

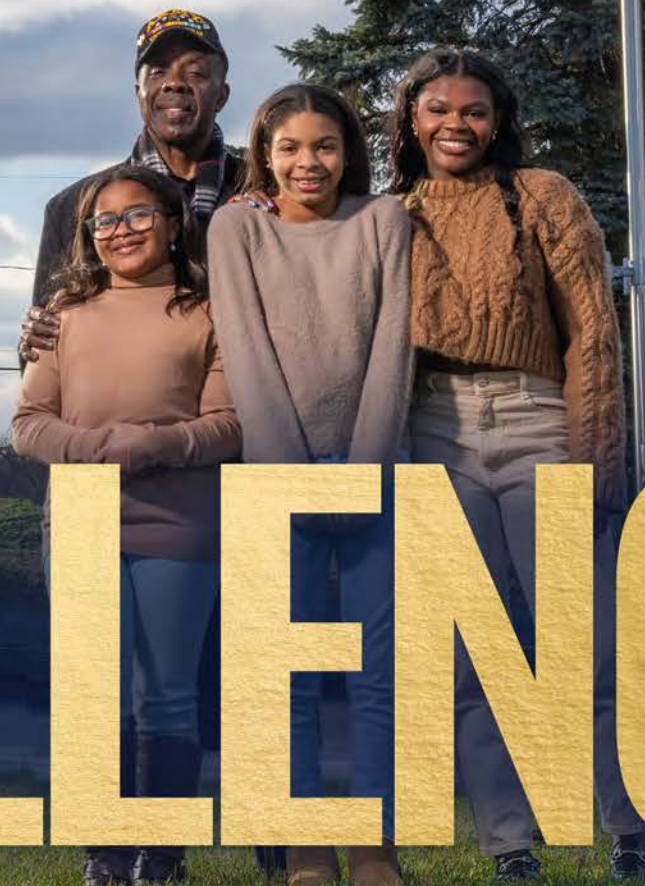


The *March* Family presents

2024



Inspiring  
**EXCELLENCE**





# Adrienne

## WATSON CARVER

The curtains pull back in a fine arts auditorium. There's a hush that comes across the crowd of thousands. Just the crinkles of plastic wrapped floral bouquets.

Twenty dancing five-year-olds together share the biggest moment of their young lives. Their hair in buns, a little lipstick and the fanciest costumes that sparkle in the spotlights. Their recital is more than a performance. It's a culmination of the training they

received little-by-little, each week at Studio "A" Modeling, Etiquette and Dance Academy. The spectators are family and friends, who are blessed to be witnessing the moment their little dancer feels the power they have within. Confidence is born on that stage and their leader, Adrienne Watson Carver, should receive the biggest round of applause. The little starlets will sit backstage and watch as the older dancers grace the same stage. Their routines are more detailed and precise. This group has a better understanding that a dance troop is a team that will succeed or fail together.

Studio "A" and its founder Adrienne, more affectionately known as Mrs. A, approaches life like the world is her stage. A proud Hampton University graduate, Mrs. A is a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Incorporated. Her involvement in dance and pageantry began early, with significant influence from her mother Inez Watson and cousin, Latisha Loftin.

Although, her recitals are epic and the competition dance team of Studio "A" achieve notable success, such as being named Grand National Champions at the 2023 StarQuest World Finals. Studio "A" isn't just a dance hub; it's also a haven for, Pageant Queens, Debutantes, Beaus and Summer Campers.

Mrs. A, with her own array of victories, has coached Queens of all ages to Local, State, Regional, National and International titles. Additionally, Studio "A" Modeling and Etiquette students produce and participate in fashion shows year-round. The Studio "A" Foundation, a non-profit component, was established by Mrs. A and her husband Stacey and has bestowed over \$750,000 in college scholarships through the Cotillion/Beautillion Program. This 7-month journey promotes continued education, fostering excellence in young women and honor in young men. The grand culmination is a debutante ball celebrating their achievements. Not stopping there, Mrs. A extends her passion for empowerment into summer experiences with the Performing Arts Empowerment Summer Camp. This 8-week, all-day program for girls aged 5-14 blends dance, academics, languages, swimming, acting, modeling, etiquette, and weekly field trips, along with nutritious meals.

In her life's performance, Mrs. A envisions the world as her stage, illuminating the potential in everyone. Though she directs the spotlight onto others, she remains the true headliner, deserving of an encore.

# January 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31	1 New Year's Day	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15 Martin Luther King, Jr Day	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	1	2	3



# Wesley Hawkins



Every day, the 37-year-old Wesley Hawkins embarks on a ritual of self-motivation. As he gazes into the mirror, he poses questions to himself, creating a dialogue of determination. "Who wants to be successful?" he asks, and resolutely responds, "I do!" This introspective conversation continues as he challenges himself further, asking, "Who wants to be great?" Once again, his response echoes with unwavering determination, "I do!" Finally, he fuels his resolve by asking the crucial question, "Who's going to put in the hard work?" The answer is a self-affirming declaration, "I am!"

Wesley's journey unfolds against the backdrop of East Baltimore, a neighborhood that mirrored the challenges depicted in shows like *The Wire*. Raised amid adversity and chaos, Wesley found solace in the positive image reflected back at him in the mirror. Guided by internal grit and the support of a caring aunt and cousin, he rose above the circumstances that ensnared many in his community.

As the eldest of ten children with a mother battling drug addiction, Wesley faced the harsh realities of poverty and unstable living conditions. His mother's struggles led to foster care, but it was his aunt who ultimately provided the stability he needed. Initially resistant to the unfamiliar love and support, Wesley eventually embraced his new environment. Overcoming academic hurdles with tutoring, mentoring, and therapy, he graduated magna cum laude in Criminal Justice and Corrections from the University of Baltimore. Later, he earned a master's in education from Trinity Washington University.

Wesley's legacy transcends personal triumph; it's about creating opportunities for others. His commitment to making a difference crystallized in the face of personal tragedies, including his mother's death due to a drug overdose. In response, he founded the NOLITA Project in 2014, a non-profit supporting children facing circumstances similar to his own. Additionally, he founded The Gateway Project, offering services to formerly incarcerated citizens returning to the community.

