



Vanessa Janelle "Nessa" (Moore) Williams

October 5, 1989 - March 4, 2024

UTICA – Vanessa Janelle "Nessa" (Moore) Williams, age 34, passed away surrounded by her loving family after a brief illness on Monday, March 4, 2024. Though her departure leaves behind broken hearts, her spirit will continue to live on in the cherished memories she created with those she loved.

Vanessa was born in Utica, New York, on October 5, 1989, to James E. Williams III and Rochelle Moore-Nichols. She attended Utica City Schools during her youth before relocating to Decatur, Georgia, where she enrolled at Columbia High School. Vanessa later returned to Utica where she earned her GED at the Utica BOCES in June of 2013.

Upon Vanessa's return to Utica, she met Anthony Rivera, and they embarked on a 15-year journey together. Their commitment to each other and shared wisdom enriched their lives, creating cherished memories. Anthony will forever cherish Vanessa's rituals and the profound love they shared.

Vanessa's career journey began as a Resident Care Assistant at Willow Park Home Health, where her dedication to meeting others' needs led to success. She then advanced to a promotion at the Rescue Mission, where she formed meaningful connections while working with individuals with intellectual disabilities. In March 2021, Vanessa transitioned to a position with New York State DDSO, where she continued her dedicated and compassionate work

with individuals with developmental disabilities until her passing. Her unwavering commitment and caring approach left a lasting impact on those she served.

Growing up, Vanessa loved playing Double Dutch with her friends and cousins. She also loved to sing. Her most recent favorite songs were Usher and HOVA "H 2 the O V." MARCY PROJECTS!! Vanessa, also known as the "Pandora Queen," always had a music playlist ready to lift spirits. Vanessa had a contagious laugh that would make you laugh so hard that you would forget what you were laughing about because you'd be caught up in the sound of her laughter. Vanessa was shy but not one to be played with, and despite her lively nature, Vanessa also had a reserved side. Always a "vibe seeker," she would feed off whatever vibe people would throw out.

Vanessa absolutely adored fall, especially because of Halloween - her absolute favorite holiday. She appreciated watching the leaves turn colors and the anticipation of getting ready for Halloween. Decorating her home with just the right décor was a joy for her, and she treasured every moment of binge-watching scary movies and going trick-or-treating with her daughters, creating lasting memories filled with meaning and love.

Vanessa had a beautiful smile and she was a versatile individual. Reflecting on her caring and honest nature, she found joy on sunny and rainy days. She had an interest in astrology and the afterlife.

As the cherished "photo queen" of the family, Vanessa often captured moments and created lasting memories with her loved ones. She enjoyed amusement parks, rides, and greasy food. Vanessa was a conservative, who stood on her business.

Vanessa was passionate about food, but her mother's cooking was the best.

She recently enjoyed baking with her daughters, especially chocolate cakes. Vanessa also had a flair for hair, which created a unique bond with her sister. Vanessa had advantages in being the Guinea Pig.

Vanessa's tight bond with her mother and sister kept them in close contact all the time. Having a special time to catch up on their business and sometimes other people's business was called "TEA TIME SESSIONS." These cherished moments allowed them to catch up and bond without interruption. Vanessa had a special love for her grandmothers and enjoyed spending time with them. Times spent with her grandmother Frannie helped her develop her love for God. But her greatest love of all was her family. Anthony, Rayana, Myana, and Seleh.

Vanessa leaves to mourn her mother, Rochelle Moore-Nichols, her father, James E/Hillary Williams, and her stepfather, James Nichols, who affectionately referred to her as his "Bear." Her extended father Dion Pugh. She also leaves to mourn her significant other of 15 years, Anthony Rivera, and her beloved daughters, Rayana Haden, Myana Rivera, and Seleh Rivera.

She leaves her maternal grandmother Francena Moore and paternal grandmothers Earlene Williams and Mary Nichols.

Vanessa leaves to cherish her memories her siblings: Shahniqua "Shaneak" Moore, Shakeal Hendricks, Asia Nichols, Kiameshia "Kia" Williams, Jaliyah Janet Williams, James Williams IV, Zayden Betsinger, and Jamen Williams.

Her beloved nieces and nephews: Daquan George, Jhada Pace, Kizer Jones, Jayla Jones, Miyaka Jones, Jordyn Jones, Amarianna Williams, and James Williams V.

She also leaves to mourn her aunts: Michelle Billins, Stacey Ayers, Niesha Boyd, Cynthia Ann and Kenneth Savage, Jane and Richard Gibbs, Sandra Williams, Andrea and Tyrone Murray, Tammy Roman and Andrew Jones.

Uncles: Marc Nichols and Jamie Collins, and Ray Jackson.

Special Aunties: Terrill Liggins, Diane Jackson, Peggy Torres, Anita Taylor, Sharonda Ervin-Grigsby, and Theresa Clark (Godmother).

She also leaves to mourn her in-laws: Hector and Ester Rivera, David Rivera, Zulia Martin, and Lisette Grimaldi.

As well as her special friends: Shayla Blackshear-Holmes and Kayla Clarke (Godsister).

Vanessa also leaves behind a host of cousins, great aunts, friends, associates, co-workers, and loved ones.

Vanessa is predeceased by her maternal grandfather, James Moore, Sr., and her paternal grandfather, James E. Williams, Jr., Her brother, Justyce Nichols, and sister, Shacoya Lanaux. Her uncle James "Leon" Moore, Jr.; and Joseph Roman (Godfather).

