



Mrs. Marion Louise Tolen

January 16, 1950 - January 12, 2026

Mrs. Marion Tolen, age 75, passed away on Monday, January 12, 2026, at Emory Hospital in Decatur, GA.

Marion was born in 1950 to the late Mr. and Mrs. Eugene and Mary Magdalene Gilstrap. She was one of ten children. Marion and her family were devoted members of Triumph the Church and Kingdom of God in Christ in Atlanta, Georgia.

In 1968, Marion graduated from West Fulton High School in Atlanta. After graduation, she began working and remained a hardworking and dedicated woman throughout her life.

In June 1973, Marion met and married Carey Tolen. From this union, three children were born. Marion was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. She will always be remembered for her kindness, warm sense of humor, and her unwavering acts of love and generosity toward others.

Marion was preceded in death by her husband, Carey Tolen; her children, Kimwana R. Mathis and Carey Santez Tolen; two sisters, Ms. Mary (William) Favors and Mrs. Virginia Moore; three brothers, Eugene Gilstrap Jr., Lamar Gilstrap, and Michael Gilstrap; and one brother-in-law, Julian Carter.

Left to cherish her precious memories are: her son, Ontario (Faleshia) Tolen; daughter-in-law, Lakethia Tolen; four grandchildren she raised as her own children—Dalonn White, Brittney White, Whittney White, and Shakeria Alexander; six additional grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Marion is also survived by three sisters, Julia G. Edon, Sarah Carter, and Patricia Carter; one brother, Sammy (Avis) Gilstrap; sister-in-law, Mrs. Teri Gilstrap; along with a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives, and dear friends.