

*Celebrating The Life  
of*



*Tonika F. Barnes*

**Sunrise**  
**July 11, 1983**

**Sunset**  
**February 20, 2022**

**Friday, March 11, 2022 - 9:00a.m.**  
**Viewing: 9:00 - 10:00 am**  
**Service: 10:00 am**

**Calvary U.F.W. Church**  
1520 Herkimer Street  
Brooklyn, New York 11233

# *Obituary*

**Tonika Feshik Barnes** was born on July 11, 1983, in Bronx, N.Y. at Jacobi Hospital. Tonika came into the world on this date because this was the date that she decided to arrive. She should have been born 2 months later. But this is Tonika. She weighed 11lbs 3oz and spent time in the NICU before she could join her siblings at home. From the beginning, everyone could see that Tonika was a fighter and did things on her terms, like when to be born.

From the beginning she was special, not because she was our family, but because she had this spark within her even from the earliest of ages. While many may remember Tonika as outgoing, she started out as a quiet and shy young girl that loved running, playing in the park, and most of all spending time with her family. She especially loved frequent visits to spend time with her late Aunt Nina.

During elementary school, those that knew her would describe her as genuinely nice, easygoing, and loyal. They did not know the vibrant, at times hilarious, person that lived with us at home. She was a pest at times, especially to her older brother and older sister. Her older sister would often take Tonika with her when she went outside to socialize with her peers. Tonika was right there tagging along. The smile on her face when she made one of us laugh, along with her signature giggle, would light up the room. She was also a bit of an early DJ, and we have fond memories of her teaching her little sister, how to make the original mixed tapes from the radio. She was quick witted, but also empathic.

As Tonika got older and entered high school, she came into more of her own. After a brief stint running track, she did praise and worship dancing with her church group. Tonika had a lot of friends, and was described by all as loyal, caring and a jokester. Yet, do not mistake her silly side as a sign of weakness. Tonika was strong and described by some as tough as nails. She was family oriented and very protective of the people that she loved and never hesitated to speak her mind against injustice.

Yet as strong as she was, she was a self-proclaimed mama's girl. As stated earlier, she spent much of her time with her late Aunt Nina Maiden and her own loving mother Bernice Barnes-Samuel. While they were who she looked up to, it was truly a trio of fun, laughter, love, and support. They are where she drew much of her strength.

Throughout her adolescence, she loved to write short stories and poetry, and as a girl even aspired to become an author one day. In addition, she also expressed her artistic side and drew pictures. Tonika also became one of the best cooks in our family (that banana pudding!) Tonika was always very helpful and would give her time, advice, and a shoulder or ear to those in crisis. She encouraged people to be the best version of themselves and not let fear stop them from achieving any goal or dream that they might have.

In 2006, Tonika became a mother for the first time to Eric Barnes Leguizamo. Eric is now 15 years old and describes his mom as his best friend. In 2017, she became a mother for the second time to Massiah Dreshaun Wilson. At 4 years old, she was the center of his world. Her boys were the light of her life.

Tonika enjoyed traveling, culinary arts and listening to some of her favorite music and watching some of her favorite television shows. She was currently registered for college to attain her degree in Counseling.

I am sure by now; it is no secret that Tonika was a wonderful person that made an impact on so many lives. After working for the Fountain Medical Group for almost nine years she had a few brief stints at other jobs until she found a work home at University Hospital. She would talk about her work and her wonderful coworkers at University Hospital and the many patients that she met, and it was clear that she was able to be a bright spot in so many people's days. She often commented on the strength that she witnessed there, and yet so many others were noting her strength.

Tonika was a fighter to the end of her days and will be missed by so many. Yet above all, Tonika was a survivor and while she would appreciate the sentiments, she would want us all to survive her loss and rise stronger than before.

On behalf of her family and all of those that loved her, thank you for your love and support of our dear Tonika. She is survived by her loving Mother Bernice Barnes-Samuel, Father, Edwin N. Simmonds, children Eric Barnes-Leguizamo, Massiah Wilson, and Syriah Wilson, Fiancé Lamel Wilson, and her loving Siblings, Aunts, Uncles, Cousins, and so many other relatives and friends. We could not name everyone but know that you are acknowledged, and most importantly Tonika loved you.

# *Order of Service*

Processional

Presiding ..... Derrick Barnes

Prayer of Comfort ..... Elder Wanda Holt

Old Testament ..... Elder Nancy Small

New Testament..... Elder Wanda Holt

Solo ..... Elder Nancy Small

Tributes and Remarks (2) Minutes

Acknowledgements and Cards.....Kia Barnes

Obituary ..... Jackie Simmonds

Solo .....D'nya Martin

Eulogy ..... Pastor Darnell McClam

Final Viewing..... Sampson Funeral Service, Inc.

Benediction ..... Pastor Darnell McClam

Recessional

*Interment*  
Rosedale Cemetery  
Linden, New Jersey



*She was first my Daughter,  
Then she became my Best Friend  
Now she is my Angel  
In Loving Memory Tonika F. Barnes*

## *I'm Free*

*Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free  
I'm following the path God laid for me  
I took his hand when I heard Him call  
I turned my back and left it all.  
I could not stay another day.  
To laugh, to love, to work or play.  
Tasks left undone must stay that way,  
I found that peace at the close of day.  
If my parting has left a void,  
Then fill it up with remembered joy.  
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss,  
Oh, yes these things I too will miss.  
Be not burdened with times of sorrow,  
I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow.*

*My life's been full, I savored much.  
Good friends, good times, a loved one's touch.  
Perhaps my time seemed all too brief,  
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief.  
Lift up your heart and share with me,  
God wanted me now, He set me free!*

## *Acknowledgment*

The family wishes to thank all of you for your prayers,  
messages of comfort and the many other acts of kindness  
shown during our hour of bereavement.  
May God continue to bless you in a very special way.

*Professional Service Entrusted To:*



**SAMPSON**  
FUNERAL SERVICE, INC.

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