



Mrs. Deborah Patricia Galloway-Coleman

April 21, 1952 - March 27, 2026

Mrs. Deborah Galloway-Coleman, age 73, transitioned on March 27, 2026, in Gainesville, FL.

Deborah Galloway-Coleman was born on April 21, 1952 in Gainesville, Florida to Eugene Simmons and Catherine Harris.

Deborah, a beacon of love, dedication, and service, has passed away, leaving an indelible mark on the hearts of thousands. Known affectionately as "Nanna" to her cherished grandchildren, and "Our Guhh" to her beloved daughters, her life was a testament to empowering and encouraging others.

Though her husband, Theodore Roosevelt Coleman preceded her in death, Deborah was a devoted mother to Donyal and Courtney. Deborah instilled in them her profound love for the Lord, her dedication to education, and her spirit of hard work. Her legacy lives on through their strength and love. Her devotion extended deeply to her grandchildren: Derryle, DeLoiyé, and D'Jhedyn. While D'Jhedyn preceded her in death, Deborah's love and the strong faithfulness to God and education she instilled in them all remain a powerful part of their lives. A loving and supportive sister to her siblings, a doting aunt, and a devoted godmother, Deborah cherished her family connections deeply. Her friendships, spanning many decades, were a testament to her loyalty and loving nature; she nurtured these bonds with unwavering care and

commitment, creating a true "tribe" of friends who became family.

Her faith was the cornerstone of her life. For over 60 years, she was a faithful member of Springhill Missionary Baptist Church, where her spirit of giving and deep commitment shone brightly. Over the years, she served in the choir, along with educational initiatives within the ministry.

Early in her career, she contributed 10 years of service to the government program C.E.T.A., passionately supporting community initiatives. For the last 43 years, Deborah dedicated herself to students at the University of Florida. She wasn't just an educator; she was a mentor, a source of inspiration, and a guiding light, touching countless lives with her passion for learning and her unwavering belief in their potential. Her commitment to nurturing young minds has left a profound legacy that will continue to inspire generations.

Deborah was also a proud and dedicated member of the prestigious Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority for over 25 years, embodying its principles of sisterhood and service.

Deborah's life was a profound example of unwavering love, hard work, and selfless service. Her spirit of compassion, generosity, and inspiration will be forever cherished by her family, friends, and all who were touched by her extraordinary life.

The Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated "Ivy Beyond the Wall" Ceremony will be held on Thursday, April 23, 2026 at 6:00 PM at Springhill Missionary Baptist Church, 120 SE Williston Road, Gainesville, FL 32641, Rev. Adrian S. Taylor, Pastor.

Public Visitation and Viewing for Mrs. Galloway-Coleman will be Friday, April 24, 2026 from 4:00 to 6:00 PM at Springhill Missionary Baptist Church.

Funeral Services will be held on Saturday, April 25, 2026 at 12:00 PM at Springhill Missionary Baptist Church. Interment will follow immediately in Pine Grove Cemetery, 401 SE 21st Avenue, Gainesville, FL 32641.

Resolutions may be emailed to wecare@chestnutfh.com before 5:00 PM on Friday, April 24, 2026. Floral Arrangements may be ordered online at www.chestnutfh.com/obituaries or delivered to Chestnut Funeral Home, 18 NW 8th Avenue, Gainesville, FL 32601.

"A CHESTNUT SERVICE"

Cemetery Details

Pine Grove Cemetery

402 SE 21st Avenue
Gainesville, FL 32641

Previous Events

Rosary

APR **14**. 6:00 PM - 6:30 PM (ET)

Chestnut Funeral Home
18 NW 8th Avenue
Gainesville, FL 32601

Public Viewing

APR **24**. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Springhill Baptist Church
120 SE Williston Road
Gainesville, FL 32641

Funeral Service

APR **25**. 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Springhill Baptist Church
120 SE Williston Road
Gainesville, FL 32641

Tribute Wall

ED

“ *Ernestine S Dorsey lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Deborah Patricia Galloway-Coleman*



Ernestine S Dorsey - May 04 at 01:27 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mrs. Deborah Patricia Galloway-Coleman.*



April 24 at 05:20 PM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Mrs. Deborah Patricia Galloway-Coleman.*

April 24 at 05:20 PM

KT

“ *Kenric, Aniyah, and Tayiah purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Mrs. Deborah Patricia Galloway-Coleman.*



Kenric, Aniyah, and Tayiah - April 24 at 12:24 PM

MG

“ *My girl*

I will truly miss your love and your light.

Thank you for being someone I could confide in, someone who held me to a higher standard, and someone I was blessed to call a friend, a sister, and a mother figure all in one.

We shared so many laughs and many lessons, and those moments helped shape the woman I am today in ways I'll always carry with me forever. I'm especially grateful I got to see your smile and to hug you tight one last time.