A renowned speaker, Wesley is a true voice of his community. He is also the author of *Dear Nolita*, a book written to connect with those who share backgrounds of foster care and street life challenges.

Wesley's proudest achievement is providing his brother Elijah, whom he adopted, with opportunities he never had. Through care and dedication, he witnesses Elijah thriving, reinforcing Wesley's belief that anyone can overcome a challenging childhood. Wesley Hawkins stands as a living testament to personal resilience and a driving force for transformative change in the lives of those facing adversity.



# February 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	31	1 1st Day of Black History Month	2 Groundhog Day	3
4 Rosa Parks Day	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14 Valentine's Day	15	16	17
18	19 President's Day	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29 Leap Day	1	2



CELEBRATING LIFE ONE FAMILY AT A TIME

# JODY Davis

In the midst of a bundled-up audience, outside, most enduring the chill in overcoats and parkas, Maryland's first Black Governor and his wife take the stage for his historic inauguration. As he articulates his vision for the future, his wife, Dawn Flythe Moore, stands gracefully by his side—a vision of elegance and beauty. Adorned in a white cashmere waist-belted cape paired with a matching long-sleeved dress, the new First Lady exudes warm confidence, timeliness, and relevance that the state and the country yearn for. A new day has dawned, radiating energy through the crowd and news streams, and it looks undeniably promising.

The embodiment of this statement is a literal creation of Jody Davis, a renowned designer whose journey is a testament to the power of pursuing one's passion. Raised in West Baltimore, Jody initially had different career aspirations but discovered her inherent love for fashion when she realized her talent for sewing. Commissions for prom and bridesmaid dresses flooded in, unveiling her divine gift. Driven by a lifelong passion for fashion, Jody pursued her dream at the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York. After college, she made her way to Washington, DC, working at Neiman Marcus for seven years, exclusively donning her own creations. Encouraged by a manager who noticed her distinctive style, Jody ventured into selling her designs, marking the beginning of her full-time fashion career. Over the years, she has cultivated a robust client base and showcased her designs at prestigious events such as the Essence Festival and the Odyssey conference.

Jody's commitment extends beyond personal success; she established the Jody Davis Foundation to support students studying fashion at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), offering opportunities to aspiring designers facing financial challenges.

Operating Jody Davis Designs in downtown Baltimore, she contributes to the city's vibrant fashion scene. Jody values how a well-designed outfit can instill confidence in an individual. Her story is a testament to the profound impact of passion, perseverance, and community support in navigating the competitive world of fashion.



# March 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25	26	27	28	29	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 Harriet Tubman Day  Daylight Savings Time Starts	11	12	13	14	15	16
17  St. Patrick's Day	18	19 Spring Begins	20	21	22	23
24 Palm Sunday  31 Easter	25	26	27	28	29 Good Friday	30

# Larry Poncho BROWN

Larry Poncho Brown, a multifaceted artist and entrepreneur, has etched an enduring legacy on the art scene. Raised in the vibrant city of Baltimore, his artistic journey was influenced by his teenage father, an artist constrained by limited opportunities for a black man in the early '60s.

Finding solace in painting as a child, Poncho credits his parents for supporting his art as it steered him away from the streets of Baltimore. Poncho's trajectory was also guided by mentors and middle and high school art teachers, David Humphries and Chenal Alford, who urged him to stop playing and embrace his talents.

He launched his entrepreneurial career in his teens with a focus on paid sign work and lettering. Despite initial reluctance, Poncho studied at MICA, becoming one of two black students. College exposed him to a different

reality, transitioning from an all-black environment to a predominantly white institution with many international students. This experience introduced him to diverse world views, politics, and religions—beyond the confines of his immediate surroundings. Renowned for his fusion of painting, drawing, and sculpture, his art exudes positivity, serving as a spiritual outlet. His focus is on displaying positive images of black life and black people.

In the late '80s, Poncho's national recognition burgeoned through art trade shows in NYC, marking a transformative era for African American art. Despite early rejections, his resilience ushered in success. Poncho has mentored hundreds of artists. He emphasizes the importance of networking, nurturing, and feeding one's artistic journey. He encourages aspiring artists to invest in themselves, demystify the business, and focus on production rather than overthinking accessibility.

His commitment to positive narratives and artistic contributions reflects not just a career but a lifelong dedication to the life-changing power of art. Poncho Brown stands as a beacon, encouraging artists to invest in their craft, produce prolifically, and shape their artistic destinies with resilience and dedication.



"SOWING SEEDS FOR A LIFETIME"

Photo by Elaine Bibbs



"BLACK BUTTERFLY"





*Marshall-  
March Funeral Homes*

# April 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31	1 April Fools Day	2 Autism Awareness Day	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15 Tax Day	16	17	18	19	20
21	22 Earth Day Passover Begins at Sundown	23	24 Administrative Professionals Day	25	26	27
28	29	30 Last Day of Passover	1	2	3	4



CELEBRATING LIFE ONE FAMILY AT A TIME

# Shane Roberts THOMAS

Meet Shane Roberts Thomas, the bubbly and compassionate entrepreneur behind Richmond's beloved Southern Kitchen. The delectable dishes served here are more than mere recipes; they evoke the warmth of Sunday dinners and the love-filled kitchen of Grandma. Patrons can feel Shane's benevolent energy that is a testament to resilience, love, and renewed opportunities. Her journey mirrors the supportive spirit instilled by her mother, Linda Roberts, and her grandparents.

Shane's journey speaks to grace and the significance of second chances. Despite her dream of attending college, she became a young mother, and the absence of her father due to substance abuse deeply impacted her upbringing. Through hardships like losing businesses, job terminations, and enduring periods of homelessness as a single mother, she emerged triumphant.

Today, Shane stands as a flourishing business owner with three college-educated adult children. She not only cares for her rehabilitated father, who has become a blessing in her life, but also harbors a deep commitment to using her platform to provide opportunities for others in her community, ensuring their paths to success. She has been featured on local media platforms and nationally televised shows like Chopped. Even the nation's most famous industry critic, Gordon Ramsey, praised Shane saying, it's the extra care that makes her restaurant great.

