



Tonya Evita Rapley

July 31, 1960 - April 14, 2023

Tonya Evita Rapley, lovingly known as “Tuna” or “Tuna Fish,” was born in Brooklyn, New York

on July 31st, 1960 to Vivian and the late Joseph Rapley Jr. She entered eternal rest on Wednesday, April 13th, 2023 at her Brooklyn home.

Tonya was a follower of Jesus. She was baptized and became a member of the New Star Baptist

Church in Queens, New York. Tonya attended and graduated from Springfield Gardens High School in

Queens, New York. On July 30th, 1985, Tonya bore her one and only son, Joseph Tajon Rapley.

Thereafter, she entered a fruitful career dedicating herself to helping others.

Tonya worked tirelessly as an advocate for residents at Urban Strategies and women at Rikers

Island Prison. Tonya’s ability to make people feel valued, appreciated, and triumphant was one of her

greatest strengths. Her impact was immeasurable and immortalized in the hearts of the people she served and befriended.

Tonya was a vibrant person who thrived in creativity. She could be most recognized for her knack

for decorating, baking, and style. She adored her family and stood by and

supported every niece, uncle, nephew, brother, or cousin with her whole being. Tonya exhibited the true meaning of God's love in every aspect of her life and blessed everyone she encountered with her wonderfully bright, selfless, and kind spirit.

The loving memories of Tonya will be eternally cherished by her son, Joseph "Tajon" Rapley of New York; her lovely mother Vivian Rapley of Charlotte, North Carolina; her brother, Joseph Donnell Rapley (Sharon) of Florida; her cousins raised as her brothers and sisters, Ernest L. Chamblee of New York, Terresa Chin (Devon) of Florida, Rhonda Chamblee (Harvey) of Florida, Marlene Valley (Dell) of Pennsylvania, Charlene Isom (Reginald) of Georgia; special aunts, uncles, two nieces, nephews, cousins, and a host of other relatives and friends.

Previous Events

Service

APR **23**. 1:30 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Christian Cultural Center
12020 Flatlands Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11207

Service

APR **23**. 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM (ET)

Christian Cultural Center
12020 Flatlands Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11207

Tribute Wall



“ *Rap never forgot no one could break her nobody alive* ”



Damon Morris - April 23, 2023 at 05:50 PM



Always remember no one can break you nobody alive

Damon Morris - April 23, 2023 at 05:52 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Tonya Evita Rapley.* ”



April 23, 2023 at 12:24 PM



“ *Tonya you were my one and only Sister. I will miss you terribly! Together we've had over a million and one laughs, conversations and simply good times. These memories I will always cherish. Love you so much Sis!* ”



Lavonia O'Neil - April 23, 2023 at 07:49 AM



Tonya when I tell you I'm gonna miss you feel that in my soul I loss my 2 sis and you replaced them you are the best that ever did it Love You sis

Shelly Michelle

Michelle Malphurs - April 24, 2023 at 09:09 PM

“ My family and I had the good fortune of meeting Tonya through the shelter. My young daughter had learned that homeless kids could not get a library card because they didn't have a permanent address and she wanted to create a library in a shelter where kids could meet, do their homework, and take books home to read before they went to sleep the way she did.

Twenty-one shelters turned us down. When the need for resources are sorely lacking, something like a library seemed inconsequential. But not to Tonya.

When we finally found Tonya, she immediately understood that education was the clearest way to lift yourself up and change your circumstances. And she understood that reading was the key to this education. The library project took a year to complete, and whenever we hit what we thought was an insurmountable wall, Tonya calmly and intelligently found away over or under the wall, or she would blast her way right through the roadblock to make a path for us. She did it with grace and good humor. It was remarkable to watch. When Tonya had a goal in sight, a goal she thought would help others, she wouldn't give up.

For my family and me, Tonya was an angel on earth. She had the biggest heart, yet she was nobody's fool. She saw things clearly and she'd tell it like it is, but never with malice. She had a special place in that big heart of hers for children, especially the ones at the shelter.

When we finally opened the library and the children began to use it, I don't know who was happier – my daughter and I, or Tonya. And even after she left the shelter, Tonya would keep in touch, gently reminding us the library might need a fresh coat of paint, or asking us to underwrite Christmas parties for her shelter kids.

The library was a life-changing event for our family. My daughter is grown now, but because of Tonya, my daughter went on to college

and studied urban planning, with a focus on permanent housing for the homeless.

Like all of you, I was heartsick to hear of Tonya's passing. If anyone deserved a long and easier life, it was she. But I celebrate the gift of being lucky enough to have known her. She taught me, without knowing she was teaching, the importance of commitment to something bigger than yourself. She showed that a life of dedication can have huge consequences on the lives of many many others. And she showed how doing blessed work for others gives you blessings yourself.

My family offers our deepest condolences to Tonya's family and friends. Rest in peace, Tonya. You will not be forgotten.