You will truly be missed but will forever be in my heart

Rest peacefully, Queen. Save a spot up there for me. ☐ 🕊️



Mykal Greene - April 24 at 10:24 AM

ED

Beautifully

Ernestine S Dorsey - May 04 at 01:28 PM

ED

Beautifully

Ernestine S Dorsey - May 04 at 01:28 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mrs. Deborah Patricia Galloway-Coleman.*



April 23 at 03:11 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Mrs. Deborah Patricia Galloway-Coleman.

April 23 at 03:11 PM



“ It is with a heavy heart that I share how much Ms. Coleman meant to me. Over the past three years, it has truly been a pleasure getting to know her. From the very first day I stepped into the office at UF, a bond was formed that I will always cherish.

Ms. Coleman had a special way of making people feel seen and cared for. I am especially grateful for the many times she took a moment to check in on me and my daughters, those small, thoughtful gestures meant more than she probably ever knew. She was also known for giving advice whether you asked for it or not and somehow, it always came right on time. She shared her stories with a sense of humor that could make you laugh, but within those laughs were lessons, wisdom, and real-life guidance that stayed with you long after the conversation ended.

Ms. Coleman has truly left a lasting mark on me. Her kindness, her words, and her spirit will continue to live on in all of us who had the privilege of knowing her. She will be deeply missed, but never forgotten.

May God welcome her with open arms and grant her eternal rest, and may His peace and comfort surround all who loved her.

Elzolla Williams - April 23 at 12:15 PM

MS

“ *Missing my Friend/Sister* 💔



Michelle Seabrooks - April 23 at 12:14 AM

RO

“ *My deepest condolences to the family. Mrs Debbie was always there for every time I'd step foot in the UF Financial Aid Office with a question or if I just needed to talk.*

Roderick Howard c/o 1999

Roderick - April 22 at 01:09 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Mrs. Deborah Patricia Galloway-Coleman.*



April 22 at 11:56 AM

KS

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Kimberly Staton - April 22 at 09:27 AM

TO

“ The E.M. OneStop purchased the Rainbow Of Remembrance Spray for the family of Mrs. Deborah Patricia Galloway-Coleman.



The E.M. OneStop - April 22 at 09:19 AM

TO

“ The E.M. OneStop planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mrs. Deborah Patricia Galloway-Coleman.

The E.M. OneStop - April 22 at 09:19 AM

BW

“ Missing my friend 🙏🕊️



Barbara J Williamson - April 21 at 02:26 PM

BW

Missing you 🙏🕊️

Barbara J Williamson - April 21 at 02:27 PM

LF

“ Love, Jen Towers & Family purchased the Heavenly Grace Spray for the family of Mrs. Deborah Patricia Galloway-Coleman.



Love, Jen Towers & Family - April 21 at 01:59 PM

LF

“ Love, Jen Towers & Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mrs. Deborah Patricia Galloway-Coleman.

Love, Jen Towers & Family - April 21 at 01:59 PM

MR

“ My first memory of you was walking into the financial aid office my first summer at UF back in 2001. You were warm and pleasant made me feel welcome, you gave me advice. Years later, I got to work beside you and again you offered guidance and advice. I was fortunate to share so many memories with you, the birth of my son, my promotions, so many days laughing and poking fun at Kimberly. It was/is nice to know I was one of your girls. I will miss you dearly, but know you will always be a legend.



Marie Guerra Rosado - April 21 at 10:22 AM

AF

“ *All of Us - Your Work Family purchased the Rose Garden Heart for the family of Mrs. Deborah Patricia Galloway-Coleman.*



All of Us - Your Work Family - April 20 at 12:20 PM

AF

“ *All of Us - Your Work Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mrs. Deborah Patricia Galloway-Coleman.*

All of Us - Your Work Family - April 20 at 12:20 PM

L8

“ *Sending sincerest condolences to the family.*

LHS Soulful 8+1 - April 14 at 11:55 AM

DY

“ *Sincere Condolences*



Diane Wood @ Amherst New York - April 11 at 07:49 PM



“ *Tender Tribute was purchased for the family of Mrs. Deborah Patricia Galloway-Coleman.*



April 10 at 01:19 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Mrs. Deborah Patricia Galloway-Coleman.

April 10 at 01:19 PM



“ *My deepest condolences to the family.* 🙏❤️



Joann Perkins - April 09 at 04:29 PM



“ *Andria W Lee lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Deborah Patricia Galloway-Coleman*



Andria W Lee - April 07 at 03:56 PM

AW

“ *In the brief time we shared, it was clear from the start that you embodied the love of Christ, and to me, you were not only a sister in faith, but also a beloved sister/friend in every sense; your presence radiated warmth and kindness, Mrs. Debbie, And I cherished every moment; Although our time was cut short, I'm reminded that God's plan is perfect and he called you home to be by his side where your beauty and love will forever shine. I'll hold you in my prayers and thoughts, and I'll continue to uplift your stunning family in love; May your memory inspire us all to live with purpose and faith, and may your Heavenly home be filled with Joy; Rest in Peace dear one, knowing you are deeply loved. Amen, Alicia Weed*

Alicia Weed - April 06 at 04:04 PM