Always a steadfast supporter of a drug-free lifestyle, Shane extends her advocacy to the community. Her restaurant doors open, not just for meals but to employ those with challenging pasts—former drug addicts, ex-felons, and those from tough backgrounds. In doing so, she created a team that mirrors the unconditional support she received from her mother, both financially and through actions, during the low points in her life.

Shane, prioritizes the well-being and future of the young individuals she employs. Recognizing the challenges many of them face, often hailing from single-parent homes like she did, Shane aims to provide them with opportunities. Her restaurant operates on a flexible schedule policy, allowing working students to tailor their hours around their academic commitments. Shane views the roles at her establishment as stepping stones for these young employees, offering a chance to earn income and support their families. She has helped to put eleven students in college, two of whom are VCU students, now studying medicine.

Shane's journey inspires aspiring entrepreneurs and those seeking redemption. Her legacy embodies giving, resilience, and unwavering dedication to the community. More than a restaurateur, she's a community builder, a giver of second chances, and a believer in everyone's potential. Recently appointed to the Governor's Advisory Board for Service and Volunteerism, Shane continues to leave her mark in the culinary world.





# May 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	1	2 National Day of Prayer	3	4
5 Cinco de Mayo	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 Mother's Day	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27 Memorial Day	28	29	30	31	1



CELEBRATING LIFE ONE FAMILY AT A TIME

# Jay Johnson

Jay Johnson, a versatile artist has forged a remarkable career journey from couch surfing to establishing himself as a prominent photographer and camera assistant. Born among four brothers and three sisters, Jay was raised by his mother and grandmother in Petersburg, Virginia.

After attending Virginia State University and working as a news editor, Jay pursued his passion for film and television, enrolling at the Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD) with a focus on cinematography. His path into the film industry was born when a professor recommended him to work on the production of the 2016 historical drama, "Birth of A Nation". Over the next ten years, Jay contributed to many notable projects, including "Siren," "Underground," "Crazy for the Boys," "Peanut Butter Falcon," "Star," "Kevin Probably Saves the World," and "MacGyver." With a tapestry of experiences, he continues working for major film companies.

In addition to his artistic accomplishments, Jay serves as a mentor, teaching the art of his craft and the importance of connections in the unpredictable, freelance landscape of the entertainment industry. Focused on the significance of networking opportunities with his mentees, his career also highlights the importance of relationships. This was evident when a friend introduced him to Tyler Perry, adding to his sustained work on a diverse array of Tyler Perry shows.

Drawing from his own experiences as the only black individual on numerous sets, he strives to overcome challenges and advocates for inclusivity. His work stands as a testament to his readiness for opportunities, reflecting his vision of becoming a cinematographer.

Jay believes in the power of preparation meeting opportunity, and his journey serves as an inspiration for those aspiring to make a mark in the world of entertainment.





*March Funeral Homes*

# June 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16 Father's Day	17	18	19 Juneteenth	20 Summer Begins	21	22
23 30	24	25	26	27	28	29



CELEBRATING LIFE ONE FAMILY AT A TIME

# Lonnie Parker

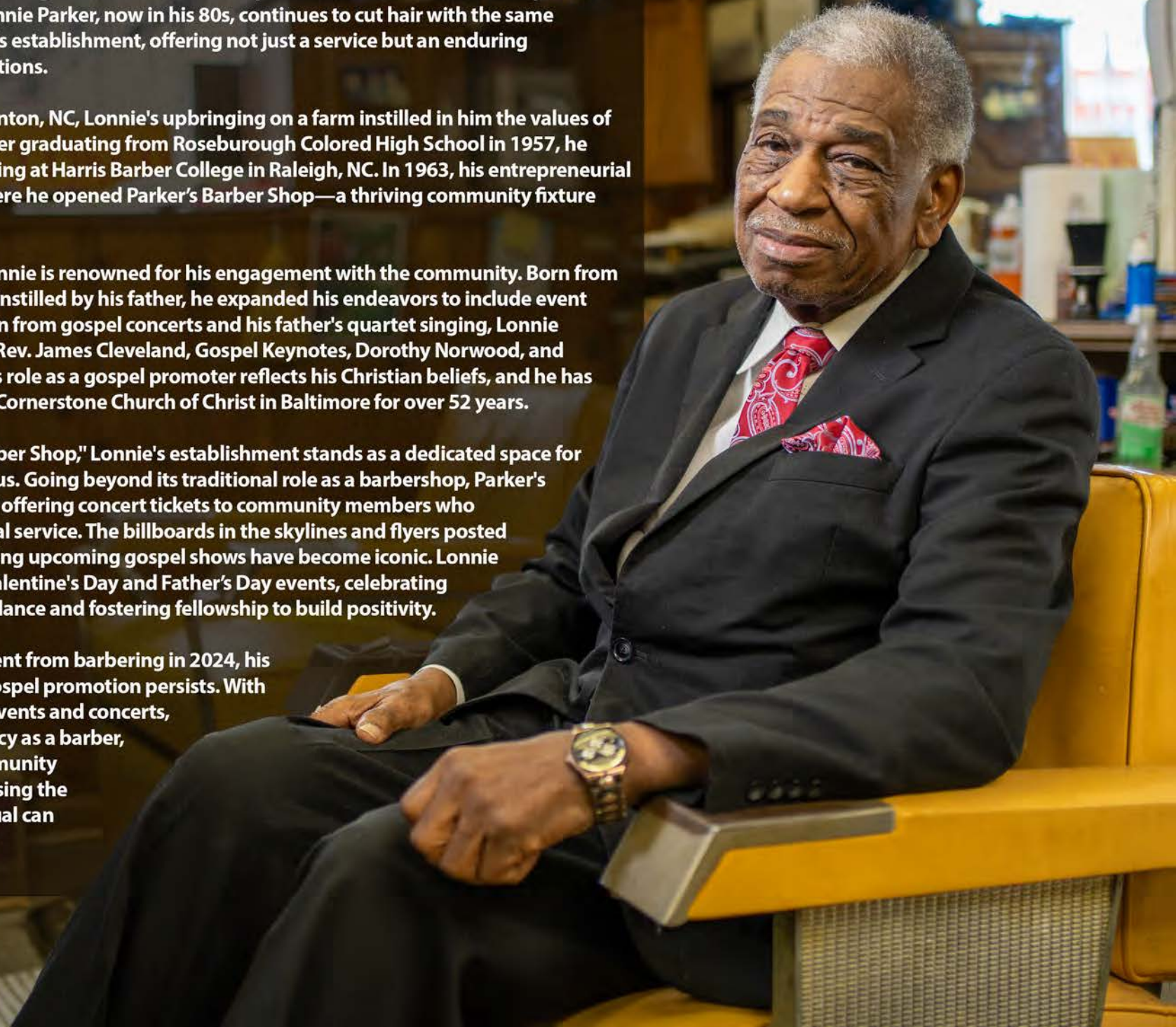
The neighborhood of Reisterstown Road and Northern Parkway in West Baltimore has seen a lot of changes over the last 60 years. One strong constant is Parker's Barber Shop. A testament to commitment and not only providing a service but an atmosphere that can withstand the ages and last for generations. Owner Lonnie Parker, now in his 80s, continues to cut hair with the same dedication that has defined this establishment, offering not just a service but an enduring atmosphere that spans generations.

