



Jerry Elizabeth Tatum

August 17, 1943 - March 23, 2024

Jerry Elizabeth Tatum peacefully passed away in her home on March 23, 2024, at 3:30 p.m. with her loving husband by her side after courageously battling illness for over a year. Jerry was born August 17, 1943, to Lula Pearl Jones and was the oldest of five children. She attended Chattanooga public school system. Shortly after graduating Howard High School in 1961, she was joined in holy matrimony with her high school sweetheart, Gueron Coker, and to this union four children were born. As life moved on, she met and married Robert Tatum Sr., her loving and devoted husband of 45 years. He was the ying to her yang, and throughout their marriage they enjoyed traveling and spending time with family. She was an avid exerciser until her illness rendered her unable, and until then he fancied himself as trainer and motivator. Early on, Jerry found employment in the public school system as a teacher's assistant because she wanted to be close to her children as they started school. She went on to work for TVA and afterwards found a special calling when she became a caretaker, then supervised a number of group homes for adults with special needs. She eventually became an administrative assistant before retiring in 2006. She dedicated her life to Christ at an early age. Her faith, while holding to God's unwavering hand throughout her illness, provided her with strength which sustained her until God declared job well done, my good and faithful servant. Jerry developed into a social butterfly as a child when her grandmother (Elizabeth) taught her to play the piano as a way of entertaining guests in their home. The essence of this woman of God exuded

class, style, and elegance. As a devoted wife and mother not only did she humbly sacrifice for the good of the family, she fervently prayed and interceded on their behalf as well as others. God fearing, loving, dedicated, thoughtful, protective, tireless provider are just some of the core attributes which laid the foundation for this wonderfully loving woman we called wife, mother, sister, aunt, and friend. The indelible impact that her presence made in our lives will live on through everyone she touched. She will forever be in our hearts. Preceding Mrs. Tatum in death include her grandparents, Jerry and Elizabeth Jones; mother, Lula Pearl Austin; brother, Rudolph Austin; sisters, Beverly Banks and Ruby Diamond. Those left to cherish her memory include her husband, Robert Tatum Sr., of Chattanooga, TN; sons, Anthony Coker of Savannah, GA, Minister Alan (Felicia) Coker, and Derek Coker of San Francisco, CA; daughter, Kristi (Favorite son-in-law Roderick) Milner of Chattanooga; stepson, Robert Tatum Jr., of Chattanooga; stepdaughter, Nicole Kendricks of Chattanooga; grandchildren, Courtney Benton, Lekeura Coker, Bria Coker, Jacanna Boozer, Maloni and Kelon Kendricks, Robert III and Randy Tatum, all of Chattanooga, Shakara Coker, of Pittsburg, CA, Mia Coker, of Trinity, NC, Antonio Coker, of Madison, WI; great-grandchildren, Jekhai, Peighton, Novah, Mia, Malachi, Courtney Jr., and Zoe; sister, Clara Williams, of Milwaukee, WI; supportive sister-in-law, Dora Coker, of Chattanooga; a host of other supportive in-laws, nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends. Mrs. Tatum will lie-in-state on Saturday, April 6, 2024, from 9-11 a.m. at Taylor Funeral Home. Funeral service will follow at 1:00 p.m. at Antioch Missionary Baptist Church. Burial in Greenwood Cemetery.

Cemetery Details

Greenwood Cemetery

1954 Greenwood Road
Chattanooga, TN 37406

Previous Events

Lie-In-State

APR 6. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Taylor Funeral Home of Chattanooga, Inc
3417 Wilcox Boulevard
Chattanooga, TN 37411

Service

APR 6. 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM (ET)

Antioch Missionary Baptist Church
901 GW Davis Drive
Chattanooga, TN 37411

Tribute Wall

MK

“ Jerry was my MIL for a short time. We were in Wisc and Jerry in Tenn, but long distance didn't become between us. She loved me even the divorce from her son. She sweet, kind and welcoming to me. The world lost a wonderful woman.

MaryRay L Katsuma - July 09, 2025 at 06:13 PM

EL

“ My thoughts and prayers are with the family.
Earl Lowman, Jacksonville,Florida



Earl Lowman - April 06, 2024 at 06:12 PM

LE

“ To the family of Sister Tatum, PEACE unto each of you, as Christians, you know that she's in a better place . BLESSINGS
LOIS ELDER

Lois Elder

Lois Elder-Mathews - April 06, 2024 at 12:02 AM

LR

“ *Luella Reed lit a candle in memory of Jerry Elizabeth Tatum*



Luella Reed - April 05, 2024 at 06:54 PM

CS

“ *My Aunt Jerry was Always an encourager and supporter of family and young people. As a child I was mean and would fight anybody. Jerry use to always tell me I was too sweet and too beautiful to act so ugly. Her words, along with my Mom's switches made a lasting positive impact !!! I will always keep you in my heart!❤️*



Catherine Smith - April 05, 2024 at 05:22 PM

AH

“ *She was such a gorgeous and beautiful spirit inside out will be missed greatly prayers are with her family with comfort and love always!!!*

Angela Hampton - April 05, 2024 at 12:17 PM

KD

“ *Kelli Darden lit a candle in memory of Jerry Elizabeth Tatum*



Kelli Darden - April 05, 2024 at 09:19 AM

KD

My prayers and thoughts go to the family especially my classmate and friend Derek May God continue to keep His loving arms around you forever! The journey is real and God will keep you in His care.