The family wishes to express their sincere gratitude to the ICU staff of 3 East at Wynn Hospital for their excellent care, compassion, love, dedicated time, empathy, and personal efforts in caring for Vanessa.

Friends and family may visit on Saturday, March 16, 2024, from 12:00 noon-2:00 p.m. at Peter Spencer UAME Church, 841 Bleeker Street. Vanessa's Home Going Service and Celebration of Life will commence at 2:00 p.m. at

the church. Interment will take place in Forest Hill Cemetery at the convenience of the family.

This tribute to Vanessa's life has been lovingly written by her family.

Cemetery Details

Forest Hill Cemetery

2201 Oneida Street
Utica, NY

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 16. 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Peter Spencer UAME Church
841 Bleecker St, Utica, NY 13501
Utica, NY 13501

Home Going Service

MAR 16. 2:00 PM (ET)

Peter Spencer UAME Church
841 Bleecker St, Utica, NY 13501
Utica, NY 13501

Tribute Wall

KC

“ Love you, always thinking of you



Kayla Clarke - January 05, 2025 at 08:13 PM

BF

“ Brenda Carr and Family purchased the Beautiful i
n Blue for the family of Vanessa Janelle "Nessa"
(Moore) Williams.



Brenda Carr and Family - March 15, 2024 at 03:42 PM

LB

“ LONNIE BROWN lit a candle in memory of
Vanessa Janelle "Nessa" (Moore) Williams



LONNIE BROWN - March 15, 2024 at 02:45 PM

DF

“ Dwayne Murrell and family purchased the Full Of
Love Bouquet for the family of Vanessa Janelle
"Nessa" (Moore) Williams.



Dwayne Murrell and family - March 15, 2024 at 12:01 PM



“ *Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Vanessa Janelle "Nessa" (Moore) Williams.*



March 15, 2024 at 11:37 AM



“ *Willow Place Dunkin Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Vanessa Janelle "Nessa" (Moore) Williams.*

Willow Place Dunkin Family - March 15, 2024 at 11:37 AM



“ *Rochelle & Family. I'm so very sorry for the loss of your beautiful daughter. Prayers for you during this difficult time.*

*Sincerely-
Kimberly Furgol*



Kim - March 14, 2024 at 07:40 PM



“ *Benikia Robertson & Family purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Vanessa Janelle "Nessa" (Moore) Williams.*



Benikia Robertson & Family - March 13, 2024 at 10:20 PM

MV

“ MURRELL’S/ VIRGINIA purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Vanessa Janelle "Nessa" (Moore) Williams.



MURRELL’S/ VIRGINIA - March 13, 2024 at 08:12 PM

MV

“ MURRELL’S/ VIRGINIA planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Vanessa Janelle "Nessa" (Moore) Williams.

MURRELL’S/ VIRGINIA - March 13, 2024 at 08:12 PM

RP

“ Sorry 🙏 for the loss of your love one.



Roseann Pearson-Simmons - March 12, 2024 at 10:02 PM

KL

“ Kesha Christel and Aunt lois purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Vanessa Janelle "Nessa" (Moore) Williams.



Kesha Christel and Aunt lois - March 12, 2024 at 12:31 PM

KL

“ Kesha Christel and Aunt lois planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Vanessa Janelle "Nessa" (Moore) Williams.

Kesha Christel and Aunt lois - March 12, 2024 at 12:31 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Vanessa Janelle "Nessa" (Moore) Williams.



March 11, 2024 at 12:12 PM

GV

“ G Velletto planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Vanessa Janelle "Nessa" (Moore) Williams.

G Velletto - March 11, 2024 at 12:12 PM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Vanessa Janelle "Nessa" (Moore) Williams.



March 11, 2024 at 09:48 AM

LJ

“ *Lisa Jenkins lit a candle in memory of Vanessa Janelle "Nessa" (Moore) Williams*



Lisa Jenkins - March 11, 2024 at 02:59 AM

EJ

“ *sending my condolences to the family and i remember vanessa asking me about what new music came out when i be playing the music and we talk and laughing.*



Eric Jackson - March 11, 2024 at 01:51 AM

EE

“ *Earl Evans purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Vanessa Janelle "Nessa" (Moore) Williams.*



Earl Evans - March 10, 2024 at 11:53 PM

EE

“ *Earl Evans planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Vanessa Janelle "Nessa" (Moore) Williams.*

Earl Evans - March 10, 2024 at 11:53 PM

KC

“ *There will never be a day that goes by that I won't miss you. To say how proud and lucky I was to have you as my best friend, is a severe understatement. What I would do to go backwards. Back to playing Barbies, rollerskating, riding bikes, playing at the park, sleep overs, birthday parties, working together, dinners, and overall just having my daily morning and late night conversations with you. I love you. May you rest in peace.. my beautiful angel.*



Kayla Clarke - March 10, 2024 at 10:43 PM

CC

“ *My deepest sympathies go out to Vanessa's family. I remember her when she was younger being the happiest little girl giggling all the time. She will be greatly missed. ❤️*



cindy cicarelli - March 10, 2024 at 09:12 PM



“ *Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Vanessa Janelle "Nessa" (Moore) Williams.*



March 10, 2024 at 09:04 PM