A native of Mount Pleasant, Clinton, NC, Lonnie's upbringing on a farm instilled in him the values of hard work and community. After graduating from Rosebrough Colored High School in 1957, he pursued his passion for barbering at Harris Barber College in Raleigh, NC. In 1963, his entrepreneurial spirit led him to Baltimore, where he opened Parker's Barber Shop—a thriving community fixture that endures to this day.

Beyond his barbering skills, Lonnie is renowned for his engagement with the community. Born from his upbringing and the values instilled by his father, he expanded his endeavors to include event promotion. Drawing inspiration from gospel concerts and his father's quartet singing, Lonnie brought renowned artists like Rev. James Cleveland, Gospel Keynotes, Dorothy Norwood, and Shirley Caesar to Baltimore. His role as a gospel promoter reflects his Christian beliefs, and he has been an active member of the Cornerstone Church of Christ in Baltimore for over 52 years.

Recognized as the "Gospel Barber Shop," Lonnie's establishment stands as a dedicated space for spreading the teachings of Jesus. Going beyond its traditional role as a barbershop, Parker's serves as a Gospel "Box-office," offering concert tickets to community members who regularly visit for this additional service. The billboards in the skylines and flyers posted on the building's side showcasing upcoming gospel shows have become iconic. Lonnie is also renowned for hosting Valentine's Day and Father's Day events, celebrating the best-dressed man in attendance and fostering fellowship to build positivity.

As Lonnie approaches retirement from barbering in 2024, his unwavering commitment to gospel promotion persists. With plans to devote more time to events and concerts, he leaves behind a lasting legacy as a barber, promoter, and influential community figure—an inspiration showcasing the significant impact one individual can have on a community through unwavering faith and passion.





*March Funeral Homes*

# July 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	1	2	3	4 Independence Day	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 Parent's Day	29	30	31	1	2	3



CELEBRATING LIFE ONE FAMILY AT A TIME



# Eris Aubrey Busey

Eris Aubrie Busey, an exceptional 14-year-old entrepreneur and model, stands out as a source of inspiration in the realms of fashion, business, and community activism. Hailing from Washington, D.C., Eris is rising a 10th-grade student at the esteemed Duke Ellington School of the Arts, focusing on technical design, production stage management, and costuming.

Initiating her modeling journey at the age of 8, Eris quickly embraced her passion for fashion. She is on a path to grow an empire. By 11, she orchestrated her own runway show at the MGM. Despite often being the only child walking the runway, she maintains a statuesque yet age-appropriate presence. Her effective use of social media has further fueled her career, amplifying her impact.

Eris's modeling career extended to New York Fashion Week, where she not only left her mark as a model but also showcased her skills as a designer. Exploring the intersections of modeling and acting, she secured roles in commercials and movies. As a designer, Eris delved into denim upcycling, exemplifying the value of repurposing old items. She transitioned from a model to a designer, presenting innovative collections at Kids Fashion Week. Beyond her creative pursuits, Eris actively engaged with the community, teaching denim upcycling classes at the MLK Library in D.C.

A multifaceted entrepreneur, Eris authored the book "Dad Gone," narrating her experiences growing up in a single-parent household. The book serves as an inspiring testament, encouraging those facing the absence of a father figure to overcome challenges and realize their untapped potential.

Drawing inspiration from the influential women in her life, including her mother, sister, and grandmother, Eris prioritizes giving back to the community. Actively participating in initiatives like back-to-school drives and winter coat drives, she embodies resilience and authenticity amid the challenges of her city.

Looking forward, Eris envisions pushing herself to greater heights. She advocates for pursuing dreams, trusting instincts, and fostering self-love. Surrounded by a positive support system, she believes the seemingly impossible becomes achievable. Eris Aubrie Busey stands as a true model of empowerment for young individuals navigating their paths.





# August 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31



CELEBRATING LIFE ONE FAMILY AT A TIME

# **LOREN** **JOHNSON**

Coach Loren Johnson, emerged as a beacon of inspiration and leadership within the Richmond community. He earned a football scholarship to Virginia Tech, to study engineering and later realized his true career-calling was in education. He seamlessly blended his two passions, sports and teaching, and for two decades, impacted students through coaching, physical education instruction, marketing education, and business finance.

Coach Loren Johnson made history by guiding his Highland Springs High School football program to an unprecedented four consecutive state championships, marking the first such achievement in Richmond area history. His leadership propelled the team to an impressive average score of 44:6, culminating in an undefeated season with six shutouts. Over nine seasons, Coach Loren secured 110 victories and an astounding five state titles, establishing his program as a powerhouse in Virginia high school football.

His impact extends both on and off the field, surpassing formidable coaches across the sports-centric Richmond community, securing his selection as the RVA Sports Awards Coach of the Year in 2023. This honor places him among those who consistently bring their best to the game and contribute significantly to the region.

