



## Ms. Allister Xavier Stokes

September 28, 1956 - July 14, 2020

Allister Xavier Stokes (aka Zaya) was the fourth born child of Shirley E. Lawson Stokes & Charles A. Stokes on September, 28, 1956 in Baltimore, Maryland. Both of Zaya's parents preceded her in death. Zaya was named after her deceased maternal grandmother Allester Chase Lawson with the spelling variation of the letter (i) added to Zaya's name. Zaya preferred to be called by her middle name "Xavier" thus family and friends shortened it & called her "Zaya".

Zaya grew up in the Cherry Hill Community of Baltimore City. She was very talented in the performing arts of acting and dancing. In Elementary School, Zaya was selected as the star in the play "Alice in Wonderland." During her middle/junior high and high school years Zaya was active in the Cherry Hill Recreation Center's programs and excelled in modern dance. Zaya was a good academic student and was accepted into the rigorous college preparatory program into the historical Western High School! Zaya was also accepted into the Neighborhood Youth Corp(NYC) during high school. The NYC program provided her a work study apprenticeship working in the Cherry Hill St. Veronica's Church's Headstart Daycare Center. Zaya worked well with the pre-school children and staff at the Daycare Center and was affectionately called "Miss Cookie." Upon graduation from Western High School in 1974, Zaya enrolled into the Community College of Baltimore City and took Early Childhood Educational Courses while still employed at the St. Veronica Headstart Daycare Program.

Zaya was a zealous supporter of her many nieces and nephews. She even took them to work with her while working at the St. Veronica Headstart Daycare Center and attended their activities (i.e. birthday parties, graduation and special extracurricular activities). During family gatherings, whenever there was music playing and a dance floor Zaya out danced the best of the dancers and would dance during the entire event just like the 'energetic, indomitable' nonstop bunny!

Zaya moved to Philadelphia during the past 15 years with a lifelong friend, Lynne Graham and Lynne's mother, Ms. Mildred Graham, but maintained contact with her many siblings, nieces and nephews. Zaya was a kind nurturing person and helped provide care to Ms. Mildred Graham as Ms. Graham's health deteriorated. Zaya worked at the election polls and would do errands for her neighbors like shoveling snow, going to the store and even

driving them to various appointments. While living in Philly, Zaya suffered a stroke to her left side (she was left-handed) which damaged her speech and debilitated her mobility. However, she would still attend family gatherings of birthday parties, weddings, anniversaries and still “cut the rug” and out danced everyone!

Zaya was preceded in death by maternal grandparents, Harvey and Allester Lawson (aka, Big Mama), paternal grandparents, Jesse and Dorothy Savage (aka Mama Dot), paternal brother, Dwight Johnson and two nephews, Michael D. Stokes (aka Mike Mike) and Kevin R. Burnett, Jr. (aka Little Kevin). She leaves to mourn her death 10 maternal siblings: (8 sisters and 2 brothers); Jacqueline (Jackie) Moulton Davis (husband Thomas/Tano); Donnita (Donnie) Stokes White; Sharon D. Stokes; Kevin L. Stokes, Sr. (wife Dorothy); Craig S. Stokes, Sr. (wife Ericka); Carla Stokes Burnett (husband Kevin, Sr.); Rene’ (Nanet) Stokes Whyte (husband Cleveland); Siterria P. Stokes (Terria); Tanya Stokes Wheeler and Alicia (Lisa) L. Stokes. Zaya also leaves to mourn her death 8 paternal siblings (6 sisters and 2 brothers): Charles (Ricky) Stokes (wife Kathy); Eris (Reissa) Robinson; Kim Stokes; Terrell (Terry) Stokes; Sharlene Stokes; Loraë (Ray) Stokes; and Tanyae Stokes Estep (husband Darryl); a host of nieces, nephews, grand nieces, grand nephews; 1 maternal uncle (Jerome A. Lawson); a host of cousins; a lifelong special friend, Lynn Graham; and a host of friends. Allester Xavier Stokes’ high energy, fun-filled spirit will be missed by her siblings, many family members and friends.

