



## Ms. DENISE ALEAN BYRD

August 20, 1961 - April 1, 2025

Denise Alean Marrow, lovingly known as "Neci," was born on August 20, 1961, in Newport News, Virginia, to Doris Jones and the late Joseph Linwood Morrow. From an early age, Neci was surrounded by faith, music, and family. She grew up in the House of Prayer Church, where her spiritual foundation was rooted, and where she discovered her love for music. She began learning piano under the tender guidance of her grandmother, the late Lucille Gregory--an experience that left a lasting imprint on her heart.

Neci was a proud graduate of Ferguson High School in Newport News. She continued her academic journey at Hampton Institute, where she majored in Business Administration, graduating in 1984. Her education and determination opened the door to an impactful and respected career as a Contracting Officer with NASA, serving 17.5 years.

Neci had an incredible zest for life-she knew how to enjoy herself, no matter the time or place. She loved to travel, especially abroad, and rarely stayed far from a beach. Music was another deep passion of hers. From playing the piano to singing in choirs to performing in go-go bands, Neci embraced it all and passed that love down to her son, Gregory.

She also had a soft spot for just about any Tubi movie and stayed completely up to date with every Tyler Perry-produced series--yes, every one. She was

preceded

n death by her father, Joseph Linwood Morrow, and her brother, Reginald Grady.

She was preceded in death by her father, Joseph Linwood Morrow, and her brother, Reginald Grady.

She leaves behind a legacy of love and cherished memories. She is survived by her mother, Doris Jones; her devoted son, Gregory Smith; her loving sister, Carolyn Russell; her uncle, Milton Gregory; and a host On family, friends, coworkers, and loved ones who will continue to carry her light in their hearts.

# Cemetery Details

## Arlington Crematory

2313 51st Place  
Hyattsville, MD 20781

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

APR **28**. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

First Baptist Church of Glenarden  
3600 Brightseat Rd  
Landover, MD 20785