Beyond the accolades and athletic success, Coach Johnson's true passion lies in mentorship. His training philosophy transcends the game, focusing on developing young men to be successful contributors to society. He gives credit to the real "coach", his wife Kimberly, for her encouragement and support.

Recognizing the challenges faced by young black males in his community, he works with programs like peer mentoring and "Becoming Kings" to foster leadership skills and personal development. Additionally, he emphasizes college readiness, taking students on "vision trips" to expose them to educational opportunities beyond their immediate surroundings.

He is reinforcing the idea that success is not limited by one's circumstances and his legacy is not just in victories on the field but in the lives he has touched and the path he has illuminated for generations to come.





# September 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> Labor Day	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> National Grandparent's Day	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> Autumn Begins	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>



CELEBRATING LIFE ONE FAMILY AT A TIME

A woman with short grey hair, wearing red-rimmed glasses and a red textured jacket, is smiling and holding a large frozen turkey in a wire mesh basket. The turkey is wrapped in clear plastic with a red and white label that says 'FROZEN TURKEY'. The background shows a parking lot with several vehicles, including a white van and a blue truck, under a clear blue sky. The scene is set outdoors, likely at a food distribution center.

## **Cora-Dian** **“Sister Roxanne”** **CAMERON**

It's the day before Thanksgiving, cold with a wind chill that feels below freezing, and a line of cars stretch beyond view. All headed to the parking lot of Lighthouse Ministries International, just outside of Washington, DC in Beltsville, MD. This is not a holiday feel-good moment or photo op. It's distribution day at the Bread of Life Distribution (BOLD) Food Pantry Program. Full carts of food are already packed and ready to be transferred into the waiting vehicles.

Cora-Dian Cameron, also known as Sister Roxanne, a dedicated Reverend and Pastor's wife, orchestrates this effort. Raised in humble beginnings in Guyana, her compassionate journey mirrors that of her mother, who despite her own poverty, generously gave to those in need.

The charity began with a simple act of giving away bread, and eventually evolved to a full food pantry. The mission is not to establish a mere soup kitchen but to empower families with the essentials to craft their meals. Despite substantial reliance on donors, volunteers, and her husband of 42 years, Reverend Dr. Oswen Cameron, Sister Roxanne actively engages in all facets of the food pantry, collecting and distributing food to feed thousands weekly.

The church van has been replaced with two 16-foot delivery trucks that several days per week are filled to their 4000-pound capacity with donated food and supplies. Serving communities across DC, MD and VA, the organization was especially vital during the pandemic. Sister Roxanne's generosity knows no borders, extending globally to provide essentials to homeless children in Guyana and supporting schools in Ethiopia and Jamaica.

Her dedication echoes a modern interpretation of John 6:9-14, where a boy's five loaves and two fish feed thousands. Sister Roxanne, like the biblical account, distributes provisions generously, leaving no waste. Her benevolence is not confined by borders, embodying a living example of scripture and impacting lives far beyond the local community.



*Marshall-  
March Funeral Homes*

# October 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	1	2	3 Rosh Hashanah	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12 Yom Kippur
13	14 Columbus Day Indigenous People's Day	15	16 Boss' Day	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31 Halloween	1	2



CELEBRATING LIFE ONE FAMILY AT A TIME

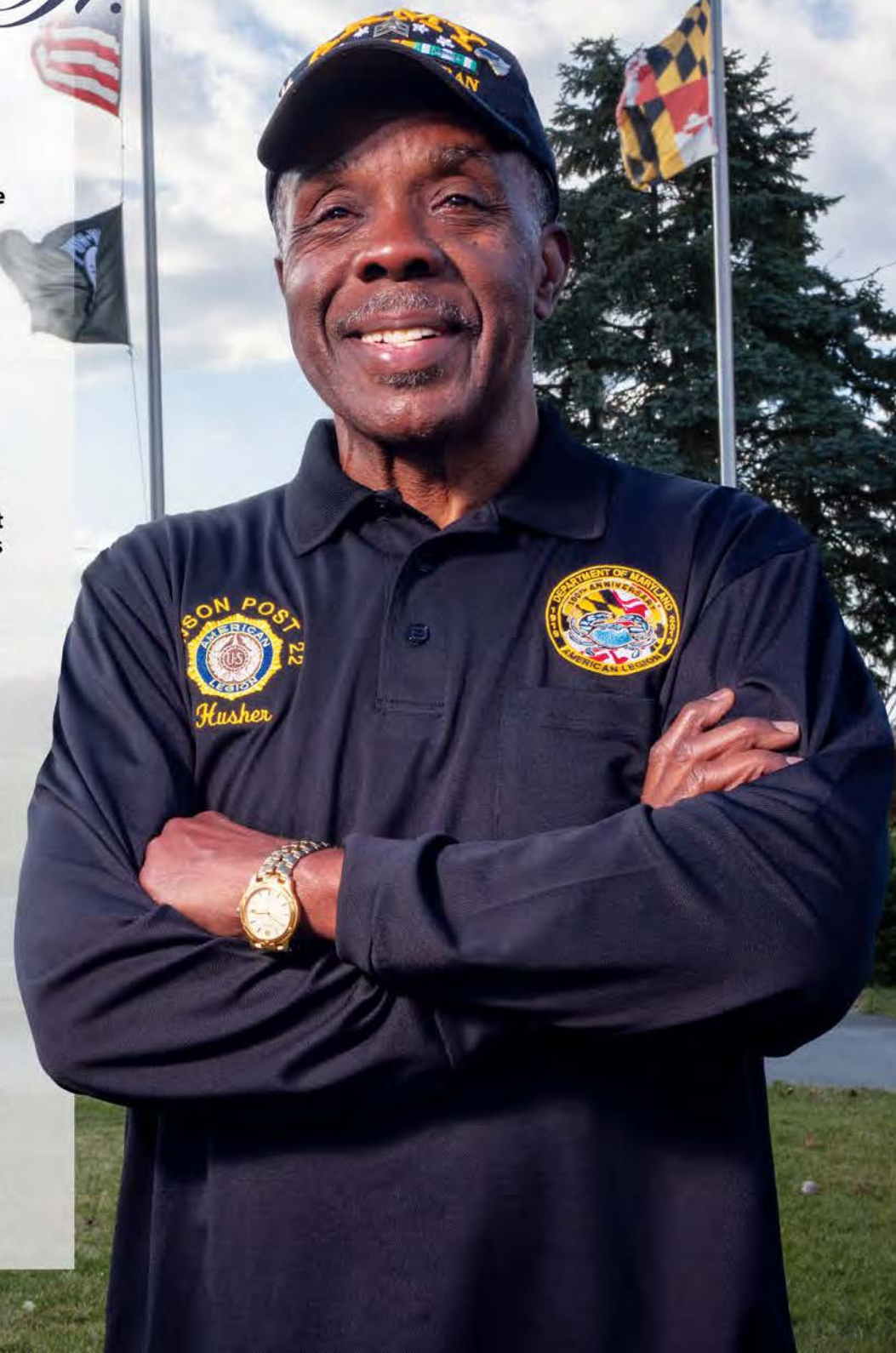
# Husher Harris, Sr.

