



## Mrs. Tama Ann Perry

July 23, 1960 - October 25, 2020

Tama Ann Perry, age 60, passed away unexpectedly on Sunday, October 25, 2020 at her home in Durham, North Carolina. Tama was born July 23, 1960 in Shreveport, Louisiana to Gordon Perry and the late Maud Chambers Perry. She lived in Durham, NC as a young child and moved to Oakland, California, where she obtained her early education at Bishop O'Dowd School.

Tama returned to Durham in her early teens and attended Hillside High School, graduating in the Class of 1978. She attended North Carolina Central University, where she majored in English and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1982. She was employed by GTE Telephone Company until her health declined in 2006.

She married Thomas B. Bass, Jr. in 1995 and to this union her daughter, Zoe Gordon Bass, was born in May, 1996. Tama wisely counseled, patiently encouraged and fully supported Zoe as she progressed into young adulthood. She was a proud witness, to all of Zoe's educational and extra curricula accomplishments. She was always Zoe's biggest and best cheerleader.

In spite of her declining health, Tama courageously managed to remain mobile and active. Tama was a voracious reader; and her love and knowledge of literature made her a 'go-to' source for anyone who needed a recommendation for a good book to read. She loved to cook good food, as

she had been taught by her grandmothers, Eula and Maxine. Her love of great jazz and popular music, she inherited from her father; and her mother's love of dance blossomed naturally in Tama.

She was predeceased by both her maternal and paternal grandparents, her mother, Maud Chambers and brother, Owen Finley.

She is survived by her daughter Zoe Bass, Raleigh, NC; father, Gordon Perry, Durham, NC; sister, Jeaneane Finley, Oakland, CA; aunt, Patsy Perry, Chesapeake, VA; cousins, W. Wayne Perry, Jr., Chesapeake, VA; Wade W. Perry III, Durham, NC; Sonny Robinson, Oakland, CA, Anita Cox Cobbs, Durham, Therion E. Cobbs, III, Charlotte, NC; George W. Cox, III, Decatur, GA and Rosemond H. Cox, Durham; special friends, Fred Barbee, Dorlene Thomas, Durham, NC; Rhonda Bellamy, Wilmington, NC; and a host of friends and neighbors.

“My mission in life is not merely to survive, but to thrive; and to do so with some passion, some compassion, some humor and some style.” -Maya Angelou

A Service of Celebration has been scheduled for Wednesday, November 4, 2020, at Scarborough & Hargett Celebration of Life Center, Inc., 309 N Queen Street, Durham, North Carolina 27701 at 11:30 a.m., Reverend Cedric Horton delivering the eulogy.

\*Attendance at the service is limited and in every effort to protect our families and their guests, face coverings are required upon entering our facility.

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

NOV 4. 11:30 AM (ET)

Scarborough & Hargett Celebration of Life Center, Inc.

309 N Queen St

Durham, NC 27701

(919) 682-1171

[scarboroughandhargettinc@yahoo.com](mailto:scarboroughandhargettinc@yahoo.com)

<https://scarboroughandhargettfh.com/>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Mrs. Tama Ann Perry*

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October 05, 2023 at 11:31 AM



“ *Gordon and Zoe, I was so sorry to hear about Tama. My heart goes out to you both. I know it is hard to take in. May God Give You Comfort, Peace and Strength During This Difficult Time! My Thoughts and Prayers Are With You Both! Sincerely a friend, Hope Raynor*



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**Hope Raynor** - November 21, 2020 at 05:44 PM

SH

“ Sending heartfelt sympathy and condolences to Mr. Gordon Perry, Zoe Bass and the family of Mrs. Tama Ann Perry Bass. Words cannot express the sadness felt when I learned of Tamas passing.

