



## Ms. Elizabeth Graham

August 20, 1985 - April 23, 2021

Ms. Elizabeth DeRosette Graham, 36, transitioned on April 23, 2021. Known as “Liz,” she was a sister, godmother, auntie, daughter, an inspiration to all she touched, a powerful voice for justice, an advocate for science, an unabashed nerd, and a true, amazing friend. Elizabeth was born in Greenville, NC on August 20, 1984, the youngest daughter to James Graham and Floretta JoAnn Casey Graham, and the little sister to Carlton and Alexander Smith, both of whom she is survived by.

Diagnosed with sickle cell anemia from birth, she battled this disease all of her life, fighting through daily pain to graduate from East Carolina University with a degree in Bio Technology. It was her lifelong dream to graduate, and though she succeeded, her destiny to walk across the stage was cut short. It was her curiosity, her fighting spirit and her quirky, unquenchable need for information that led her to participate in several extracurricular activities, hobbies, and pursuits-- from cheerleading in grade school, to several activities at her church: Camp CARE, step teams, choir, and youth programs; and the sisterhood of the Eastern Stars to name a very few. She developed amazing friendships across many demographics and, though she could be quiet at times and fiery at others, was a central figure, the light and the gateway, for her both her blood family and chosen family.

She coined a phrase “Never Ending Research and Development” whose acronym was N.E.R.D. or nerd, and she wore her geek-ness proudly. Video

games, comics, wrestling, UNC basketball, movies, and of course music, particularly spiritual songs and the songs of Michael Jackson and the Jackson family, gave her solace. Her interest in mythology, science, history, fueled her intellect. Yes, she truly lived for a geek culture situation as these things empowered her to achieve her goals. Those things empowered and fueled her as a Sickle Cell Warrior. She fought diligently to help spread the knowledge of this disease that largely affects African descended people by participating in studies, helping found organizations, and posting on social media and in her general conversation. Elizabeth was driven to make the world know of sickle cell.

The most important thing for Elizabeth was her family. She was always there with a ride, hug, kind word, donation, birthday gifts, advocacy. She cherished her role as Casey family historian and secretary, having a vast knowledge of where we, her blood family, come from. She could look at a photo from any Casey family reunion from decades gone and give you the names of everyone in that photo. As well, her chosen family also meant everything to her. She was auntie, play-cousin, godmother, mentor, and a light in the life of so many young people. She was, is, our sister

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life Service

MAY 1. 1:00 PM (ET)

York Memorial AME Zion  
201 Tyson Street  
Greenville, NC

# Tribute Wall



“ *Ms. Elizabeth Graham*

October 06, 2023 at 05:52 AM



“ *To the family of Elizabeth Graham, on behalf of the McClaud family, we are so sorry to hear about Elizabeth. You all are in our prayers! Sincere, sincere condolences!*

**jacquelyn mcclaud** - May 19, 2021 at 09:58 PM



“ *Rest in Peace my siStar. Past Worthy Matron on Ladies Delight #10 Gail D. Dickerson*



**Gail Dickerson** - May 05, 2021 at 01:02 PM



“ *I will Truly Miss you Sis Elizabeth you are a True Soldier I will never Forget you My Friend you are in God's loving Army Now Prayers are with The Graham Family.*



**cheria Peterson-White** - May 01, 2021 at 05:48 PM



“ *The world has lost a strong. Intelligent, kind woman warrior. May her memory always be a blessing to those who knew and loved her.*

**Donna Zills** - May 01, 2021 at 08:49 AM

DP

“ We are sending our sincere condolences to the family of Sister Elizabeth Graham. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family during this most difficult time. Liz will truly be missed by many.



District 10 Order of Eastern Star- PHA - April 30, 2021 at 11:45 PM

CS

“ Congleton Funeral Home and Staff wishes to express our sincere condolence on the passing of your love one. We light this candle in their.



Congleton Funeral Home and Staff - April 30, 2021 at 07:03 PM

KK

“ May you rest in peace. Now you are in God hands.

*Kadell Kent*



Kadell Kent - April 30, 2021 at 11:03 AM

DL

“ Elizabeth you were a true warrior! may others embrace your spirit and carry on.  
*Darla Liles*



Darla liles - April 29, 2021 at 08:17 AM

MG

“ *Liz fought a battle for years that only few understood! May she rest in the arms of JESUS never to be in pain again!* ”



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**Miss Gilkey** - April 28, 2021 at 08:05 AM

EM

“ *Edith Frazier Mohammed lit a candle in memory of Ms. Elizabeth Graham* ”



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**Edith Frazier Mohammed** - April 27, 2021 at 01:28 PM