Husher L. Harris, Sr. emerged from humble beginnings in Douglas, GA. His father was a businessman in that small town, where his ancestors were previously slaves and sharecroppers. Like many in the South during that era, hard work was instilled but opportunities were limited. When he was in the 6th grade, his family moved to Tampa, FL, where he would attend colored schools before pursuit of higher education led him to Tuskegee Institute. When he paused his studies to transfer to a school closer to home, he became eligible for the draft and was sent to fight in the Vietnam War. He returned home, as a veteran, to a country that disrespected his service and the sacrifices done in its name and honor.

The profound impact of postwar Vietnam led Husher to dedicate his life to helping other veterans. He would return to college, ultimately receiving a master's degree in rehabilitation counseling from the University of Southern Florida. After graduating, he would move to Maryland to accept a position with the Veterans Administration (VA) as a Senior Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist and was instrumental in establishing programs to help combat veterans reintegrate back into society after war. Later he would be tapped to become a founding Regional Manager for the VA Vietnam Veterans Outreach Program. In this position, he was responsible for creating and developing Vet Centers for 12 States in the MidAtlantic Region. Tasked with finding locations in each state, furnishing, hiring staff, implementing programs, maintaining compliance, meeting with Legislators, and executing public relation campaigns. The centers would become a life changing haven for veterans navigating resources and services available to them. In addition to his career with the VA, Husher worked for the State of Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services. Additionally, he volunteered and worked part time in the counseling profession at several profit and non-profit agencies.

After retiring from the Department of Veterans Affairs, he partnered with his son's budding business, Avaris Concepts, LLC. The company at that time, primarily provided technical and engineering support services to government agencies. Since that time, Avaris has added a strong focus on residential treatment services. They currently operate three houses in Baltimore to provide substance addicted and chronically homeless men with a home, tools and skills needed to lead stable and productive lives.

Note: The cover photo shows Mr. Harris with his granddaughters standing on the grounds of the Maryland Vietnam Veterans Memorial. He was appointed by the Governor to help develop the memorial, which sits on a hill overlooking the water at the base of Key Highway. Black granite benches circle the property and are engraved with the names of the 639 Marylanders who lost their lives in the war. His name is cast in bronze on a monument at the entrance, honoring him as a key contributor to the memorial's creation. He will never lose sight of how blessed he is not to be a name etched on the benches or a casualty of the war of PTSD that killed the mind, body, and soul of many returning veterans.





# November 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
3 Daylight Savings Time Ends	4	5 Election Day	6	7	8	9
10	11 Vereran's Day	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28 Thanksgiving	29	30



**Victor March, Jr.**

**Walter Nathan  
Malloy, Jr.**

**Erich  
March**

**Victor  
March, Sr.**

**Carmalita  
March- Harris**

**Assolita  
"Lola" March**

**Cynthia  
March Malloy**

**Annette  
March Grier**

**Arthur  
"Dino"  
Grier**

# *The March Family*

William and Roberta never asked that any of their children should work in the funeral business and encouraged each to pursue their own dreams. By God's grace, each received their own personal calling to follow in their parent's footsteps and became licensed Morticians and can be credited as the visionaries of the March expansions. Today, their funeral business has spread well beyond their family home on North Avenue. With eight funeral homes in three states, the March businesses serve as the only regional family-owned funeral company in the country. The March family also own and operate, a crematory, the largest African American cemetery in the United States, King Memorial Park, and have been internationally recognized for their philanthropic work.

William and Roberta would retire with the comfort of knowing they could successfully turn over full operations and ownership of the businesses to their four children. Victor, Sr., a Certified Public Accountant (CPA), would be named President and CEO. Erich, who worked with his parents managing the operations would serve as VP and COO of the funeral homes and President of King Memorial Park Cemetery. Annette, a Registered Nurse, is VP of Community Engagement and the President and founder of Roberta's House, the family's largest non-profit. Cynthia is also a Registered Nurse, lives in Richmond, VA, and serves as VP and Director of the Virginia operations.

A true family business, five other family members serve to build the legacy. Lola, is the childhood sweetheart and wife of Victor. She is a VP and licensed funeral director most known for the care and love she extends to the families she serves as Manager of March-West and the March Life Tribute Center-Randallstown. Arthur "Dino" Grier, Annette's husband, is a VP and manages the company's fleet of vehicles. Although he is responsible for the core of the business's logistics, he's also well known for his days as a DJ. Blessing the booth of Odell's and many other hot clubs in Baltimore.

Three members of the 3rd generation grew up watching their grandparents and parents serve with honor and humility, ultimately receiving a calling all their own. Attending mortuary school together while working to expand and enhance the family business. They go on to graduate at the top of their class and become licensed Morticians. Nathan, son of Cynthia, is a Georgetown educated Lawyer and serves as Legal Counsel for the companies. Victor, Jr. (Vic) and Carmalita (Carma) are the children of Victor, Sr. and Lola. Vic serves as the Director of Information Technology (IT) where he develops and manages the computer systems and network infrastructures across all the companies. Carma serves is General Manager of the funeral operations in the Washington DC metro area, Marshall-March Funeral Homes, and the March Life Tribute Center in Laurel, MD.

