

sunrise:

April 13
1954



sunset:

April 5
2022



CELEBRATION *of* LIFE

*Carmen
Rodriguez
James*

April 21, 2022

viewing: 10:00AM
funeral: 11:00AM

Alfred Street Baptist Church

Rev. Dr. Howard-John Wesley, Senior Pastor
Officiant: Rev. Barbara Florvil Lavarin,
Assistant to the Pastor for Youth
301 S. Alfred Street, Alexandria, VA 22314

“Rejoice O earth! Burst into song, O mountains! For the Lord has comforted his people and will have compassion on His afflicted”.

— Isaiah 49:13

CARMEN RODRIGUEZ was born the first child of Dorothy Lee Hawthorne and Herbert Rodriguez on April 13, 1954; and spent her very early childhood years in Fredericksburg, Virginia. As the child of an Army officer, she traveled and lived in several cities and states during her younger years, but she lived in Laurel, MD in 1972 when she enrolled at the University of Maryland, College Park. She attended for several years. During those years at the U of M, she met and befriended many young people who would become lifelong friends.

Carmen married Cleveland C. James in 1978 and was blessed with an extended family that loved and welcomed her into their unit. She loved being a part of that extended family and receiving the love and support they offered her. From that union, her two beloved daughters were born. NaNette Pamela James and Brittney Lee James Gilreath. They are her pride and joy. Compounding that God-given joy,

Carmen was further blessed with son-in-law De' Gilreath and two beautiful grandchildren, Nia Lee Gilreath and Bryson LaMarr Gilreath.

She also leaves behind, her beloved mother, Dorothy Rodriguez; a brother, Niki Rodriguez; and younger sister, Angela Rodriguez. Her dear father, Herbert Rodriguez pre-deceased her by one day. (May he rest in peace). She was also pre-deceased by a sister, Lolita Rodriguez.

Besides her immediate family, Carmen leaves behind to celebrate her life and mourn her loss, a nephew, Nicholas Rodriguez; a host of family members and friends who feel her absence every day.

A very talented person, Carmen excelled at math and earned a very respectable living as a banker for many years. To relax and have fun, she played an awesome game of pool; was a chess champion; and enjoyed golfing. Although unknown to some, she was also a very gifted artist and talented singer.



order of service

Prelude.....Instrumentalist

Invocation..... Rev. Barbara Lavarin

Hymn of Rejoicing: "Because He Lives"

Scripture Readings

Old Testament, Psalm 121:1–8..... Deacon Kathy Boykin

New Testament, 2 Corinthians 4:16–18..... Deacon Al Boykin

Prayer of Comfort..... Deacon Lolita Youmans

Musical Selection: "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

Eulogy..... Rev. Barbara Lavarin

Closing Prayer and Benediction..... Rev. Barbara Lavarin

Recessional: "Goin' Up Yonder"

a poem...

Just because you cannot see me
Does not mean I am not there
Just because I am in heaven
Does not mean I do not care

I often see you crying
You often say my name
I want to hold you tight
I want to ease your pain

It's easy for me for I know heaven is real
If you knew the truth
How much better would you feel?

One day we will meet again
But only when the time is right
When you step out of the darkness
I will be standing in the light.



acknowledgement

The family wishes to acknowledge with deep appreciation all of the many expressions of love, kindness, and sympathy during our time of bereavement.

Interment

Fairfax Memorial Park
9900 Braddock Rd.
Fairfax, VA 22032

Repast

To follow the interment,
and will be held at:

Lee Center

1108 Jefferson St.
Alexandria, VA 22314