*I worked with Tama and enjoyed her style, eclectic nature and generous heart. I still have some Tama earrings, books and other niceties bestowed upon me. We had many commonalities, which includes being July Leo's. I remember when her father turned sixty. She came to me and said "it's Gordon's birthday, he is 60." I said oh, he is a sexagenerian. Being the learned person she was, she immediately called her Dad to tell him, lol.*

*Zoe, I am so happy to hear of your current successes and know you will have many more wonderful accolades bestowed upon you in your lifetime. Tama really loved her family and friends. I know your hearts are broken, but hold on to God's unchanging hand.*

*Grateful I am for the friendship we shared.*

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**Shelia Harrell** - November 09, 2020 at 05:11 PM



“ Just want to send love and condolences to the family of Tama. We worked together at GTE for years and shared many laughs and fun times. Rest in heaven beautiful lady.

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**Anita Moye Motivator** - November 08, 2020 at 10:13 AM

D(

“ The last time we spoke on the Friday before her passing, we said we loved one another before we hung up the phone. I'm so thankful to God for that memory. When I got the call on Monday night of her passing from the friend, Brenda, who introduced us 40 years ago, I literally was devastated. We cried and tried to console each other. The last time I saw Tama was in February before this pandemic when we went out to eat to our favorite eatery, Red Lobster. But we talked on the phone several times a week. We had so much in common from our health issues, good food and just about everything. We even were born 6 days apart. I could write a book about Tama Ann and I. I have so many good and loving memories of my friend. She will always be in my heart and soul. To Zoe. You'll always have your Aunt Nece. To Gordie you can always count on me. I love you both. To the rest of the family you have my deepest condolences. I wish I could be with you all today but because of health issues I can't. My niece is supposed to be there to represent me. To my bestie Tama Ann, sleep well and take the rest that you deserve. I miss and love you but we'll see each other again in the sweet by and by. Love, Dorlene Denise Thomas (Nece)

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**Dorlene Denise Thomas (Nece)** - November 04, 2020 at 11:31 AM

CA

“ I met Tama as a result of reaching out for help at the lowest time of my life through Mr. Bernie Bass. I also met Zoe her beloved daughter whom she spent the majority of her time with. Tama always had a smile and encouraging words to say whenever I saw her. She was a very friendly and beautiful lady. She will truly be missed. We, the Allen family send our condolences to her family.

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**Claudia Allen** - November 03, 2020 at 02:50 PM

SH

“ *Durlin and I extend our sincere condolences to the entire family. My God bless you all. RIP Tama.*

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**Selma Hayed** - November 03, 2020 at 11:17 AM



“ *Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mrs. Tama Ann Perry.*



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November 01, 2020 at 11:53 PM

NC

“ Tama was my best friend in High School and it is very sad to know of her death. I spent many days at her grandmother's home and she spent a lot of time with my family. We visited each other throughout college and beyond. Sometime afterwards we lost touch but reconnected before she got married. I still have a picture of Zoey on my fridge: right after her birth, in the incubator. When she was a toddler I recall making her a Halloween costume.

In 2013 I made Tama a quilt out of Gordon's neckties. I recall that beautiful smile on her face upon seeing it and know she cherished the connection of it to her father. Another memory is running into her at a festival downtown Durham. Before we parted she said "Hey, Do your mom still make that great chicken soup?" It made me realize what an affect my mom had made that she remembered all these years later.. That Christmas I took her a gift of a jar of my mom's soup.

We lost touch again but an uncle of mine lived across the street from her and would update me on conversations with her: always happy, bright, cheerful and funny; the Tama I knew from High School.

I liked Tama because she was "real"; no filters, just tell it like it is. She loved life and people and did not care about class or prestige. We shared a lot of good times discussing life, cooking meals, partying, and laughing. Rest in peace my friend.

