



## Wanda Smith

December 31, 1953 - February 9, 2023

On December 31st, 1953, Wanda Michelle Harris was born to her parents Mary Louise Gladden Harris and Joseph Clarence Harris in Buffalo NY.

Joseph was transferred to Denver Co where Wanda began her education at age 4 and was proficient in any activity or subject that came her way. After a few years in Denver, Joseph was transferred to Vandenberg Air Force Base (VAFB). The Harris family settled down in Guadalupe California where Wanda and her siblings were raised. Day one Wanda was always caring, full of laughter, and of plenty love for her family and friends. Wanda attended and graduated from Guadalupe joint union school then attended Ernest Righetti high school and graduated her junior year. Wanda attended Allan Hancock Community College in Santa Maria CA.

Wanda married and moved to Arizona. It was there when Wanda and her then husband welcomed Tishika, (Tish), LeShelle. July 17th, 1974.

At a young age Wanda made most of her clothes and when she did, she might start with a pattern but most of the time she would design her own clothes that stood out in a creative one-of-a-kind way. All her life Wanda had made clothes for others whether it be for special occasions or just mending or hemming clothing.

Wanda was a lover of music, some of her favorite styles were gospel, jazz, and R&B. She appreciated the good energy and song could bring. She still had quite the collection of CD's, cassettes, and 45's all organized to a tee.

Shortly Wanda and Tish moved back to California's central coast and preceded to San Diego, CA where Wanda married Travis Tinsley on June 4, 1977. Wanda and Travis welcomed Tiante' DeShelle Tinsley, April 7, 1979, and from there Wanda and her family moved and resided in a few locations in Texas with her last one being in Tyler, TX.

Wanda continued her education on to achieve her BA, MA, and MBA from American Institute Intercontinental in Business Management.

As a child Wanda regularly attended church and treated everyone with such love and kindness, which never wavered throughout her life. She LOVED tetherball among other sports. She always showed great support to others. She was a Blue Bird member and loved to dance and sang like an angel. Her favorite color was purple.

Wanda was employed full-time as an Insurance Agent in Tyler, TX all while raising her 2 great-grandchildren. Extremely active in the lives of all her grandchildren, you would find her at the school every "Grandfriends Day", "Bookfair Week", bouncing around from each child's room to make sure she gave all of them a piece of Nana's love. There was never an event big or small that she didn't acknowledge and participate in.

She was preceded in death by her parents Joseph C. Harris, Sr., and Mary L. Harris, and her grandson, Tre'Vion J. Bowens. Wanda leaves to cherish her memory her daughters, Tiante' Tinsley (Tyler, TX), and Tish Johnson (Tyler, TX), her sons, Gerald Smith, (Dallas, TX) and James L. Tinsley, (Austin, TX), her grandchildren, Tobias, Roman Janiyah, Tahiri, Johnathan, and T'ni.

Her great-grandchildren Tristan and Trenton Johnson, her siblings, Mary Alyce Harris, (Goleta, CA), Joseph C. Harris, Jr. (Guadalupe, CA), Theresa L. Harris (San Jose, CA), Beverly Y. Harris, (Guadalupe, CA), and Shevonne C. Harris, (Santa Maria, CA) other relatives, friends & neighbors too great to mention to celebrate her life.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB 18. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

New Life Worship Center  
18535 Hwy. 69 S  
Tyler, TX 75703

## Service

FEB 18. 2:00 PM (CT)

New Life Worship Center  
18535 Hwy. 69 S  
Tyler, TX 75703

# Tribute Wall

TJ

“ Tish Tinsley Johnson sent a virtual gift in memory of Wanda Smith



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**Tish Tinsley Johnson** - December 28, 2023 at 05:03 PM

TJ

“ Tish Tinsley Johnson lit a candle in memory of Wanda Smith



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**Tish Tinsley Johnson** - December 28, 2023 at 05:02 PM

JA

“ Janiyah sent a virtual gift in memory of Wanda Smith



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**Janiyah** - September 22, 2023 at 12:13 PM

JA

“ Janiyah lit a candle in memory of Wanda Smith



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**Janiyah** - September 20, 2023 at 01:07 PM

JA

*Include any life lessons she taught, life advice, or information on her outlook on life in general. Share special memories or stories that occurred when you were growing up with her by your side. Speak about famous projects, crafts, volunteer work or other hobbies she was known for creating.*

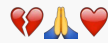
Janiyah - September 20, 2023 at 01:10 PM

TS

“ *Just went in to the insurance office to make a payment, and just heard of Ms. Smiths passing. I was shocked such a sweet soul and always had a smile on her face. Me and my husband was so blessed to have her as our agent, she will truly be missed.*

Tiffany Spencer - March 13, 2023 at 02:19 PM

TJ



Tish Tinsley Johnson - May 28, 2023 at 01:11 AM

BH

“ Words cannot express what we felt when we heard about Ms. Wanda’s passing. She was a dear friend and a caring and loving person. When I came to her office, she welcomed me with a big hug and a beautiful smile. We chatted about her great-grandchildren and the rest of her family, but her greats were the joy of her life. She always asked about my family and my husband, who always went to her when he had a question or concern about our insurance. She always cooled him down with her grace and kindness when he was upset about an insurance issue. We are so sorry we were not there to bid her farewell because we didn’t find out until today. I am glad that I stopped by her office to wish her a merry Christmas before the holidays. Little did I know that it would be the last time I would see her. As her Mary Kay consultant, I always took her little gifts and treated her with special care because she was so wonderful. Our thoughts and prayers are with all her family. I know she will be missed by her family, friends and all the people whose lives she touched. May God grant you peace and strength to face the years ahead. With deepest Sympathy from Bill and Anna Hodges

Bill & Anna Hodges - February 22, 2023 at 05:04 PM

TJ



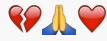
Tish Tinsley Johnson - May 28, 2023 at 01:12 AM

MM

“ Miss Wanda not only handled my families insurance needs but she was a friend. She always made time for you and I loved her loving positive outlook on life and that beautiful smile and distinctive laugh. I know heaven is having a time with all her wonderful stories. We will miss her greatly. Love Mark and Holly McCarty

Mark McCarty - February 17, 2023 at 01:39 AM

TJ



Tish Tinsley Johnson - May 28, 2023 at 01:12 AM

CC

“ Calvary Missionary Baptist Church purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of Wanda Smith.



Calvary Missionary Baptist Church - February 16, 2023 at 10:53 AM

PG

“ Patsy Grimes lit a candle in memory of Wanda Smith



Patsy Grimes - February 15, 2023 at 06:01 PM

PG

Heaven has gained another Angel 🙏

Patsy Grimes - February 15, 2023 at 06:01 PM

TJ



Tish Tinsley Johnson - May 28, 2023 at 01:13 AM