Kelli Darden - April 05, 2024 at 09:22 AM



“ *Serenity Wreath was purchased for the family of Jerry Elizabeth Tatum.*



April 04, 2024 at 06:17 PM

LE

“ *Ler planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jerry Elizabeth Tatum.*

Ler - April 04, 2024 at 06:17 PM

LF

“ *Love, Yolanda Rayford and Family purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of Jerry Elizabeth Tatum.*



Love, Yolanda Rayford and Family - April 04, 2024 at 03:04 PM

PG

“*There are no words to relieve the depth of pain and grief that the death of Mrs. Tatum brings. Cherish her memory and the joy she brought to your life. May you gain strength and understanding as the loving memories of her life continue to shine through you and your family.*” Love, Pat & Herbert Gray



Patricia Gray - April 04, 2024 at 11:55 AM

RU

“*Reginald Underwood purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Jerry Elizabeth Tatum.*



Reginald Underwood - April 04, 2024 at 04:51 AM

RU

“*Reginald Underwood planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jerry Elizabeth Tatum.*

Reginald Underwood - April 04, 2024 at 04:51 AM

MS

“*Montez Austin Sr lit a candle in memory of Jerry Elizabeth Tatum*



Montez Austin Sr - April 03, 2024 at 10:39 PM



“ To my aunt Jerry I love you so much I will miss your voice when i call you and you say heyyy precious that smile only you have even when you didn't have the energy you still would smile I know you're in a better place in your new body no more suffering up there with your mother, father, brother and sisters we my have lost you here on earth but heaven gained another Angel
Love Tawanna



Tawanna Knowell - April 03, 2024 at 10:00 PM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Jerry Elizabeth Tatum.



April 03, 2024 at 08:50 PM



“ With much love, Monica & Mia planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jerry Elizabeth Tatum.

With much love, Monica & Mia - April 03, 2024 at 08:50 PM

KM

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Kristi Milner - April 03, 2024 at 06:05 PM

AC

Our beautiful mother ❤️❤️❤️

ALAN V. Coker - April 03, 2024 at 06:13 PM

AH

Gorgeous as always loved her ♥♥♥

Angela Hamlpton - April 05, 2024 at 12:19 PM

DS

“ Debra Sullivan lit a candle in memory of Jerry Elizabeth Tatum



debra Sullivan - April 03, 2024 at 03:24 PM

MC

“ I love you grandma. I'll cherish every memory we had and hold it dear to my heart. Miss you <3



Mia Coker - April 03, 2024 at 12:42 PM

SC

“ I love you forever and more grandma. I'm going to keep our talks and memories forever im grateful to have experienced a love like yours.



shakara coker - April 03, 2024 at 12:01 PM

DM

“ Diane Winston Manley lit a candle in memory of Jerry Elizabeth Tatum



Diane Winston Manley - April 03, 2024 at 11:16 AM

DC

“ I will continue to carry thoughts and memories of you with me daily as I've always done. The marathon continues. I love you Eternally.
Baby-Son / Derek Coker



Derek Coker - April 03, 2024 at 10:01 AM

PS

“ She was such a beautiful, loving and kind Spirit. Definitely an Angel while on earth. She has earned her Heavenly Wings.



Pastor Herman and Dot Saunders - April 03, 2024 at 02:02 AM

FL

“ *Felicia Lansden lit a candle in memory of Jerry Elizabeth Tatum*



Felicia Lansden - April 02, 2024 at 11:19 PM

RM

“ *Love you so much. I am really going to miss you!*



Roderick Milner - April 02, 2024 at 07:17 PM

BC

“ *We will always Love You Mudo Always and Forever* 🥰



Bria Coker - April 02, 2024 at 07:15 PM

MJ

“ *Rest in peace miss Jerry. I thank God that He reconnected us and I got to hug you again. I will miss you.* 🙏💜✝️🕊️



Monica Jacoby - April 02, 2024 at 07:06 PM

AC

“ ❤️❤️❤️ 🥺🥺🥺



ALAN V. Coker - April 02, 2024 at 06:19 PM

FC

“ *I will miss those talks we have love you Mudo*



Felicia S. Coker - April 02, 2024 at 06:17 PM

LC

“ ❤️❤️❤️



Le'Keura Coker - April 02, 2024 at 06:14 PM

CC

“ *Cardella F Cummings lit a candle in memory of Jerry Elizabeth Tatum*



Cardella F Cummings - April 02, 2024 at 05:18 PM

LM

“ *Lisa Milner lit a candle in memory of Jerry Elizabeth Tatum*



Lisa Milner - April 02, 2024 at 10:06 AM

NT

“ *Praying for the family. Mrs. Jerri was a dear friend. She añd her words of wisdom will be missed. Love Neva Hunter Thurman*



Neva Thurman - April 01, 2024 at 10:27 PM

KM

“ *Kristi Milner lit a candle in memory of Jerry Elizabeth Tatum*



Kristi Milner - April 01, 2024 at 02:32 PM

BS

“ *Sincere condolences to the family.*



BRENDA F SIMS - March 31, 2024 at 10:14 PM

BG

“ *Betty Garth lit a candle in memory of Jerry Elizabeth Tatum*



Betty Garth - March 27, 2024 at 11:29 PM

VR

“ *Vincent Robinson lit a candle in memory of Jerry Elizabeth Tatum*



Vincent Robinson - March 26, 2024 at 12:21 AM

DF

“ *Diane Ellison & Family lit a candle in memory of Jerry Elizabeth Tatum*



Diane Ellison & Family - March 24, 2024 at 10:40 PM