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**Nancy Cash** - November 01, 2020 at 09:37 PM

RJ

“ *Mr. Gordon Perry and family:*

*On behalf of the Raymond McAllister and Dora Alice Green families, we extend our deepest condolences on the passing of my good friend and classmate, Tama Ann Perry. It was good to see her at our 40th high school class reunion. Please let us know if there is anything you need or that we can do for you during this time.*

*May the peace of God which passeth all understanding sustain you.*

*Raymond McAllister, Jr - Hillside High School Class of 1978*



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**Raymond McAllister, Jr** - November 01, 2020 at 11:14 AM

CA

*I met Mrs Tama Perry and her daughter Zoe in 1997 as a result of seeking help to change my through Mr. Bernie Bass. Since then I got to watch Zoe grow up into a beautiful lady and watch Tama be the proudest mother she could possibly be for Zoe. Tama spent alot of time at the schools Zoe attended and rarely did I ever see Tama when Zoe was not with her. Over the years Tama and I became friends and her smile I will always remember. She will truly be missed. We, The Allen send our condolences to the family. May God bless you,comfort you and keep you today and always.*

*Claudia Allen & Family*

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**Claudia Allen** - November 01, 2020 at 03:32 PM



“ *Red Poinsettia (Silk Cemetery Flowers) was purchased for the family of Mrs. Tama Ann Perry.*



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November 01, 2020 at 12:53 AM



“ *Red Poinsettia (Silk Cemetery Flowers) was purchased for the family of Mrs. Tama Ann Perry.*



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November 01, 2020 at 12:39 AM



“ *Red Poinsettia (Silk Cemetery Flowers) was purchased for the family of Mrs. Tama Ann Perry.*



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October 31, 2020 at 11:45 PM



“ *Sylvia Wilder lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Tama Ann Perry*



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**Sylvia Wilder** - October 31, 2020 at 09:51 PM



“ *Tama, you will never be forgotten and always loved! Mr. And Mrs. Nafiys Muhammad.*

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**Ruby Rice** - October 31, 2020 at 05:24 PM

BW

“ I will always cherish the moments we shared. You were smart, fun, witty and beautiful. Love you Tama.

Bonnie Stevens Wilkins - October 31, 2020 at 04:50 PM

CM

“ She was very close to me not enough space to write how much we meant to me.. Old love never dies. My Condolences goes out to the entire Family God Bless...

Clarence "Money" Monroe - October 31, 2020 at 12:05 PM

BM

“ Brenda Mitchell lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Tama Ann Perry



Brenda Mitchell - October 31, 2020 at 11:11 AM

BM

My heart is saddened to know of my friend passing. I will always cherish so many wonderful memories...gone too soon. May God continue to bless and keep the family at this difficult time.  
With Heartfelt Love - Brenda Mitchell

Brenda Mitchell - October 31, 2020 at 11:26 AM

CN

“ I met Tama when I was 20 when she was assigned to train and mentor me during a summer temp job at GTE. I'd tried to find her over the last 8 yrs or so on FB to thank her for being so kind to me that summer, having those lunch talks after getting lunch from the Palace, constantly schooling me on why Luther Vandross "was the man", and for being sort of a big sister figure on the job for me. All of this was 27 years ago...I never forgot her. I regret not ever being able to contact her but I have no doubt she continued to spread her love and unfiltered girlfriend advice to others. My sincerest condolences to her daughter, father and all the many others who love her. She was definitely special.

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**Crystal Newsome** - October 31, 2020 at 10:32 AM

CB

“ I am having a hard time accepting that we wont get to talk again and It saddens me that you had to go so soon. I will miss you my friend, Rest In Peace.

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**cheryl brown** - October 31, 2020 at 02:50 AM

WD

“ Tama was a beautiful person inside and out..her presence and smile would light up any room she entered. She will be missed.

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**Wilma Daniels** - October 30, 2020 at 08:46 PM

JB

*Tama and I grew up across the street from each other in the early to mid 1960s on Plum St in Durham. Her dad and i my parents were good friends so we were always back/forth at each others homes. I recently discovered precious old photos of Tama and other young Plum street neighbors at one of my birthday parties in early 1960s. The photos now mean more than ever and she will be dearly missed by so many family and friends.*

*Joe Biggers*

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**Joe Biggers** - November 09, 2020 at 06:25 PM

DB

*I will truly miss you coming to the library. Love*

*Darlene Bullock*

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**Darlene Bullock** - November 19, 2020 at 12:13 PM