



## Gladys Marie Holt-Giles

November 5, 2020

(formerly Gladys Marie Cole)

Gladys Marie Holt-Giles, 66 of Woodbridge, VA, affectionately known as “La La”, passed away suddenly at her home on Thursday, November 5, 2020. Gladys, born on February 10, 1954 in Washington, D.C. and was the fifth of eleven children born to the late Annie M. Holt and Roy DeSales Holt, Sr.

She is survived by her devoted husband of seven years, Colonel Giles; daughters, Kim Bloom and Vonetta Cole (Partner Harvey); stepdaughters, Aprile Giles and Katrina Giles; stepson, Marques Giles; one granddaughter, Renee and her father, Peter; her siblings, nieces and nephews; and a host of other relatives and friends.

Gladys’ siblings include Roy DeSales Holt, Jr. (Deceased), Shirley Batchelor (Deceased), Lutricia Holt (Deceased), Joseph Holt, Audrey Holt, Mary Holt, Theresa Holt, Forrest Holt (Deceased), Constance “Connie” Holt (Deceased) and Marvin Leon Holt; former husband, Michael Cole (Deceased).

Following graduation from Spingarn High School in 1972, she worked for various Federal agencies for 39 years. From 1970 to 1980, Gladys held various administrative and secretarial positions with the District Government, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and National Science Foundation.

From 1980 to 1986, she served as Equal Opportunity Manager for the Federal Emergency Management Agency where she was responsible for managing the agency's discrimination complaints for headquarters and regional offices. She was also responsible for conducting agency programs pertaining to women and minorities to enhance awareness and educational opportunities. In September 1986, she worked for the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration as a Motor Carrier Safety Specialist (Special Agent). She held numerous positions from Special Agent to Division Chiefs and served as Acting Director for Communications' Public Affairs during hurricanes Katrina and Rita for the FMCSA under D.O.T. Gladys retired in April 2009 from the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) in Washington, D.C., where she served as Chief, Outreach Division, Enforcement and Program Delivery, with management responsibility in the development of communication strategies and plans to implement national campaigns and outreach materials for various targeted audiences in the motor carrier industry. While there, she served as Volunteer Loan Executive for the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) of the National Capital Area from 2003 to 2004 and was responsible for providing daily support to federal agencies in the planning, development and implementation of their CFC Campaign and fundraising activities. Throughout her government service, she earned numerous honors and awards, letters of appreciation, and accreditations.

Amidst her trailblazing career and family life, Gladys volunteered both at work and in the community. From 2013 until her passing, she actively participated in and helped spearhead the planning of Congressman Gerry Connolly's annual St. Patrick's Day Fete, a re-election campaign fundraiser with more than 1,000 attendees and is one of the largest gatherings of Democrats in the Commonwealth of Virginia. She served as an Election Officer since 2005 for Prince William County, VA, as a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) (2009-2010) where she was appointed by local judges to represent the best

interest of the child in court by serving as an extra pair of eyes and ears for the Court and a voice for the child. She was a Northern Virginia Long-Term Care Ombudsman where she advocated for elderly residents in nursing home facilities. She served as a Disaster Action Team member for the Prince William American Red Cross Chapter and ad-hoc community instructor (2002-2004), Domestic Violence Program Facilitator (1995-2001) for Action in Community Through Service of Prince William, Inc. (ACTS), Secretary on Board of Directors for Citizens Fire Academy Alumni in PWC (1998-1999), Loan Executive (2003-2004) to the Combined Federal Campaign for the D.C. Metropolitan Area for six months. She served as Recreational Counselor (1987) at Arlington Nursing Home in Jacksonville, FL, Financial Counselor (1989) for Virginia Cooperative Extension Service in Manassas, VA, Volunteer Coordinator and Patriotic Service Award recipient (1984) for U.S. Savings Bond Program with Department of Treasury, Social Worker's Aide (1982-1983) for the Prince William County Department of Social Services where she received Certification of the Appreciation from the Commonwealth of Virginia for recognition and outstanding services. Gladys was a dedicated public servant who volunteered much of her time to helping others but also was dedicated to her family.

Gladys was a source of strength and help to others. She was a devoted and loving wife and mother. A provider and caregiver by nature, she never hesitated to help her family, friends, and even strangers. She bestowed her guidance and wisdom to everyone she helped. She opened up her home and heart to those who needed a safe and welcoming space. She was a smart, independent, fun-loving, and kind. Gladys loved doting on her only grandchild. She loved music and dancing, especially hand dancing. She enjoyed watching and talking about the latest in news, shows, and movies. She loved hosting holiday events, parties, and family get-togethers. She was a lifelong learner and entrepreneur with her own wedding and events planning business. She

expressed her creative side through her arts and crafts. She enjoyed her husband's companionship in retirement. She will be deeply missed. We celebrate her life and take comfort in knowing that she is with those that passed on before her.

