



*Celebrating
the Life
of*

J. Tolara
J. TOLARA

NOVEMBER 23, 1946 - MARCH 30, 2025

Her Story

Order of Service

Helen J. Tolar, a beacon of love and generosity, was born on November 23, 1946, in Glendora, Mississippi, to her devoted parents, Elease and Casey Tolar, who preceded her in death. From them, she inherited an unwavering faith in God, a heart for serving others, and the wisdom that shaped her into the remarkable woman she became. Helen's life was a testament to selflessness—always ready to extend a helping hand or a word of encouragement.

A cherished matriarch, Helen found immense joy in cooking for her family. Her meals were more than just nourishment; they were gatherings filled with laughter, love, and memories that will forever be treasured.

Helen was the third of nine siblings, five of whom preceded her in death: Rudolph Tolar, Casey Tolar Jr., James Tolar, Odessa Stribling, and Marilyn Tolar. She leaves behind her loving sisters: Barbara Taylor (Grant), Mildred Jefferson (John), and Elease Tolar (Sam), who continue to honor her legacy of kindness and resilience.

In her youth, Helen moved to Chicago, where she attended Parkman Grammar School and graduated from C.V.S. High School. Driven by a passion for care-giving, she pursued nursing at Dawson Skill Center, earning her L.P.N. credentials at the top of her class. It was during this time that she met the love of her life, Erias Harris Jr. (who preceded her in death), and together they built a beautiful, blended family of four children: Nathaniel Tolar (NaToya), Warren Tolar (preceded her in death, survived by Kathy), Cheryl Taylor (Herb), and Karen Woods (William).

Helen's dedication to nursing only grew stronger. She earned her master's degree in nursing from Kennedy-King College, again graduating at the top of her class, and devoted 40 years of faithful service at St. Mary of Nazareth Hospital before retiring.

Her legacy lives on through her adored grandchildren: Terrance Johnson (Letheda), Nathaniel Delafosse (Arica), Artaveria Prince, Dominique Delafosse (Brii), Antonio Prince, Arieal Prince (Devon), Mercedes Woods, William Woods Jr., John Fleming, Alexis Woods, and Brandon Tolar; as well as a host of great-grandchildren, great-great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and friends. Though too numerous to name, each held a special place in Helen's heart, and she cherished every bond uniquely.

Helen's love, wisdom, and warmth will forever remain in the hearts of those who knew her. She will be deeply missed, but her spirit lives on in the countless lives she touched.

Friday April 11, 2025

Visitation: 10:00 am | Service: 11:00 am

Progressive Funeral Parlor
7208 South Stony Island Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60649

Processional
Family

Scripture Reading
Old Testament
New Testament

Prayer

Reflections
2 Minutes Please
5 People

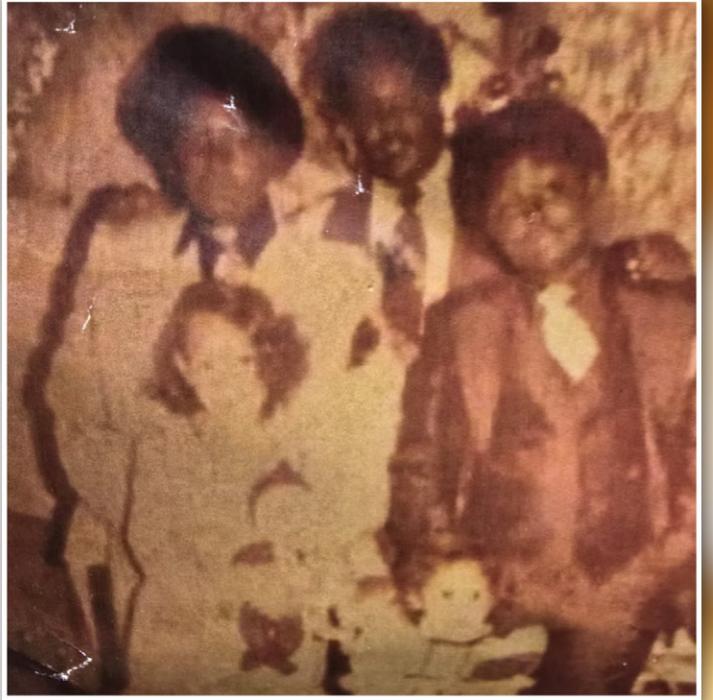
Obituary
Arieal Prince

Eulogy & Words of Comfort

Recessional

Interment
Mount Hope Cemetery
11500 S. Fairfield Ave. | Chicago, IL

Repast
Masonic Hall
8220 S. Western Ave. | Chicago, IL
Immediately following Interment





To my sister Helen

There has been no better sister than you. You was always a caring loving sister, mom, aunt and friend. We were so thankful and blessed to have had you in our lives. We don't know what we would have done without you there for us. You meant the world to all of us, and we love you and you will truly be missed.

So, rest in heaven my sister. From your loving sisters

Mildred and Elease Jr.

Pallbearers

Terrance Johnson
Dominique Delafosse
William Woods, Jr.

Nathaniel Delafosse
Antonio Prince
John Fleming

Honorary Pallbearers

Brandon Tolar
Roger Stribling
Corey Tolar

Devon Ellzey
Kenny Johnson
Kevin Tolar

Acknowledgements

The family of Helen J. Tolar are truly and deeply grateful to all who showed their love and support in any way during our time of bereavement. May God bless each of you.

Arrangements Entrusted to:



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