



Minitria Elisabeth Slade

September 8, 1976 - December 28, 2024

Albany- Minitria Elisabeth Slade passed away unexpectedly at Albany Medical Center, Albany, New York, on December 28, 2024. She was born on September 8, 1976, in Lexington, Kentucky, to Dr. Leonard A. Slade, Jr. and Mrs. Roberta Hall Slade.

She is survived by her parents and beloved partner, Ms. Octavia Henderson, and her puppy, Biscuit Beatrice. The deceased is survived by three aunts, Mrs. Kathryn Smith Stephens (Lexington), Mrs. Virginia B. Smith (Lexington), and Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Settle (Maryland); and six uncles, Mr. William C. Slade, The Reverend Dr. Robert Earl Slade, Mr. Milton V. Slade, Mr. Jeffrey Slade, The Reverend Reginald Slade, and Mr. Cornelious Flood. She was predeceased by her great grandparents The Reverend Lewis Leland Hall (Bessie) and The Reverend Dr. T.H. Smith (Helen), Lexington, Kentucky.

Ms. Minitria Elisabeth Slade completed the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor with a bachelor's degree in Music History. She entered the graduate program in Educational Policy and Leadership at the University at Albany (SUNY), where she earned the Master of Science Degree. She was the Orchestra Director and String Teacher in the Albany City School District at the time of her death.

Among the orchestras in which she performed were The Empire State Youth

Orchestra, The Oberlin Conservatory Orchestra, The University of Michigan Symphony Orchestra, and as a Cello Soloist with The College of Saint Rose Symphony Orchestra at the Lincoln Center. She was also a substitute Cellist for the Schenectady Symphony Orchestra. Ms. Slade received the Golden Apple Award for Excellence in Teaching in the Albany City School District. Minitra had a sweet soul; she was loved by her family, friends, and students.

There will be no wake, viewing, funeral service, or memorial service in Albany. Funeral services will be held at Smith and Smith Funeral Home in Lexington, Kentucky. Burial will follow in The Lexington Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in her honor to Catholic Charities or to Blessed Sacrament School, 605 Central Avenue, Albany, New York 12206.

To leave a special message for the family, visit www.McVeighFuneralHome.com.

Tribute Wall

BR

“ Dear Leonard and Roberta...Joe and I send our deepest heartfelt sympathy and prayers to u all regarding the passing over of dear Minitria...Both of you poured everything you had into her and she glowed and had a special light that shines so bright whenever we saw her...we watched her blossom into a beautiful woman who was so kind ..respectful...and her beautiful soul will live forever . She touched children and adults everywhere she went...We will remember her beautiful smile...her warmth...her soft voice and the grace that she exuded....Our hearts are broken but we thank God that Minitria crossed our paths....Thank u both for sharing her with the world...May God provide comfort to u both and the entire family.
Love Joe and Barbara Roberts
Atlanta Georgia

Barbara and Joseph Roberts - February 14, 2025 at 10:49 PM

ML

“ I am deeply saddened to find out my Sister in Spirit, Minitria had passed away. I only knew her for a short time, but that spirited conversation let me know we shared positive energy. Because of it, I donated my childhood violin to her so her students would have another to use. I looked for her when I returned to AIA only to discover she now resides in heavenly glory. Meeting her was spiritually enriching on many levels. I will miss my sister when I walk into the building, but understand she rests in peace. Such a giving soul she was.
Sending prayers of strength to her family and friends for healing and peace.

Mauri

Mauri Davis- Lewis - January 30, 2025 at 09:32 AM

VL

“ *Dr. and Mrs. Slade,
My prayer is that God will continue to cover you at this very difficult time as only He can. I did not get to meet your daughter but I have known Roberta since her birth. Please know that your Lexington friends are praying for you.*
Valinda Lewis Livingston

Valinda Lewis Livingston - January 13, 2025 at 02:39 PM



“ *Rest in Power, dear a sweet friend.*



Cheryl Comer - January 07, 2025 at 08:48 PM

WJ

“ *Very sorry to hear of Minitria's sudden passing. Her father was a dear friend during the three years my wife and I lived in Albany (2012-15). Although I never met Minitria, we had a common connection with Oberlin College although I was there years before her. Dr. Slade was a dear friend to me while I was in Albany and attending the Episcopal Cathedral. I hope Dr. Slade will look me up if he is ever in Treasure Coast area if Florida.*

*Wendell P. Russell, Jr.
wendrllrussell23@yahoo.com*

Wendell P. Russell, Jr. - January 06, 2025 at 05:24 AM

MR

“ Minitria SLade was like a bonus daughter to this family...a sweet soul who endeared herself to all of us, including my father, brother and son. We a devastated to hear of her passing and hardly know how to express our grief. When she met my Dad, Rev. Anthony Elliott Sr., she immediately fell in love with him. My brother Anthony Elliott the III was her mentor and teacher at University of Michigan and my son, Charles E. Rush III has the pleasure of being her friend. Her parents are dear friends of long standing. The cello, her instrument of choice, is said to most nearly mimic the human voice and so will always remind me of her.



Marjorie Rush - January 05, 2025 at 10:04 AM

AS

“ I was deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Minitria, and send my deepest condolences to her parents and her partner, Octavia. I met Minitria decades ago, and still remember her creativity and bright smile. May her memory be a blessing to all who loved her.

Audrey Seidman - January 04, 2025 at 04:24 PM

JW

“ Ms Slade was truly a bright light in our school. She always had a kind word and smile for everyone. She was an exceptional teacher. She seemed lit from within. My heart goes out to her partner and the Slade family.

