



Melonie Suzette Coles Baker

December 25, 1958 - April 11, 2026

Legacy of Love

Melonie Suzette Coles Baker was born on December 25th, 1958, to Alexander Coles Sr. and Shirley Coles. Delivered by her father at home, Melonie was placed under the Christmas tree as the most cherished gift that year, a symbol of joy she would bring throughout her life.

Melonie accepted Christ as her Savior at an early age and remained steadfast in her faith. She was a devoted member of 31st Street Baptist Church, later worshipping at Westside Baptist Church in Dallas, Texas. Upon her return to Richmond, VA in 1995 she continued her faith journey at Saint Paul's Baptist Church.

A woman of intellect and discipline, Melonie had a deep passion for learning. She attended Armstrong High School where she was a fire spinning majorette, top ranked tennis player, and academic darling. After graduating in 1977, she went on to attend Virginia State University on a four-year scholarship. There she earned a Certificate of Academic Achievement in 1978 and her Bachelor of Science in 1981.

Following her time at VSU, she moved to Houston, TX to pursue a career opportunity with Continental Oil Company. Driven by her commitment to

growth, she stepped away to further her education, enrolling at the University of South Carolina, where she earned her degree of Master of Science in 1983. Her academic excellence and dedication to community were recognized when she was named one of the Outstanding Young Women of America for 1982 which was featured in the Church Hill Spotlight. She continued to reach back with love of supporting her community and in 1984, she received a Certificate of Recognition & Appreciation from 31st Street Baptist Church for her dedicated services to Operation Homework.

In October of 1986, Melonie met her future husband, Weldon Baker Jr. Just six months later, they were married and relocated to Dallas, Texas, where Melonie continued her career as a geologist with Mobil Oil Company. During their time in Texas, they welcomed two daughters, Candace Baker and Janelle Baker. When the family of four returned to Richmond, Melonie transitioned into a career in education. As an extended substitute teacher and homeschool educator, she poured her knowledge, patience, and care into every student she encountered, leaving a lasting impact on many.

Even during her courageous and arduous fight with Multiple Sclerosis, Melonie remained a beacon of strength, grace, and unwavering faith. She continued to uplift those around her with her warmth, her encouragement, and her deep love of God. She continued to bring joy and love to family and friends, students and strangers while praising God and encouraging others with her warm and loving personality. She found joy in journaling, reading the Bible, and spending time with her large and beloved family and friends.

Melonie's spirit was massively strong and stubbornly joyful. She had a playful, endearing silliness that brought light into every room. She affectionately named her cane "Charlie Cane" and her walker "Charlie Walker," often entertaining those around her with a beloved impression she called "Aunt Ruth." Even in life's most difficult moments, she chose joy, and in doing so,

she gave others permission to do the same.

Melonie was preceded in death by her parents Shirley and Alexander Elijah Coles Sr., and her brothers, Eugene W. Coles Sr. and Curtis H. Coles.

Melonie leaves to cherish her memory her husband, Weldon Baker Jr.; her daughters, Candace M. Baker and Janelle E. Baker; and her grand-daughter, Jamya E. Baker. She is also survived by her brothers, Alexander Coles Jr. (Stella), Frank Coles Sr. (Rachel), and Milton Coles (Jackie); her sister, Mary Charity; her aunt, Irene Coles Brice; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and adoring friends and more family.

Cemetery Details

Oakwood Cemetery

3101 Nine Mile Road
Richmond, VA 23223

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 24. 9:30 AM - 6:00 PM (ET)

March Funeral Homes
2110 E Laburnum Ave
Richmond, VA 23222-2413
(804) 321-4200

Funeral Service

APR 25. 11:00 AM (ET)

31st Street Baptist Church
823 North 31st Street
Richmond, VA 23223

Tribute Wall

RT

“ In 1969 busing began for RPS students. There I met Melone in the sixth grade. We had several classes and band and band practice together. Each day Melonie bought joy and laughter with her. She would always whisper something silly and we would laugh, laugh , laugh. From grade school to high school and years later Melonie remained the same. Her caring ways will never be forgotten. Sweet memories! God takes the best.

Renita Brown Thornton - April 28 at 01:53 PM

YJ

“ Sending deepest condolences to the entire family and friends to this sweet Queen. No more pain or suffering, she is free. Memories go way back to Thirty-first Street Bapt. Church. Yvonne Thompson Jones

Yvonne Jones - April 25 at 02:26 PM

FB

“ From your loving Brother purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Melonie Suzette Coles Baker.



From your loving Brother - April 23 at 01:55 PM

JC

“ To the Coles/Baker Family,

You have my utmost sympathy and condolences for your lost of Melonie. Always, sweet, kind and smiling. I never forget she came to the house one time and I had some dirty dishes in the sink, she jumped right in and cleaned them up.

Rest in Peace and in the arms of our Lord and Savior!

Sister in Law-Janice Coles

Janice Coles - April 21 at 04:52 PM

IH

“ To the Coles and Baker family, I extend our condolences on the loss of your dear family member and our childhood friend. Melonie was a very sweet person with a quiet demeanor. She always was smiling and I never heard her complain or talk negatively to anyone. What a joy it was growing up on 33rd Street and having her as a neighbor. So many memories shared there with her and her family. Melonie was a sweetheart. May her family find the peace that surpasses all understanding and know that Melonie touched many hearts and she will be missed. Rest in peace our dear friend and fellow Wildcat!

iris hines - April 21 at 08:22 AM

DB

“ Our condolences to the family. Melonie was such a sweet spirit. May God continue to bless and keep the family.

Love, Dawn, Annabelle and Family

Dawn Brogden-Ambush - April 17 at 10:31 AM

JH

“ I remember melonie from 33rd street we lived at 623 n 33rd street we the harris family would like to send our condolences and prayers to the family melonie and her entire family were always kind and raised by 2 wonderful parents



Jackie Harris - April 17 at 10:14 AM

JF

“ Dear Family, may you be comforted by your many found memories of Melonie, as I am. I am grateful for her life and am grateful for her peace. God Bless and keep you in the time of sorrow. Love, Cousin Jarene

Jarene Fleming - April 17 at 06:49 AM

MJ

“ Always a sweetheart, when you came in contact with her.I can still see,her beautiful face, calling Elliot jr ,on 620 n 33rd, what are you boy.His reply was, what do you want me to do, she always smile, and said nothing.I always told myself, she got a kick of just, calling her big brother name.One day I was on 33rd street, she called Elliott jr, I know 5 times back to back.What you doing boy,he said the same thing I was doing the last time you call, Love you,he said I love you too..My memories of her, She loved herself some Elliot Jr.Rest In Peace Baby Girl



Michelle Jones - April 17 at 12:33 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 - April 15 at 01:54 PM