



## Celia Mae Pinkston

May 24, 1955 - February 12, 2025

Big Stone Gap, VA

Celia Mae Pinkston was born on May 24, 1955, in Norton, VA, to the late Ernest Sr. and Annie Neeley Pinkston. On February 12, 2025, she was called home to be with her Heavenly Father, leaving behind a legacy of love, service, and dedication to her family.

Raised in Appalachia, VA, Celia graduated from Appalachia High School in 1973 before pursuing higher education at Virginia State University, where she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in 1977. After briefly working for the Social Security Administration in Norton, VA, she returned to VSU to complete her Master's degree in 1984. Celia then settled in Petersburg, VA, where she began her long and successful career with the Department of Defense at Fort Lee (Fort Gregg), retiring in 2011 from the Division of Aviation and Logistics.

A woman of deep faith, Celia was a devoted member of Mt. Olivet Baptist Church, Petersburg, VA, where she served her congregation faithfully. Her commitment to service extended beyond the church, as she actively participated in community outreach, including preparing food boxes for the SHARE organization and care packages for local shelters.

Though she had no children of her own, Celia played a vital role in the lives of

her niece, nephews, and extended family, offering love, guidance, and unwavering support. She took great pride in being a Virginia State University alumna, regularly attending football games and alumni events and enthusiastically celebrating her beloved school.

Celia is preceded in death by her parents; siblings Claudette Thomas, Mary Pittman, Ernest Pinkston Jr., James Pinkston, Jeanette Pinkston, Artist Pinkston, and Lucille Pinkston; cherished cousins Thelma Jean Ewing, Cynthia Clark, and Terrence Poole; special friend Melvin Hill; and her beloved furry companions Adam and Rocco.

Her memory will be forever treasured by her loving sisters, Shelia Pinkston and Kate Hill; dear aunts, Ida Neeley and Pauline Neeley; devoted niece and "bonus daughter," Misti Pinkston-Allen (John); nephews and "bonus sons," Malcolm Pinkston (Sonya) and Myron Pinkston; great-nephews, Jerimyah Allen, Markus Pinkston, Marquez Pinkston, Maurice Pinkston, and Myles Allen; cherished cousins, Jake Neeley, Ricardo Neeley, Mark Neeley, Daemai Lester, and Makayla Poole; as well as a host of other relatives, extended family, and friends.

Celia's kindness, generosity, and radiant spirit touched the lives of so many. Though she is no longer with us in body, her legacy of love and faith will remain in the hearts of all who knew her. She will be deeply missed but never forgotten.

The family will receive friends on Saturday, February 22, 2025, at Holding Funeral Home in Big Stone Gap. The funeral service will be conducted following in the funeral home's chapel officiated by Reverend Leroy Cain and Reverend Sandra L. Jones.

An online obituary is available for the family at [www.holdingfuneralhome.com](http://www.holdingfuneralhome.com)

Holding Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Mrs. Celia Mae Pinkston.

# Cemetery Details

## Oakview Cemetery

1204 3rd Avenue, E  
Big Stone Gap, VA 24219

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB 22. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Holding Funeral Home, Inc.  
17 E. 3rd St., N.  
P. O. Drawer H  
Big Stone Gap, VA 24219  
1-276-523-1470  
holdingfuneralhome@comcast.net  
<http://www.holdingfuneralhome.com>

## Service

FEB 22. 2:00 PM (ET)

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# Tribute Wall



“ *Lisa Kirk lit a candle in memory of Celia Mae Pinkston*



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**Lisa kirk** - February 23, 2025 at 10:04 PM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Ceilia Mae Pinkston.*

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February 21, 2025 at 04:14 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Celia Mae Pinkston.*



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February 21, 2025 at 04:14 PM



“ *Family, my heart is heavy for your loss and for the loss of my friend. I always admired her intellect and enjoyed all the stories she would tell me, about her student life at Virginia State. I will miss our political talks and our Bold and the Beautiful commentaries. A light is gone and I will miss her*

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**Christina Cosby-Harris** - February 20, 2025 at 06:09 PM

LT

“ *Lynne Tull lit a candle in memory of Celia Mae Pinkston*



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**Lynne Tull** - February 20, 2025 at 12:14 PM

KK

“ *Kathy Kleineick lit a candle in memory of Celia Mae Pinkston*



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**Kathy Kleineick** - February 20, 2025 at 07:52 AM

LE

“ *Although Ceilia moved away from the area years ago, I have fond memories of her and her sister, Sheila, as we grew up in Derby. I will always remember the time we were singing the Twelve Days of Christmas around our Warm Morning stove and the laughter and fun we had because we could not remember all of the verses. However, today, we are sending heart-felt condolences and prayers to the family as we ask the Lord to comfort and heal during this time of grief. As always, we offer our services to the family.*

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**Lynnette Stuart and Josie Ellis** - February 20, 2025 at 06:20 AM