

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Pallbearers

Lenelle Nutt, Tracy Peaks, Dukes Madison

Acknowledgments

The family would like to say thank you to Mount Carmel Hospice for their compassion and care shown not only to Tonya but the entire family. The James Cancer Center staff, Abbott Nutrition employees, Marvin Johnson's Mortuary Transport service. Monica with Marlan Gary for the love they have shown during this trying hour. The Chapel of peace and their wonderful staff, True Love Ministries Pastor Sherwin Armistead, Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church Pastor Roy Terry for his willingness to support in what ever capacity we needed, International Christian Center, Pastor Tyus Nedd, and Patricia Nedd, thank you for your kindness and abundance of generosity during our time of need. To friends and neighbors who helped in any way, we sincerely say thank you!

Tonya Renee HAIRSTON

FEBRUARY 15, 1971 — DECEMBER 7, 2025

Monday, December 15, 2025
Visitation 11:00am | Service 12:00pm

International Christian Center
6600 Busch Blvd, Columbus, OH 43229



MARLAN GARY
FUNERAL HOME
1 FUNERAL HOME | 5 LOCATIONS

MINISTRY OF COMFORT ENTRUSTED TO:

NORTH CHAPEL
2500 CLEVELAND AVE.,
COLUMBUS, OH 43211
614-267-8310

EAST CHAPEL
5456 LIVINGSTON AVE.,
COLUMBUS, OH 43232
614-604-8774

MANSFIELD CHAPEL
753 MCPHERSON ST.,
MANSFIELD, OH 44903
419-524-6999

SPRINGFIELD CHAPEL
823 SOUTH YELLOW SPRINGS ST.,
SPRINGFIELD, OH 45506
937-325-1447

CINCINNATI CHAPEL
674 FOREST AVE.
CINCINNATI OH 45229
513-221-4812

WWW.THECHAPELOFPEACE.COM

Obituary

On a cold day, February 15, 1971, in the city of Columbus, Ohio, Tonya Renee Hairston entered the world. She brought with her a ray of sunshine that could warm even the coldest day, filling the hearts of her parents, the late Nancy C. Watlington Hairston and Robert J. Hairston, with immense joy.

Throughout her life, Tonya had a remarkable ability to bring happiness to everyone she met. During her time in high school, she developed a love for athletics and was recognized by her peers, being voted the most athletic in her class. After graduating from Mifflin High School as a member of the class of 1989, Tonya continued her education at Columbus State. There, she played basketball as a point guard, further showcasing her athleticism and dedication. Following her time at Columbus State, Tonya entered the workforce. She served as a guard at the Department of Youth Services and Delaware County Prison. For the past 27 years, she was a dedicated employee of Abbott Pharmaceuticals, where her commitment and warmth continued to touch those around her.

The warmth Tonya brought to her parents at birth continued to radiate throughout her life, evident in the love she shared with her family and friends. Her unique personality shone through in her passions—Tonya was a devoted fan of "Ohio State and Michigan, she wore the shirt, I root for booth" a testament to her individuality and her statement, "I'm not like everyone; I am Tonya Renee." Additionally, she was an avid Steelers fan.

Tonya's warmth and joy were felt not only in Columbus but wherever she traveled. Her love for exploring new places took her to the Dominican Republic and Jamaica. Among her favorite adventures were "girls" trips to Las Vegas, which she treasured deeply—embodying the spirit of, "what happens in Vegas, stays in Vegas."

On December 7, 2025, our ray of sunshine, Tonya Renee Hairston, was greeted by an even greater light, guiding her to join her parents, Nancy C. Watlington Hairston and Robert J. Hairston; her grandparents, Obediah Hairston and Arlethia Hairston; and other friends and loved ones who preceded her in death.

Tonya's legacy of love continues to live on through her companion of 20 years, David Scott; her son, Marcellus Calhoun (Lexi); her daughter, Mariah Calhoun; her son, Dominique Scott (Nina); her grandson, Koen Scott; her brother, Robert Hairston; her sister, Diane Coleman; her Aunt, Brenda Cherry; her Uncles, Cecil Hairston and Stephen "Babe" Hairston; her special friend, Delphine Rodgers; her cousins, extended family, and a host of friends.

A line from her favorite song beautifully captures her spirit: "I didn't want to go, I didn't want to leave, but I'm with Jesus. I just wanna be right here, right now."

Remember Me

To the living, I am gone,
To the sorrowful, I will never return,
To the angry, I was cheated,
But to the happy, I am at peace,
And to the faithful, I have never left.

I cannot speak, but I can listen.
I cannot be seen, but I can be heard.
So as you stand upon a shore gazing at a beautiful sea,
As you look upon a flower and admire its simplicity,
Remember me.

Remember me in your heart:
Your thoughts, and your memories,
Of the times we loved,
The times we cried,
The times we fought,
The times we laughed.
For if you always think of me, I will never have gone.

Tonya Renee
HAIRSTON

FEBRUARY 15, 1971 — DECEMBER 7, 2025



God's Garden

God looked around his garden
And found an empty place,
He then looked down upon the earth
And saw your tired face.
He put his arms around you
And lifted you to rest.
God's garden must be beautiful
He always takes the best.
He knew that you were suffering
He knew you were in pain.
He knew that you would never
Get well on earth again.
He saw the road was getting rough
And the hills were hard to climb.
So he closed your weary eyelids
And whispered, 'Peace bethine'.
It broke our hearts to lose you
But you didn't go alone,
For part of us went with you
The day God called you home.

Order Of Service

PASTOR TYUS — MASTER OF CEREMONY

ORGAN PRELUDE

PARTING VIEW

SCRIPTURE READING

Pastor Trayon Cassie, Youth Pastor

Old Testament: Psalm 23

New Testament: 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18

PRAYER

Pastor Tyus Nedd

SELECTION

Priscilla Woodson

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT / CONDOLENCES

Patricia Nedd

REMARKS

Abbott Rep – Rotha Many-Bays ~ Robin Loney ~ Tracy Peaks

Priscilla White ~ Char Hairston ~ Donald Scott

READING OF OBITUARY

Silently – Soft Music

SELECTION

Cherie Graham

THE EULOGY

Pastor Roy Terry

BENEDICTION

Clergy/Pastor Tyus Nedd

RECESSIONAL

Clergy, Family, Friends

