 23222

# Previous Events

## Walk through Visitation

**AUG 31.** 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

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

## Celebration of Life

**SEP 1.** 9:30 AM (ET)

March Funeral Homes - Laburnum Chapel  
2110 E. Laburnum Avenue  
Richmond, VA 23222  
(804) 321-4200  
info@marchfh.com  
<https://www.marchfuneralhomevirginia.com/>

# Tribute Wall



“ *To View the Webcast of the Funeral for Mary Jefferys, Please Click the Link below.*



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**March Funeral Homes** - August 25, 2020 at 09:49 AM

WO

*To Theresa, Pamela, Ashley and the entire Jefferys Family. You have our deepest sympathy in the passing of our special lady. She got me my first teaching job and was there when Howard and I met. She carpoled to work and the many laughs we shared on the way to PS 328. We will always remember the Super Bowl parties and the Thanksgiving dinners. May she Rest In Peace.*

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**Wanda O'Neal-Beedles** - September 01, 2020 at 10:01 AM



“ *Mary Jefferys*

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October 13, 2022 at 08:33 AM

TC

“ *Deborah - I just want to expressed my deepest condolences on the passing of your mother. Praying for you and your family.*  
*-Trish & Kevin-*

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**Trish Cosby** - September 01, 2020 at 11:06 AM



“ So Sorry for your loss to you and the family Deborah!! I will never forget your mom sharing in the first family movie day at school that we did together!. I know you will forever miss her. Sending light and love to you and your family!!! My prayers and condolences 🌺🙏!

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**Andrea Rue** - September 01, 2020 at 10:40 AM

AA

“ To the Jefferys / Phayme family, Neil and I would like to express our deepest Sympathy.  
Theresa know that we will be praying for you and your family. May the joy of the Lord be your strength and His peace that passes all understanding comfort you at this time.

*Neil & Allison Anderson*

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**Allison Anderson** - August 31, 2020 at 07:26 PM

JJ

“ Theresa and Deacon Phayme, and the entire Jefferys Family,  
Our Prayer is that God will strengthen and comfort you during this time. We feel that you were BLESSED with her Presence and Precious Memories.

*We Love You from Fred and Janet in Virginia Beach, VA*

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**Janet James** - August 27, 2020 at 08:33 PM

DJ

“ To my special girl, I will cherish you, love you and miss you. Thanks for sharing your life with me. I learned patience and care in the most tender form of love. I know all of who I can be through you. Love you my special girl...you made life fantastic for me and I have enjoyed every minute.



Deborah Jefferys - August 27, 2020 at 08:08 PM



“ Peace Eternal Wreath was purchased for the family of Mary Jefferys.



August 25, 2020 at 08:18 PM



“ Purity and Peace Casket Spray was purchased for the family of Mary Jefferys.



August 25, 2020 at 08:06 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.

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**March Funeral Homes** - August 24, 2020 at 06:15 PM