



# Tonya Loraine Davenport

May 21, 1969 - March 15, 2025

Tonya Loraine Davenport

Earth's Gift: May 21, 1969 – Heaven's Gain: March 15, 2025

Tonya Loraine Davenport was born on May 21, 1969, in San Antonio, Texas, to the late Ladye Viviane Wade and Eugene Davenport. From her early days, Tonya exemplified brilliance and a zest for life.

She attended public schools in the San Antonio Independent School District, where she made her mark as a cheerleader, band member, and athlete at Emerson Middle School. During her time at Lewis W. Fox Technical High School, Tonya showcased her musical talents as a flutist in the Buffalo Band, excelled academically as an honor student, and gained recognition in the 1987 edition of *Who's Who Among American High School Students*. Her educational journey continued at Texas Southern University in Houston, Texas, beginning in the summer of 1987. There, she proudly joined the prestigious Ocean of Soul Marching Band.

Faith played a pivotal role throughout Tonya's life. She worshipped at New Mount Pleasant Baptist Church as a child under Reverend John Carlton Allen's leadership. As an adult, she was an active choir member at East St. Paul United Methodist Church and later joined The Faith Center, where she served in the Hospitality Ministry under Pastor Vincent Campbell.

Tonya's joy and pride were her family. She was a devoted mother to three children: Jamel Laron Smith, Jawaun Allen Smith, and Nia Ricole Horne, and a loving grandmother to Ava J. Smith, who brought sunshine and happiness

into her life. Tonya also lovingly embraced bonus children Marquise Black, Ayana Black, and Elijah Preddie, who affectionately called her “Mama Bear.” In her professional career, Tonya excelled in Information Systems, contributing to several esteemed healthcare organizations, including her most current employer WellMed, where she was a Sr. Data Analyst. Her entrepreneurial spirit shone through her years as an independent beauty consultant with Mary Kay Cosmetics and on the AIB TV Network's Women of Destiny show, where Tonya inspired audiences with her segment, Step Up, Reach Out, Make Things Happen. Her philosophy culminated in her book, Step Up, Reach Out, Make Things Happen: 7 Powers to Win.

A dedicated member of Toastmasters International, Tonya attained the esteemed designation of Distinguished Toastmaster (DTM), Toastmasters' highest honor. She served in leadership roles, including District 14 Parliamentarian during the 2010–2011 term, empowering countless individuals with her mentorship and guidance.

Tonya is preceded in death by her beloved parents and sister, Angela Davenport Bush. She leaves behind a legacy cherished by her children, Jamel Laron Smith, Jawaun Allen Smith, Nia Ricole Horne, and granddaughter Ava J. Smith. Also honoring her memory are her siblings, Sonya Wade San Antonio, Texas, Charles Francis (Verna) Ellenwood, Georgia, Tracy Alexander (Treavel) Cedar Hill, Texas, and bonus sister Stacy Winslow, Houston, Texas. A host of nieces and nephews—Patrick Wade (Sharon), Nicholas Wade (Mia), Khadija Francis, Alexandria Nichols, Clinton “Tre” Bush, Imani Francis, Danyelle Wade, Braylen Wade and many aunts, uncles and cousins —carry forward her spirit.

Special recognition belongs to Ava, Tonya’s spirited nine-year-old granddaughter an aspiring Olympic gold medalist, and Benji, her cherished pet pooch, who brought her immense joy.

Lastly, heartfelt gratitude goes out to Tonya’s cherished childhood friends who have been by her side since the very beginning, as well as the incredible friends she has made throughout her journey.

Tonya Loraine Davenport lived a life defined by purpose, passion, and faith. She leaves behind an enduring legacy of love, empowerment, and unwavering determination.

Tonya's mantra echoed her dynamic presence and indomitable spirit: I'm active, I'm attractive, I'm in demand, I'm a mover and shaker, and I work my plan. I love to speak, and I have a dream: To inspire and empower all to the best That God created them to be. I'm a woman on a mission, I will reach my goal; I have power, I have purpose, and I am on a roll!

The celebration of life service for Tonya Davenport will be live streamed on Friday, April 4, 2025 at 11:00 AM. If the event is interrupted at any time due to technical issues, the entire event will be uploaded and available to view later in the day. Please copy and paste the link to share, or simply click on the link to view the event.

