



Melinda L. James

September 5, 1961 - November 27, 2017

On November 27, 2017, we lost a mother, a wife, a sister, a best friend; and God gained an angel.

Melinda Owen James was born in Jacksonville, Florida on September 5th, 1961. Being born into a military family, she bounced around the country before landing in Atlanta, Georgia, and finally, her adopted hometown, Cookeville, Tennessee. Although she moved to Clermont, Florida for her final few years to be close to her children, Cookeville, Tennessee has never left her heart.

She married the love of her life Alan James on June 13th, 1986 and had two beautiful children, Dillon Robert James and Megan James Guerra. Her children inherited Melinda's strong work ethic and infectious and engaging personality. Melinda would brighten any room by simply walking in the door.

After attending Georgia College and State University, she held management positions at several financial firms in Atlanta, Georgia but Melinda would best be remembered by holding her favorite position in her entire career, Executive Director at United Way. There she was able to do what she loved, helping people in their time of need, both in person and behind the scenes. Among her many responsibilities, her favorite was raising funds for the less fortunate. There is an old saying "If you love what you do, you'll never work a day in your life". Melinda gave United Way all of her heart. She was able to meet so many

people and touch so many lives which made Melinda a pillar in her community. Her final position was with Saxon Business Systems in Orlando, FL. This company took Melinda in as family and provided an abundance of support when we needed it most. They provided Melinda that last ray of sunshine she so desperately needed and we will be forever thankful.

God knew what was in store for Melinda and he was adamant to have her and Alan move to Florida to be with her children in her final years. We welcomed her with open arms and were fortunate enough to have her in our presence. While Melinda fought hard to beat her disease, God had other plans. Melinda left us in the presence of her immediate family in peace. She is now in heaven, waiting for us to join her one day.

Melinda Owen James was loved by many people and will be missed by many more. It is not often you are graced with the presence of that caliber of a person. Our family appreciates all of the love, thoughts and prayers. May she forever sleep peacefully.

Tribute Wall

JK

“ I am so sorry to hear about Melinda. She made such a difference in the lives of many people and will be remembered for that positive impact on her world.

I pray for Christ's peace and love to comfort Megan, Alan, and Dillon. We don't understand now, but know that God holds her in the palm of His hand.

Jane and Ken Knieling

Jane Knieling - December 10, 2017 at 06:27 PM

JG

“ Melinda was such a blessing to the Cookeville area! She will be remembered as helpful, cheerful, and a delight to be around. She was always giving of herself and taught her children well. We have missed having her in our community - as well as her family. We know she encouraged Dillon at an early age to have his own business. He was our family's "Pet Butler" at an early age - so trustworthy and caring, just like his mom! We're so sorry for your family's loss. You are in our prayers.

Judy and Bob Gunter

Judy Gunter - December 10, 2017 at 10:36 AM

TK

“ I never had the pleasure of meeting Melinda. I'm a United Way Retiree who simply wants to wish Melinda and her family peace..

Terri Kracht - December 07, 2017 at 11:24 AM

SV

“ *Sharon Vickers-Lynch lit a candle in memory of Melinda L. James*



Sharon Vickers-Lynch - December 03, 2017 at 01:18 PM

SB

“ *Shea Barnett lit a candle in memory of Melinda L. James*



shea barnett - December 02, 2017 at 11:15 PM



Tammy Smith

“ *Tammy Smith lit a candle in memory of Melinda L. James*



Tammy Smith - December 02, 2017 at 08:22 PM



“ *Melinda will be truly missed by many. I loved having the pleasure of serving this sweet lady at City Square Cafe many years ago. Prayers for the family. She was genuinely beautiful inside and out.*

Jennifer Holloway Flatt - December 02, 2017 at 06:29 PM

AT

“ *Andy And Tracey Tompkins lit a candle in memory of Melinda L. James*



Andy and Tracey Tompkins - December 02, 2017 at 02:46 PM

TS

“ *My deepest sympathy to Melinda’s husband and family , I ask god and his angels to bring comfort to this awesome family. Your mother and wife was always helpful to me when I needed it . She became a mentor to look up to as she really knew all the avenues for those in need . She was incredible with her job at United Way where I first met her. Sometimes we would talk just because I loved her enthusiasm she possessed . We both suffered with same illness and we coached each other sometimes along the way . Rest in heavenly peace as now I know for sure she is and always will be the angel I knew to be true . Thank you for what time I did have with her god .*

Tammy Smith - December 01, 2017 at 05:39 PM

FL

“ *Fiorela Lindsey lit a candle in memory of Melinda L. James*



Fiorela Lindsey - December 01, 2017 at 08:32 AM

AJ

“ *Melinda was jus one of those people who made you feel special. She always greeted everyone with a smile and usually a big hug. She was dear and amazing wonderful! I feel blessed to call her friend and pray for Alan, Megan and Dillon as they mourn the loss of this beautiful angel. Love you all!* ”

Amy Jennings - November 30, 2017 at 09:30 PM

JR

“ *Justin Rice lit a candle in memory of Melinda L. James* ”



Justin Rice - November 30, 2017 at 04:32 PM

MA

“ *Mark Allen lit a candle in memory of Melinda L. James* ”



Mark Allen - November 30, 2017 at 11:46 AM

LG

“ *So sorry for your loss, your family will be in our prayers. Luis and Louise Guerra* ”



Louise guerra - November 30, 2017 at 11:32 AM

AS

“ *Aline Skelley lit a candle in memory of Melinda L. James*



Aline Skelley - November 30, 2017 at 10:31 AM

MG

“ *2 files added to the album Memories Album*



Megan Guerra - November 30, 2017 at 09:25 AM



“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



DeGusipe Funeral Home & Crematory - November 30, 2017 at 08:00 AM