Lynn Balaban - April 22, 2023 at 05:19 PM

DP

That was just who my cousin was, a nurturer, loving and would go above and beyond to help others.

Donna Price - April 22, 2023 at 09:20 PM

RB

“*Tonya was my friend. We didn't see each other often, however, she was always there to support me in any of my endeavors.*

*Every year she would have a holiday dessert bar for the homeless families in the shelter and I was going to support her last year. I couldn't make it and she said to me she understood. Yes, my friend was a special woman and I'm going to miss her dearly. May She Rest in Peace, my friend. I love you.
Renee Boyd.*



Renee Boyd - April 22, 2023 at 01:32 PM

JM

“ Tuna, my friend ,sister,family...
I'm only human so I have to admit I'm lost 😞 I can't imagine life without you. I know only GOD and his angels can give you the love and comfort you truly deserve. May the heavens be blessed to have an angel such as you added to their throne because baby you are the best!
I love you Tuna always jazzy



jazzy mason - April 22, 2023 at 12:37 PM

LG

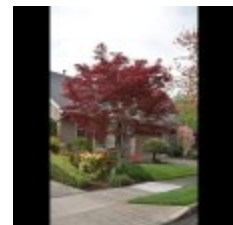
“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Leroy Grant - April 22, 2023 at 11:39 AM



“ Red Leaf Japanese Maple was purchased for the family of Tonya Evita Rapley.



April 22, 2023 at 08:45 AM

JB

“ *My friendship with Tonya is deeper than this earthly world. Her spirit will live with me forever! Love you Chocolate Chip, Double dipped - FOREVER!* ”



Jacqueline Brown - April 22, 2023 at 08:00 AM

TC

“ *Tuna..You had a unique way of making everyone around you feel special and loved, and your absence has left a void in our lives that can never be filled.
I will never forget the memories we shared and the laughter we had,. I will miss you and I will always love you. One Love, Terrie Berrie!* ”



Terresa Chin - April 22, 2023 at 05:59 AM



“ *From the beginning to eternity I love you. Normally I can put some words together, but I'm at a loss. Tonya Evita, Tuna, I miss you.* ”



Joseph Rapley - April 21, 2023 at 11:04 PM



“ *Vivid Recollections was purchased for the family of Tonya Evita Rapley.*



April 21, 2023 at 08:54 PM



“ *Truly one of the best Aunts a girl could ask for. What a light you ARE Auntie. I cherish the time we spent when you allowed me to live with you while I got my bearings in NYC. I cherish the champion you were for Nicole and I. You taught us so much without having to say much. What an honor it is to be your namesake. I love you and family gatherings won't be the same without my auntie.*



Tonya B Rapley - April 21, 2023 at 07:01 PM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Tonya Evita Rapley.*



April 21, 2023 at 11:14 AM



“ *Treasured Lilies Spray was purchased for the family of Tonya Evita Rapley.*



April 21, 2023 at 09:46 AM



“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Loise Duncan - April 20, 2023 at 09:39 PM



“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Loise Duncan - April 20, 2023 at 09:36 PM



“ *To my "SissyPie"....As the days grow near I'm still trying to understand that your not here. There's so much that we didn't get a chance to talk about or laugh about. 41years isn't enough. Time waits for no one. Time is short. I told you!
Love your "crazy-ass" Sissy. Miss you always .*

Loise Duncan - April 20, 2023 at 09:22 PM

DP

“ *Cousin, I will forever cherish our memories together. Our weekly hours long conversations, our FaceTimes, my weekend at your place, we had a ball! I know GOD granted you Paradise with HIM and I know I will see you again. Love and miss you forever and always!*

Donna Price - April 20, 2023 at 02:15 PM

ER

“ *We will miss bringing in the New Year's with you Tonya
Love You ☆ Truly ☆ Madly ☆ Deeply*



Ernest - April 20, 2023 at 04:21 AM

RS

“ *R.i.p tonya she was a beautiful person*



Rocquel Stone - April 20, 2023 at 12:34 AM

SS

“ I will never forget all the memories we have created together You will always stay in my heart forever. I love you. Until we see each other again smiling like we do. Rest in peace my Dear Sister /Friend.



Star Stone - April 20, 2023 at 12:19 AM

CB

Tonya was such a sweet and lovely woman. I am praying for her family and friends. This is such a loss...I pray God's Blessings, Comfort and Mercy on you all. SIP Tee...Forever Beloved, Never Forgotten...

Cheryl Brown - April 23, 2023 at 09:26 PM



“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Joseph Rapley - April 19, 2023 at 07:29 PM

DB

“ You have my deepest sympathy, condolence to the Rapley family. With love Denise Bacote 🌹🌹🌹❤️❤️❤️🙏🙏

Denise Bacote - April 19, 2023 at 02:27 PM

ER

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Ernest - April 19, 2023 at 11:37 AM