<https://vimeo.com/event/5020235>

# Previous Events

## Visitation

APR 3. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Rainbow Park Baptist Church  
2941 Columbia Dr  
Decatur, GA 30034

## Funeral Service

APR 4. 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM (ET)

The Faith Center  
4600 North Royal Atlanta Drive  
Tucker, GA 30084-3830

# Tribute Wall

PR

“ Pam R lit a candle in memory of Tonya Loraine Davenport



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**Pam R** - April 04, 2025 at 01:49 PM

KL

“ God has blessed me with your friendship, laughter and your love for Christ. I will always appreciate you inviting me to church and treating me like family.

Love,

*Kelvin Laron Hamilton*

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**KLH** - April 04, 2025 at 11:54 AM

RH

“ Rest In Peace my sister. You will be dearly missed. Much Love.

*Ronny Hornback*

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**RONNY HORNBACK** - April 04, 2025 at 07:04 AM

TJ

“ Tonya J. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Tonya Loraine Davenport.

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**Tonya J.** - April 03, 2025 at 04:31 PM

TM

“ *The Moultons purchased the Peace, Prayers, & Blessings- Lavender and White for the family of Tonya Loraine Davenport.*



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**The Moultons** - April 03, 2025 at 12:31 PM

JW

“ *In living memory of Tonya. Gone too soon. Rest in eternal peace.*



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**Jennifer Wilson** - April 03, 2025 at 08:57 AM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Tonya Loraine Davenport.*

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April 03, 2025 at 08:56 AM

DW

“ *Dr. Shirley H. Wright planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Tonya Loraine Davenport.*

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**Dr. Shirley H. Wright** - April 02, 2025 at 11:02 PM

DW

“ Dr. Shirley H. Wright purchased the Floor Plant for Sympathy for the family of Tonya Loraine Davenport.



Dr. Shirley H. Wright - April 02, 2025 at 11:02 PM

DI

“ Dorothy Robitaille Aetna INC purchased the Peace, Prayers & Blessings - Blue and White for the family of Tonya Loraine Davenport.



Dorothy Robitaille Aetna INC - April 02, 2025 at 09:38 AM

TA

“ I am so glad I had the opportunity to see, share, and hang with my crab sister these past few years of homecoming. She was quiet, sweet, but not afraid to speak her mind when we all gathered at TSU in '87. It was a pleasure knowing her and being a friend. Reading her accomplishments inspires me to keep pushing and be the fierce woman God created. Way to go Crab Sister!! Beautiful accomplishments and encouragement we all can take to heart. To the family: "lean not to your own understanding; in all of your ways continue to trust God with all your heart and He will direct your path". Proverbs 3. Give grace to one another and allow yourselves time to grieve the passing of your beautiful loved one. May the peace of God carry each of you daily.

Tara - April 01, 2025 at 11:40 PM

TC

“ The Ocean of Soul Fall '87 Crabs planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Tonya Loraine Davenport.

The Ocean of Soul Fall '87 Crabs - April 01, 2025 at 11:03 PM

TC

“ The Ocean of Soul Fall '87 Crabs purchased the Floor Plant for Sympathy for the family of Tonya Loraine Davenport.



The Ocean of Soul Fall '87 Crabs - April 01, 2025 at 11:03 PM



“ Classic Sympathy Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Tonya Loraine Davenport.



April 01, 2025 at 11:53 AM

JN

“ Joel Ngumbah lit a candle in memory of Tonya Loraine Davenport



Joel Ngumbah - March 27, 2025 at 09:49 AM



“ *Red & White Mixed Half Casket Cover was purchased for the family of Tonya Loraine Davenport.*



March 24, 2025 at 01:28 PM



“ *Urlin and Stephanie Wade planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Tonya Loraine Davenport.*

**Urlin and Stephanie Wade** - March 23, 2025 at 07:27 PM



“ *Urlin and Stephanie Wade purchased the Peace, Prayers, & Blessings- Lavender and White for the family of Tonya Loraine Davenport.*



**Urlin and Stephanie Wade** - March 23, 2025 at 07:27 PM



“ *Eric Leaphart purchased the Classic Sympathy Dish Garden for the family of Tonya Loraine Davenport.*



**Eric Leaphart** - March 23, 2025 at 05:00 PM

EL

“ Eric Leaphart planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Tonya Loraine Davenport.

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**Eric Leaphart** - March 23, 2025 at 05:00 PM

M7

“ To the Davenport family. We send deepest condolences and prayers for you all. A fun loving , caring,brilliant, smart, woman. I can go on and on about our sister friend , our heart ache and we will miss Tonya so much. We are praying for and with you all. We love you all.

*The Ladies of Magic 7*

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**Magic 7** - March 22, 2025 at 08:12 PM