# Cemetery

**King Memorial Park**  
8710 Dogwood Road  
Windsor Mill, MD, 21244

# Events

<b>JUL 24</b>	<b>Visitation</b>	05:00PM - 07:00PM
	Chatman-Harris Funeral Home West 5240-44 Reisterstown Road, Baltimore, MD, US, 21215	
<b>JUL 25</b>	<b>Family Hour</b>	12:30PM - 01:00PM
	Chatman-Harris Funeral Home West 5240-44 Reisterstown Road, Baltimore, MD, US, 21215	
<b>JUL 25</b>	<b>Service</b>	01:00PM
	Chatman-Harris Funeral Home West 5240-44 Reisterstown Road, Baltimore, MD, US, 21215	

# Comments

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“ A webcast video has been added.



**Chatman-Harris Funeral Home** - July 25, 2020 at 12:27 PM

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“ Dora Davis lit a candle in memory of Ms. Allister Xavier Stokes



**Dora Davis** - July 25, 2020 at 09:31 PM



“ Love you Aunt Zaya

**Dora Davis** - July 25, 2020 at 09:36 PM

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“ To Jackie

Our thoughts and prayers are with you and we send our deepest condolences in the loss of your sister Zaya. We offer our support always and pray God gives you and your family peace and may your fond memories of your sister and loved one fill you with gratitude for the time you shared with her here on earth. Bless you all. Darlene Tamia Nia & Ricardo Jr.

**Darlene Rush** - July 25, 2020 at 01:05 PM

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“ To my family cousin Jackie and family my condolences to you and your family love you

Roslyn - July 24, 2020 at 08:05 PM

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“ To our cousin you will be missed Rest IN Heaven

Roslyn - July 24, 2020 at 08:02 PM

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“ To Jackie and Renee and the rest of the Stokes/Davis Family: I am so sad for your loss. Zaya and I were in the same graduating class at Western High School. Although we never had classes together, I remember her fondly. She was pleasant and kind, and we always spoke when we saw one another. As you honor her and grieve your loss, I pray you may be strengthened and comforted by your wonderful memories. Lean on God. He will wrap you in His faithful love and comfort. ~ Angela T.

Angela W Tanner - July 24, 2020 at 06:14 PM



“ To Jackie & Family,  
Sorry to hear of your sister's transition. We know you all will miss her but know that she is now in the presence of our Heavenly Father. God will give you all Comfort & strength. God Bless, Cousin Mommy, Allen, Jackie & Renee

Renee Joseph - July 30, 2020 at 01:04 PM

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“ I remember going with Aunt Zaya to the daycare center where she worked. I have sweet memories of my time there with her. I love you Aunt Zaya and will miss you.



Kara Attal - July 24, 2020 at 12:43 PM

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“ To my loving Stokes Family. Expressing our heartfelt sympathy and offering a prayer that God above will comfort you all and ease the loss you bear. Our sister Zaya will always remain in our hearts forever. She will be remembered dearly. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. Loving Submitted. The DeShields and Beverly family.  
“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.” Matthew 5:4

**Beatrice DeShields-Beverly** - July 23, 2020 at 11:38 PM



“ To the Stokes Family. My deepest sympathy and prayers go out to each and everyone of you during this time. Hold on to the memories of your beautiful sister aunt but most of all daughter of the king. She will hold a special place in each and every one of your hearts and you know one day we will see her again. May the Lord surround His angels around you today as you celebrate her life and remember her as an amazing person. In God We Trust  
...Dr.Adams

**Contobia** - July 24, 2020 at 11:19 AM



“ To the Stokes family and extended family special friends God bless you all in your time of sorrow .I am going to keep you all in my prayer for healing love you all. From Beverly

**Beverly** - July 24, 2020 at 11:20 AM



“ 71 files added to the album LifeTributes



**Chatman-Harris Funeral Home** - July 23, 2020 at 11:18 AM



“ Greetings family and friends, sending prayers of comfort and condolences from Us (McClain Family). God Bless Zaya's repose soul. An Angel that knows our names. Peace and Blessings with love and hugs during this sad time.

**Patty** - July 21, 2020 at 11:08 AM