



Toya Burnetta Rivera

March 11, 1973 - April 23, 2024

Toya Burnetta Rivera, age 51, of Bradley passed away Tuesday, April 23, 2024 at home surrounded by her loved ones. She was born March 11, 1973 in Chicago, the daughter of Rudy & Trina (Sampson) McElwaine. Toya married Angel Rivera on April 10, 2004 in Chicago.

Toya was a teacher. She enjoyed scrapbooking, gardening, reading, teaching, and going on vacations. Most of all, Toya loved spending time with her family. Surviving are her husband, Angel Rivera of Bradley; one son, Angel L. Rivera Jr. of Melrose Park; four daughters, Genevieve Rivera of Chicago, Sydney (Evan) Holder of CO, Alyxandria T. Rivera of Bradley, and Lauryn E. Rivera of Bradley; her father, Rudy McElwaine; two sisters, Nya Bolarinwa of Chicago and Tia McElwaine of TX; four grandchildren, Juliana Rivera, Donovan Rivera, Ezra Holder, Eliza Holder. Toya was preceded in death by her mother, Trina; one brother, Olatunji Bolarinwa; and many aunts and uncles.

Cremation rites have been accorded. A memorial visitation will be held from 10 a.m. until the Noon memorial service on Tuesday, April 30, 2024 at Clancy-Gernon Funeral Home in Bourbonnais.

Memorials may be made to the family wishes.

Previous Events

Memorial Visitation

APR **30**. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Bourbonnais - Clancy-Gernon Funeral Homes, Inc.
295 Main St., NW
Bourbonnais, IL 60914
(815) 932-1214
cgfuneral@gmail.com

Memorial Service

APR **30**. 12:00 PM (CT)

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Tribute Wall

FM

“ Truly a gem of a person! Toya was one of the most encouraging people I've ever met. She was not afraid to tell people when they were wrong, or when they could do better and I truly admire her for that. I learned how to be a better advocate for my children from watching Toya be an amazing mom. I will miss being able to come in your classroom and steal tea from you, or taking walks with you at lunch time, you sharing your food with me at lunch or just seeing your face at work. You did a great job while you were here and we're so fearless while you did it!
Till we meet again friend! 🧡

Felicia M - April 30, 2024 at 01:53 PM

DS

“ I remember the first time I met Nya's big sister Toya, I was probably 12 years old. I remember how she was so kind and pretty and I thought wow what cool big sister!! Toya's laugh was so infectious that when she laughed, you will start to laugh too! But, I always admired Toya's strength! My prayers are with Nya and Toya's entire family!!

Demica Simmons - April 30, 2024 at 11:06 AM

FM

“ I remember meeting Toya during me and Nya's freshman year of college when she visited for homecoming. She was so sweet, joyful and fun to be around. I'm so grateful to have known Toya and I'll always remember how she welcomed me as family during and after college. I'll forever remember her gorgeous smile and kindness. I'll cherish the memories of visiting Toya and family and enjoying each other's presence. I'm sending my love, prayers and support to all who knew this beautiful soul. Love, Felicia McCreary



Felicia McCreary - April 30, 2024 at 09:24 AM

CH

“ Those we love don't go away, they walk beside us every day! Unseen, Unheard, but still Near and Dear. Forever Loved, and Always living in our Hearts!
Sending my love to Toya's entire family, especially her daughters, husband and sister. May God give you comfort now and the days to come. 💜
~Chantel



Chantel - April 29, 2024 at 10:00 PM

KH

“ Kimberly Harris lit a candle in memory of Toya Burnetta Rivera



Kimberly Harris - April 29, 2024 at 01:43 PM

MW

“*Toya will forever hold a special place in my heart. She has always been gracious & kind. I've known her since she was a baby. I was glad that I had a chance to talk to her while she was seeking treatment in Tijuana. It was a few days after her birthday, which was March 11th. She said, " I want 30+ more years". I replied nope, I'm going to ask the Lord to make it 30x30".*

Heartfelt Condolences to Angel, Alyx, Lauren & family. Praying the Lord comfort & strengthen your hearts at this difficult time. Marlene



Marlene Washington - April 29, 2024 at 01:34 PM

KH

“From the bottom of my heart, For the Rivera family. I wanted to say how truly sorry I am about my beautiful longtime friend, Toya. Toya was the first person who embraced me when I was a few months old baby and she was 3 at that time. And then I found the photo of me with my mom and Trina with her daughter, Toya in the 80's were truly special to me. Toya and I exchanged photos about our families including her daughters Alyx and Lauren, her sister Nya, and my college graduation a few months ago. she is like a family to me more than that.