A Virtual Memorial Homegoing Celebration for Gladys is scheduled for 1 p.m., Saturday November 21, 2020. All are welcome to attend and celebrate Gladys's life by clicking the Zoom link below:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88604639633?pwd=TEFyZlFOZ0pQTUoyN1NMVTRJQWtFZz09>.

Meeting ID: 886 0463 9633 Passcode: 678493

The family would like to thank everyone for their prayers and words of comfort. Cards and condolences can be sent to the family at: The Giles Family, 4013 Cardinal Crest Drive, Woodbridge, VA 22193.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that a donation be made to Action in Community Through Service of Prince William, Inc. (ACTS) at [www.actspwc.org](http://www.actspwc.org) in Gladys' name in her memory.

Tributes can be made online at [www.millerfuneralhome.net](http://www.millerfuneralhome.net). Special thanks to Miller Funeral Home & Crematory, Woodbridge, VA (cremation) and National Harmony Memorial Park, Hyattsville, MD (burial).

# Previous Events

## **Gladys Marie Holt-Giles Virtual Memorial Homegoing Celebration**

NOV **21**. 1:00 PM.

Zoom Web Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88604639633?pwd=TEFyZlFOZ0pQUTUoyN1NlMVTRJQWtFZz09>

# Tribute Wall



“ Miller Funeral Home and Crematory, Inc. created a Webcast in memory of Gladys Marie Holt-Giles



Miller Funeral Home and Crematory, Inc. - November 18, 2020 at 02:20 PM

JB

*I have lost my best friend. Rest in peace Gladys. Jim byers*

James Byers - November 18, 2020 at 03:02 PM

PA

*Gladys, was a wonderful person, I will continue to miss our talks, and her wonderful advice, rest in peace my play sister. God has gained another beautiful spirit.*

*Pam Chisholm*

Pam - November 18, 2020 at 04:44 PM

BJ

*Rest in Peace Gladys, may your wisdom and influence be carried throughout this world, while your spirit is in peace.*

Brandie Jackson - November 18, 2020 at 07:48 PM

KC

*My sincere condolences to her family. No words can express our sorrow.*

*Kenneth & Valerie Chisholm*

Kenneth Chisholm - November 21, 2020 at 02:55 PM

YW

*Missing you Queen! You touched so many throughout your walk. Proud to say that's my Friend. ❤️ Rest in Heaven, keep watch over us. Your Spirit lives on in each of us.  
Condolences to the family, may God cover you in comfort and peace.*

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**Yolanda Williams-Davis** - November 21, 2020 at 03:00 PM



“ *My name is Joseph (Little William) Johnson (cousin) I was tremendously saddened by the death of Gladys. I have known Gladys all her life and we both was from St. Mary's county. Gladys and I shared the same grandmother on my grandfather's side (Margaret Yates). We were working on the family tree to learn more of our family roots. We continue to pray for the family. Love Little William and Annie Johnson*

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**Velvet Johnson** - November 22, 2020 at 09:01 PM

SK

“ I am so saddened to hear of Gladys’ passing. I was fortunate to work with Gladys in the 1990’s in the Office of Motor Carriers when it was still in FHWA. The agency was undergoing radical change and growth at that time changing from an old, male-dominated bureaucracy to a performance based, data driven safety organization. It was challenging being a woman in the agency at that time, it was so much harder being a Black woman. Gladys navigated that world not only with her intellect, communication and management skills but with her unfailingly positive attitude, wisdom and grace. She made a real difference in the evolution and culture of the agency.

Since hearing of her passing, I’ve been remembering those times when we worked together. One time Gladys and I traveled to Idaho to meet with our grantees in the state police. We had to be very well prepared and work as a team because not only were we from Washington headquarters and controlled their grant funding, but we were women! While we were there, they took us horseback riding at a huge ranch. These horses were not docile trail horses for novice riders and we were cautioned to be careful to not let them run or roll! Gladys was unfazed and gave me one of her broad smiles and said we’d show them city girls can handle it -- which we did!

I loved reading of all the community, volunteer, and family activities she pursued after retirement. She is gone much too soon and will be dearly missed.