Jenn Warnecke - January 04, 2025 at 09:31 AM

WZ

“ Minitria, we will miss you, dear friend. It is hard to say goodbye to such a beautiful soul. Sincere condolences to all who loved her.



Willow Zielenski - January 03, 2025 at 12:10 PM

MR

“ Praising God for the life and legacy of Sis Minitra Slade. Such a gifted musician, extraordinary who Blessed all with her selflessness, and Love. An Angel walked amongst us. Get your rest little sis. We will see you later. Dr Slade and Soror Slade my heartfelt condolences to you and the Metropolitan family while walking through this valley of the shadow of death. Praying your strength in the Lord always.

Maddie Roberts - January 02, 2025 at 11:38 PM



“ A grove of 10 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Minitria Elisabeth Slade.

January 02, 2025 at 02:43 PM

AE

“ I send my sincerest condolences to the Slade Family on the passing of dear Minitria. I had the honor of being her cello professor at the University of Michigan for four years. I will always remember her smile, her warmth, her compassion, and her humility. She was deeply engaged with music and with people. Her gentle, caring nature enabled her to bond with her students and made her highly successful as a teacher and leader. I am going to miss her deeply!

Anthony Elliott, Emeritus Professor of Music, The University of Michigan

Anthony Elliott - January 02, 2025 at 01:12 PM



Prof Elliott— I still have the photo of us playing on MLK Day at Michigan. Love you both. How can I reach you? ❤️

Cheryl Comer - January 07, 2025 at 08:50 PM

JL

“ Sending deep condolences and prayers to Minitria’s family. We attended the University of Michigan School of Music together and played in the same chamber group. We’ve stayed in touch since; Minitria often sent encouraging messages supporting my outreach work and musical endeavors - I even had a chance to Zoom with one of her orchestras during the pandemic! She was a phenomenal cellist and music educator. Minitria was a bright light that will be sorely missed - but what she deposited into all of us who were blessed to know her will live on. / John Littlejohn

John Littlejohn - January 02, 2025 at 11:45 AM

BG

“ Sending sincere condolences to you, Len, Roberta, and family, from Pamela and me. May you find comfort in having raised such a special daughter. With affection, Bob Gluck

Bob Gluck - January 02, 2025 at 08:03 AM

YA

“ John and Yvonne Abunaw send their deepest condolences on the passing of your beloved daughter. We pray that God's grace will bring you comfort. ❤️

Yvonne Abunaw - January 02, 2025 at 06:46 AM

NA

“ Dr. Slade and Soror Slade, please accept my condolences on the passing of your beloved daughter. You and your family are in my prayers.
-Natisha Alexander

Natisha Alexander - January 02, 2025 at 12:29 AM

DJ

“ Dear Dr. and Mrs. Slade, as your daughter's faith is now sight; may the reconciliation to your new reality be peaceful, merciful and grace-filled.

DR. ROBERT L. MILLER, Jr. - January 01, 2025 at 07:53 PM

BS

Dear Minitria's gentle soul, loving presence and sweet spirit will be remembered by all who were blessed to know and love her.

Thank you for gracing us with your gentle kindness, compassion and love.

Well done good, and faithful servant of God!!

Betty, Erik and Sean Shadrick

Betty Shadrick - January 03, 2025 at 04:16 PM

 Jugba Santi

“ *My heartfelt condolences to Dr. and Mrs. Slade and your loved ones during this difficult time.*

Jugba Santi - January 01, 2025 at 07:50 PM

LB

“ *Please accept my deepest condolence on the passing of your lovely daughter.*

~ Lola Brabham



Lola Brabham - January 01, 2025 at 06:38 PM

LJ

“ *My heart goes out to our dear friends, the Slades. Minitria was indeed a very special young lady and exceptional teacher and musician. May her beautiful spirit live on in the hearts of all who were touched by her presence.*

Linda Jackson-Chalmers - January 01, 2025 at 01:38 PM

CH

“ I will remember Minitria's beautiful smile, kindness and especially her passion for music that she shared with everyone! It was wonderful to know her and work with her for many years. My condolences to the family and loved ones. Rest in peace my friend.
Christina Harkavy
Teacher
Delaware Coummunity School

Christina F. Harkavy - January 01, 2025 at 06:16 AM

KH

My deepest sympathy to Dr and Mrs Slade. I will miss late night texts with Minitria, pictures of Beatrice and her with Octavia. She was a loving caring person who was special to Octavia. I am proud of all she accomplished. I felt blessed to have her in my life. She has gone to be with the Lord. Rest in peace and power Minitria.

Kathy Henderson - January 02, 2025 at 05:54 AM

BS

“ I am sending my deepest sympathy to you Dr. and Mrs. Slade. I was so privileged to know Minitria and to benefit from her profound kindness, generosity, and talent. I am so sorry for your family's loss.
Barbara Smith

Barbara Smith - January 01, 2025 at 02:07 AM

GD

Please know dear Len, I am holding you and Mrs Slade and Ms Henderson in my heart today. Minitria touched many lives with her gifts and her grace. Sending deep condolences and love,
Gloria DeSole

Gloria DeSole - January 02, 2025 at 03:57 PM

KB

We are so grateful for Ms. Slade's love for and dedication to her students. The Albany Fund for Education honors her as a great partner, friend, advocate and colleague. Her talent and her kindness inspired her students and left all of us in awe. She taught us all not only the beauty of art and music, but also humanity. Bless her, her memory and her family.

Kathryn Bamberger - January 03, 2025 at 12:27 PM