**Together, the March Family is dedicated to building the future of funeral service and service to mankind.**





# December 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> 1st Day of Advent	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Winter Begins
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Christmas Day Hanukkah Begins at Sundown	<b>26</b> Kwanzaa Begins	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> New Year's Eve	1	2	3	4

# March Funeral Homes



## Roberta's House A Time of Sharing



William C. and Julia Roberta March were no strangers to hard economic times. They both grew up poor, by a different standard than we understand today. The grandchildren of slaves, they lived in a time of the Great Depression, segregation, and multiple wars. In their high school years both graduated from night school because they had to worked during the day to support their family. William would be drafted to WWII. Upon his return home, he would use the GI Bill to pay for an education he wasn't previously afforded and went to Mortuary School. Years later, William the dreamer, wanted to purchase a fixer-upper row house and open a funeral home. Roberta supported her husband, packed up the home she loved, and with their young children in tow, moved to 928 E. North Avenue. Three months later, they hung a sign announcing that the William C. March Funeral Home was open for business. Success was not immediate. In their first year of business, the funeral home conducted a total of two services. The following year there were four. Even in the face challenges, they were not deterred. The goal of providing their children with educational opportunities they never had was the driving force that caused them to work over 100-hours per week. His business mind and her compassionate heart combined to form what would become the March Legacy.

The rowhome on 928 E. North Avenue would grow from the home for their family of six, to a funeral home that serviced thousands per year. Within those walls, the March family would work as hard on their community outreach as they did business. To include the Thelma March Scholarship Foundation where close to one million dollars has been awarded to deserving students. In 2019 the land was redeveloped and now serves as the site of the family's largest non-profit initiative, Roberta's House. This grief and loss center focuses on providing bereavement services with the belief that all children and families suffering the loss of someone special should have support and a safe place to heal and recover. The path to the new \$16 million dollar facility was also storied. Beginning as A Time of Sharing peer support groups in 1982. To date, the bereavement programs can be credited with supporting approximately thousands of grieving individuals, and hundreds of church grief ministries. Increasing awareness of the importance of restoring hope and healing after a loss. Annette, the visionary and founder of Roberta's House, was awarded as a Top 10 CNN Hero for her work. In 2023, a second Roberta's House location was opened in Prince George's County, MD to serve the DC Metropolitan region. Peer support groups are also being held in Richmond, VA. The grief centers currently serve an average of 2000 families through its 13 grief support programs annually.

### THE THELMA MARCH SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION



The founding Marches would also be proud to know that their works, initially influenced by their desire to educate their four children would not only set a standard in their own family but also lead to the renaming of Harford Heights to the William C. March Middle School, now known as the William C. March Memorial Campus.





**WINDSOR MILL**

**8710 Dogwood Road, Baltimore, Maryland 21244**



## King Memorial Park Cemetery & Grand Chapel Mausoleum

The family's service to the community did not stop with the creation of March Funeral Homes. In 1971, as business was beginning to grow, the March family had the opportunity to buy fifty acres of land, zoned for use as a cemetery. William March gathered a group of several other black Funeral Directors, and together they partnered to form King Memorial Park. The accomplished Funeral Directors would soon learn that operating a cemetery required a different knowledge base and skillset. In addition to clearing the land to develop burial gardens and roads. They would need to learn things like, mapping the land, and how to encourage people to travel to what in those days, was a back woods part of West Baltimore County. The most sensitive challenge of a budding cemetery is, it required people to adjust their generational traditions and choose a new location for their family's final resting place.

As with many new ventures, the obstacles would prove too difficult for the other partners. In 1988 the March family acquired full ownership of the cemetery. Later, in 2001, they purchased additional acres, making King Memorial Park the largest Black-owned and operated cemetery in the United States. They would continue to develop the property with unique burial gardens, cremation niche options, and two mausoleums including the Grand Chapel Mausoleum which provides a beautiful indoor sanctuary where services can be held.

A belief that everyone deserves a dignified funeral and burial has always been a guiding principle of the March family. King Park is intentionally priced well below the industry with enhanced offerings included as standard. From dove releases to double depth burials. To sections for distinguished communities like First Responders and the Islamic Community. The cemetery provides a place of refuge and reflection as well as celebration. Annually hundreds gather for music and observance for the Memorial Day Service, Sunrise Easter Resurrection Service, and First Responder's Day.



# *March Funeral Homes*

**EAST**

**1101 East North Avenue Baltimore, Maryland 21202**



To meet the needs of the expanding business, in 1978 the March family construct the first million-dollar funeral home in Baltimore. Located at 1101 E. North Avenue the new state-of-the-art building sits across the street from the rowhome that served as the original funeral home. The building's construction would serve as another example of the power of perseverance. Funding the project would prove difficult as banks denied any loan opportunities. Even the bank that held funds for the funeral home would not take a chance on the growing Black family business. Eventually 2 savings and loans and the SBA would help fund the expansion. The experience would help fuel the Marches participation in the founding of the Harbor Bank of Maryland, the first minority-owned commercial bank in the Baltimore area. They knew from their own experience the difficulties African Americans often have financing for their business ideas. Other ways the March family would invest in their neighborhood is the East North Avenue Community Development Corporation (ENA CDC). Apples and Oranges, a grocery store Erich opened to provide healthy options in a food desert. Additionally, Roberta's House would revitalize the entire city block of the original funeral home.

March Funeral Homes-West opens. The new location increases the Marches' capacity to serve and was welcomed by residents of West Baltimore that were previously choosing to cross the invisible boundaries between the two sides of town. The building has two equally sized large chapels and peaceful viewing rooms to better serve each family's needs.

**WEST**

**4300 Wabash Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland 21215**



**RICHMOND, VA**

**2110 East Laburnum Avenue, Richmond, VA 23222**



March Funeral Homes of Virginia is established. Located in the Richmond county of Henrico, this is the family's first venture outside of Baltimore, MD. A new name in a new city, business grew based on a reputation of excellence and a commitment to serve. Cynthia, who served as a public health nurse until 2003, returns to the family business as the Managing Director and Vice President. The beautiful facility, grand chapel, and March Way of conducting services and caring for families smooth a path to success.