Susan Bell Knisely (formerly Susan Petty)

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Susan Bell Knisely - November 21, 2020 at 07:43 PM

BH

“ To The Family of Gladys Holt-Giles,

*Words have failed me to adequately express the profound sadness I've been feeling about the passing of my sister-in-Christ and friend, Gladys Holt-Giles. I met her one month after my mother died here in Virginia. After we met that day in 2018, it seems like we shared one continuous conversation! I will remember her as a strong Godly woman blessed with a tremendous amount of generosity, kindness, charm and intelligence. She was extremely resourceful, had no nonsense "velvet glove iron fist" determination, and had a smile that was infectious. What an indelible imprint she has left behind in my mind and heart!*

*I can only imagine how hard her passing has been on Colonel, her daughters, family and friends who have known her longer than the 2 years I've known her!*

*I have a super amount of fond memories to sustain me for the rest of my life and I'm grateful that I can bask in my memory bank of shared loving moments to help me through ongoing grief moments!*

*Thank You God, for allowing Gladys to spend her years with us! Thank you that she's safe; back at home with You! We'll always miss and love her, but we take comfort in knowing her permanent residence. May Gladys rest in peace!*

*Love, Brenda Louise Hudson*

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**Brenda-Louise Hudson** - November 21, 2020 at 07:40 PM

PG

“ Aunt Gladys, we will miss your lovely smile and warm spirit but we are comforted knowing you're resting in the arms of God. Rest now, rest. Jesus Love Always!

*Pamela & Destiny Giles*



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**Pamela Giles** - November 21, 2020 at 06:56 PM

KJ

“ My sincerest condolences to the family. Gladys was truly a great sister-in-law. She and Colonel provided tremendous support for Forrest. God bless you Gladys. You now have the opportunity to rejoice with the angels and see your family in heaven. I'm sure you and Forrest are having a great time. I will truly miss you. I will cherish our conversations and baking tips forever. Thanks for being a part of my life.

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**Kimberli Jones-Holt** - November 21, 2020 at 06:37 PM

LG

“ LILLIE GILES lit a candle in memory of Gladys Marie Holt-Giles



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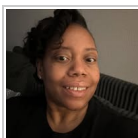
**LILLIE GILES** - November 21, 2020 at 06:03 PM

BC

“ *BEATRICE CURTIS lit a candle in memory of Gladys Marie Holt-Giles*



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**BEATRICE CURTIS** - November 21, 2020 at 05:05 PM



“ *I will miss you Auntie love Cece.*

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**Cecelia Gattison-Bangurah** - November 21, 2020 at 12:53 PM

NJ

“ *Good morning family, I wanted to share some my memories of Gladys. Gladys was an very passionate and detailed person. I recalled our trip a few years ago to Farnum Virginia to attend the annual celebrate and explore our family history. We began putting our creative mines together over lunch at Levi's on Wednesday's to also begin working on our family history. This time last year Gladys decided to prepare me a birthday meal fit for a Queen, needless to say she was successful. She showed me her porcelain doll and asked me to make a new dress for her, but we didn't get the chance to work out the details for her new outfit. I miss you like crazy, we always talked and you would ended our call with tell Mother Johnson I love you both and I will be bye soon with her cornbread. Rest in heaven your cousin Norreen Johnson*

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**Norreen Johnson** - November 21, 2020 at 07:53 AM

DB

“ *Dear Kim and Renee, so sorry to hear about the loss of your mom. Please accept our deepest condolences. Dirk and Claire Brossé*

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**Dirk Brossé** - November 21, 2020 at 07:11 AM

KB

“ 0 file added to the tribute wall

Kim Bloom - November 21, 2020 at 07:06 AM

PG

“ Renee and her Nana in Philadelphia (January 2020)



Peter Gistelinck - November 21, 2020 at 02:10 AM

KB

“ 3 files added to the album Work Related Pics of Gladys



Kim Bloom - November 19, 2020 at 09:33 PM

PA

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Pam - November 18, 2020 at 04:45 PM

PG

“ Peter Gistelinck lit a candle in memory of Gladys Marie Holt-Giles



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**Peter Gistelinck** - November 18, 2020 at 01:41 PM

KC

*Gladys was my friend. She was a wonderful supervisor when I was at DOT and a great mentor. She made me laugh and smile. We had so much fun together. She was especially kind and generous. I always considered her a member of the family. My heart was broken when I heard of her passing; we had just spoken about spending time together, she was excited to meet my new husband and I love spending time with she and Colonel. Gladys was one of a kind. I will never forget her. In a world of mediocrity; she was most excellent. Rest In Peace and in power my beautiful friend.*

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**Katrina Alston Coy** - November 18, 2020 at 10:28 PM

PA

*I will never forget our last conversation Thursday November 5, 2020, at 3:40pm, when you told me to hold in a such a polite way, and you never returned to the phone to continue our conversation. I will never believe you are gone forever, I will only accept that you are on a ship taking a long cruise and their is no telephone reception. I continue to ask God why did he take you so soon, he did not let us finish our conversation. There were so many things you wanted to do, see your granddaughter go to College, and more. Gladys, you always had a very calm and professional demeanor, you will truly be missed.*

*Rest in peace and spread the love and joy in heaven. God must have had a big job for you, because he snatched you up in the middle of our conversation. Miss you.....*

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**Pam** - December 05, 2020 at 11:27 PM