Before she died, I was glad that I had the chance to talk with her while she was in Tijuana for medical treatment. I discussed with her about getting reunited again if She and Angel would come to Chula Vista for treatments under the doctor's approval. We are two hours away from Tijuana outside of San Diego. I hoped for the reunion to come through for us, you know. I was looking forward to seeing Toya and Angel for the first time. I was excited for her, because I wanted to see her so bad but her doctors decided otherwise, you know. I wished that the reunion would have taken place in Chula Vista would have been wonderful for us but I was very sad and heartbroken about this. She went back home to Chicago in good spirits. I prayed and hoped for her and she would be able to pull through and beat cancer.

for now, I know she's looking down smiling from up there and She's with the LORD. She had loved you all.

For Alyx and Lauren, Toya is a blessing to both of you for a wonderful mom, and best friend you can get. She would have wanted you and Lauren to stay strong and be close to her in your hearts forever.

For Angel, She is with you in your heart always forever.

Toya, I loved you with all of my heart and I will miss you wholeheartedly. Lord awaits you and reunites with your mom, and

everybody up there, Please say hi for me. Love you, Toya.

T

God Bless

Love Kimberly



Kimberly Harris - April 29, 2024 at 01:32 PM

KH

My sincere condolences to the Rivera family and friends. God Bless her beautiful soul.

Kimberly Harris - April 29, 2024 at 03:18 PM

SJ

“ We are glad to have known Toya and will cherish our wonderful memories we have of her. We'll be keeping Toya, Angel, and their family in our thoughts during this time.



Savuth and Eric Johnson - April 29, 2024 at 10:52 AM

CL

“ She was an amazing Person and teacher. She was the pre school teacher to all my 3 kids. She was patience, kind and loving to them. My oldest is 21 and she still remembers Mrs Rivera. May you rest in Peace and we will be praying for the family.



Christina Lopez - April 29, 2024 at 10:13 AM

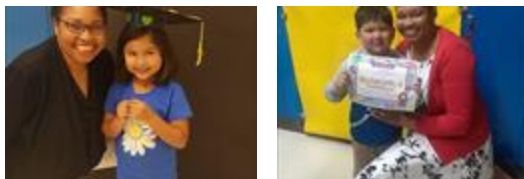
JM

“ Toya not only went above and beyond for her students but their families as well. She made such huge impact on my daughter and son! She loved her family, she always spoke highly of them! She loved life! We are grateful and will miss her.

Juanita Molina - April 28, 2024 at 05:04 PM

JM

“ Toya not only went above and beyond for her students but their families as well. She made such huge impact on my daughter and son! She loved her family, she always spoke highly of them! She loved life! We are grateful and will miss her.



Juanita Molina - April 28, 2024 at 05:03 PM

JA

“ *Janet lit a candle in memory of Toya Burnetta Rivera*



Janet - April 25, 2024 at 03:01 PM

JA

Toya always came to work with a beautiful smile. I am so happy to have had her in my life.

Janet - April 25, 2024 at 03:16 PM

AM

I've known Toya since she was a teenager and always had that beautiful smile that can light up a room also she will be missed dearly



Alicia Mcfadden - May 12, 2024 at 10:44 AM

CJ

“ Hey little cousin, your light and your soul shined as bright as the sun. I remember one of the first times I met you it was our first family reunion in 1990, My father Curtis Sr. said with a smile "Auntie's (your great-Grandmother Ethel Lee) coming..." and we all lit up. You were a "blessing" to this world and that's something not too many can say or be. You were tested, God had tested you many times over. I can think of a thousand people who should have taken your place on April 23rd. Tell Aunties and Uncle and my dad and others, I said "hi". I know your Homegoing will be wonderful, I was hoping God would have given us some more time with you here, some more years. I guess there's nothing wrong in hoping. To Angel and the girls, stay strong and ask God for comfort because when someone shines so bright as her and made such an impression with her life on others, she becomes not just a person but an inspiration to follow. Love you little cousin, until we meet again.

Curtis Nevils Jr - April 24, 2024 at 06:32 PM

WC

Sending my prayers , comfort and love to Gloria and the entire family . Cherish the many memories you have of Toya and know that she is with you in spirit ❤️🙏 God Bless.

Wanda Carey - April 25, 2024 at 07:23 AM



Toya was so much more than a friend, she was my sister. From the moment we met our Freshmen Week of college until the end, she and I were bonded!! She was a pure, genuine, spirit. A uniter of people, and just a kind kind person. Words do not do justice to the loss that is felt. Condolences to the family, friends, and all who knew her.

Delora Scaggs - April 29, 2024 at 10:50 AM