



Jada Dawn Marie Gillison

May 23, 2001 - March 21, 2017

“Life isn’t about waiting for the storm to pass. It’s about learning to dance in the rain.”

Jada Dawn Marie Gillison, affectionately known as “Jada Bada” and “Ju-Ju”, danced into this world and the hearts of her parents, Donovan Gillison and Jasmine Diggs Gillison, on May 23, 2001. Jada spent most of her life in the Northern Virginia area. As an elementary and middle school student, she would participate in various activities at Nannie J. Lee Recreation Center in Alexandria, Virginia including softball, dance, drama, mixed martial arts and cheerleading.

While attending Garfield High School, she was an active member on the swim team and was slated to become a Jr. Life Guard this summer. She was also a member of the Indianettes dance team. But she would excel as a cheerleader, participating in many competitions in the DMV area, eventually being selected as part of the CNN All Star Cheer squad in Woodbridge, Virginia.

Jada recently moved with her father to Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania and was a sophomore at Selinsgrove High School. Never one to shy away from a witty or snappy comeback, Jada was often described as “precocious, creative and adventurous”. This description was well suited for the teen with a love for anything associated with fashion, the arts –and especially travel. Jada dreamed of travelling to Paris and Rome for fashion week and exploring

Europe and Australia. In the meantime, she visited New York city, Puerto Rico, Orlando, Florida (Disney World), Nassau Bahamas and Denver, Colorado – not to mention her weekly excursions to Kings Dominion. In fact, she was planning a trip with her mother Jasmine to the Dominican Republic and Ibague, Colombia for her 16th birthday and Christmas, respectively. In addition to traveling together, Jada shared her passion for music and singing with her mother, often singing gospel songs together.

Jada and Donovan Gillison both departed this life on March 21, 2017. Jada leaves loving memories to be cherished by her mother Jasmine Diggs (who shares her birthday), sisters Domonique McKnight and Orianna Gillison, brothers Corbin and Sean Snyder, grandparents Richard and Vicky Diggs, great grandmothers Shirley Williams and Lonnie Crenshaw, uncles Ricky Diggs, Jr. (Galila), John U. Gillison II (Laura), John “Perk” Beckman, aunt Shalante Davis, godfathers Victor Vaughn (Ticona) and Larry Hamilton (Lacey) along with a host of cousins, relatives and friends. Jada was preceded in death by her paternal grandparents John Ulysses and Janice Marie Gillison, her great grandmother Barbara Diggs and uncle Mark Davis.

Jada shared her “life list”, things she wanted to do, prior to her passing. The list is an eclectic group of activities that is a testament to her charismatic personality and approach to life in general. Examples include meeting a famous person randomly (surrendering to fate), publishing a book (sharing your creativity), walking the red carpet at a huge event (embracing your confidence), finding a four-leaf clover (preparing for luck), going on a date with Drake (setting big goals), and crowd surfing (living fearlessly).

Although we will miss Jada every day, her exuberant spirit teaches us to dream big and live fully every day, without hesitation

Cemetery Details

Mt. Comfort Cemetery

6600 So. Kings Highway
Alexandria, VA 22306

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

MAR 31. 10:00 AM (ET)

Groveton Baptist Church
6511 Richmond Highway
Alexandria, VA 22306

Interment

MAR 31 (ET)

Mt. Comfort Cemetery
6600 So. Kings Highway
Alexandria, VA 22306

Tribute Wall

AS

“ R.I.P Cousin Jada Im going to miss all the good times.I remeber when I use to help babysit you and the rest of the crew with Aunt Shirley and Granny, from 2002-2005. R.I.P. Also

Andree Smith - March 31, 2017 at 04:55 PM

RS

“ Renee Seegars lit a candle in memory of Jada Dawn Marie Gillison



Renee Seegars - March 31, 2017 at 01:17 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Jada Dawn Marie Gillison.



March 30, 2017 at 04:21 PM

AB

“ Antoinette Burke lit a candle in memory of Jada Dawn Marie Gillison



Antoinette Burke - March 30, 2017 at 08:30 AM



“ *Pretty Please was purchased for the family of Jada Dawn Marie Gillison.*



March 29, 2017 at 05:23 PM



“ *Paul/Diane Williams & Family lit a candle in memory of Jada Dawn Marie Gillison*



Paul/Diane Williams & Family - March 29, 2017 at 05:08 PM



“ *From the Cecil Family*



Sherman Cecil - March 29, 2017 at 04:14 PM