 **Marshall-March Funeral Homes**

**WASHINGTON, D.C.**

**4217 9th Street Northwest, Washington, D. C. 20011**

In 2010, after 43 years of building her business with her late husband, Harold Marshall, Dr. Julia Marshall sells Marshall's Funeral Homes in Suitland, MD and Washington, DC to the March Family. The acquisition becomes Marshall-March Funeral Homes. With a motto of "One High Standard of Service", the pairing of the two companies was a natural fit. The best practices from Marshall's and March were merged to better the entire brand. The original staff remained and Carmalita is named General Manager. The addition of locations in the DC Metropolitan area closes the gap between Baltimore, MD and Richmond, VA, making March the only regional family-owned funeral business in the nation.



**SUITLAND, MD**

**4308 Suitland Road, Suitland, Maryland**



# March Life Tribute Center

## LAUREL

*7601 Sandy Spring Road, Laurel, Maryland 20707*

The first March Life Tribute Center opens in Laurel, MD. The new facility is the first in the brand to house a banquet hall for repasts following services or various community events. More than a funeral home, the concept of a tribute center is established to celebrate all of life's occasions. The location also has an onsite crematory. This addition means families who choose cremation can be comforted in knowing their loved ones remain in the March's care. The March Life Tribute Center in Laurel also serves as a welcomed space for a mix of religions from Christian to Buddhist, Sikh, Hindu and others, and is as an ideal venue for cultures where witnessed cremations are vital to fulfilling rituals and traditions.



## RANDALLSTOWN

*5616 Old Court Road, Windsor Mill, Maryland 21244*

A second March Life Tribute Center opens in Randallstown, MD. This Baltimore County location immediately conveys the true concept of a Life Tribute Center. The multi-use venue not only has a grand chapel that can seat 500 guests and large banquet halls, but other rooms that can be customized to suit each individual need. This premier location has proven to be sought after as more than just a funeral home, hosting several weddings, parties, community events and more.



The March family is proud to announce the addition of the newly acquired Johnson-Fosbrink Funeral Home and Cremation Services, P.A. The already well established funeral home has thrived in the Towson community since 1960. With the passing of its owners, the March family steps in to build on the legacy of both companies.

Conveniently located in Towson, just off of 695 on Loch Raven Blvd., this new location extends our services to the northeast region of Baltimore County. Adding to the vision and planned expansions of the March Legacy. The intimate and soothing environment is designed with chapels that can be customized to seat guests for services or with an open floor plan to host family and friends in a warm home environment, full of keepsakes, mementos and love. Friends and family may also step away and have a refreshment in the cafe or a private moment in a side sitting room.

With the addition of a Northeast Baltimore location, families throughout Maryland, DC, and Virginia may be served with the highest standards of care and service consistent with then promises of The March Way.



### Calendars of Annual Events

#### May 27, 2024 - Memorial Day

King Memorial's annual Memorial Day Gospel Concert honoring those who served in the military and other Loved Ones we honor that have passed on.



#### March 31, 2024 - Easter Sunrise Service

At the break of dawn, this true sunrise service brings church to the grounds of King Memorial Park and is immediately followed by a glory filled, earth shaking, re-enactment of the resurrection of Jesus from His tomb.



#### October 2024 - First Responder's Day

This event is a salute to our heroes that began in 2022 and honors police officers, firefighters, paramedics and EMTs at the King Memorial Park's newly erected First Responders' Memorial Garden For Heroes.



#### December 2024 - Candlelight Service of Remembrance

The holidays can be particularly hard when managing grief. Roberta's House and the March family host an annual service of remembrance filled with music, inspiration, and joy, as we celebrate the life of those we lost. Events held annually in Baltimore, MD & Richmond, VA.



### News Highlights

Services for the late Congressman Elijah Cummings, Annette awarded as a CNN Top 10 Hero for her work with Roberta's House, Carmalita represents the funeral industry and its response to the COVID crisis on ABC News national broadcast, Erich shares the blessing of the resurrection and King Park's sunrise service.





**March  
Funeral  
Homes**

**March Funeral Homes – West**  
4300 Wabash Ave, Baltimore, MD 21215  
(410) 542-2400  
marchfh.com

**March Funeral Homes – East**  
1101 E North Ave, Baltimore, MD 21202  
(410) 727-3300  
marchfh.com



**March Funeral Homes**  
of VIRGINIA, INC.

**March Funeral Homes –  
Laburnum**  
2110 E Laburnum Ave, Richmond, VA 23222  
(804) 321-4200  
marchfuneralhomevirginia.com



**March**  
Life Tribute Centers

**March Life Tribute Center – Laurel**  
7601 Sandy Spring Rd, Laurel, MD 20707  
(301) 490-1550  
marchltclareau.com

**March Life Tribute Center –  
Randallstown**  
5616 Old Court Rd, Windsor Mill, MD 21244  
(410) 655-0110  
marchltcrandallstown.com



**King**  
memorial park

8710 Dogwood Rd, Windsor Mill, MD 21244  
(410) 944-8300  
kingmemorialpark.com

**Roberta's HOUSE** 

A Family Grief Support Center  
928 E. North Ave, Baltimore, MD 21202  
(410) 235-6633  
robertashouse.org



**Marshall-  
March Funeral Homes**

**Marshall–March Funeral Homes –  
Suitland**  
4308 Suitland Rd, Suitland, MD 20746  
(301) 736-1616  
marshallmarchfh.com

**Marshall–March Funeral Homes –  
Washington, D.C.**  
4217 9th St NW, Washington, DC 20011  
(202) 723-1250  
marshallmarchfh.com



**JOHNSON-FOSBRINK**  
FUNERAL and CREMATION SERVICES P.A.

**NEW LOCATION in TOWSON**  
**Johnson–Fosbrink Funeral Home**  
8521 Loch Raven Blvd, Towson, MD 21286  
(410) 668-2300  
johnsonfosbrinkfh.com