



Rita Louise Dillard Henderson

September 22, 1965 - August 29, 2025

Rita Louise Henderson, 59, of Chattanooga, passed away Friday, August 29, 2025, in a local hospital. She was born on September 22, 1965, to Elbert Dillard and Nettie Lou Fleminster.

Rita was a woman full of life and laughter. Her laugh was so contagious that it could brighten any room and lift the spirits of those around her. She loved to dance, stay current on new places and restaurants, and always embraced the beauty of trying something new. Her warmth and light were felt by everyone she encountered, and her presence brought people together.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Elbert Dillard and Nettie Lou Fleminster; her brother, Elbert Lamar Dillard; her granddaughter, Lundyn Nichole Lacy; and her grandson, Javon Dillard.

Rita leaves to cherish her memory her devoted husband, Michael Henderson Sr.; her daughters, Nichole Dillard and Mikesha (Sam) Lacy; her son, Michael Henderson Jr.; her sister, Angela Dillard; and her beloved grandchildren: DaJae' Lacy, Michaela Lacy, Malaiya Henderson, Lamya Ray, Lauren Lacy, Tyasia Underwood, Jonathan Lawrence, and Dyquan Lacy. Great grandson Jeremiah Ballard jr. She also leaves nephews Tracey Dillard, Lamar Dillard, Reginald Dillard, and Nolante Dillard, A host of nieces and nephews, Great nieces and nephews, several cousins and many friends . And a special friend,

Valerie Boozer-Naylor.

Rita's life was one filled with love for her family, joy in everyday moments, and the strength to overcome life's trials with grace. Her laugh, her love, and her light will live on forever in the hearts of those who loved her most.

Rita will lie-in-state on Thursday, September 11, 2025, from 1:00 – 5:00 p.m. at Taylor Funeral Home. A graveside service will be held on Friday, September 12, 2025, at Chattanooga National Cemetery.

“Those we love don't go away, they walk beside us every day... unseen, unheard, but always near, still loved, still missed, and forever dear.”

Previous Events

Lie-In-State

SEP **11**. 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

Taylor Funeral Home
3417 Wilcox Boulevard
Chattanooga, TN 37411-1076

Burial

SEP **12**. 1:00 PM (ET)

Chattanooga National Cemetery
1200 Bailey Avenue
Chattanooga, TN 37404

Tribute Wall

PE

“ Rita and worked together at one time. Rita was always filled with Joy and such a beautiful smile. She had a gentle spirit that was inviting. Love Rita for our time together ❤️.

Pauline Evans - September 18, 2025 at 07:37 AM

RH

“ Reginia Hamilton lit a candle in memory of Rita Louise Dillard Henderson



Reginia Hamilton - September 12, 2025 at 01:27 PM

FL

“ Rita spirit will live on forever within the hearts of her family. Rita was a kind, loving and a fun person to be around always bumping her knee. 😊 Rita is now in the arms of the Lord, she will not be forgotten. Peace, Grace and Mercy to the family 🙏 Pam, Dajae' and Nick with love!

Flippin - September 11, 2025 at 02:02 PM

MS

“ Her soul was so loving, beautiful, and amazing.... One of a kind.... Get your rest auntie in law You stayed with a smile... Love Marcus

Marcus Shropshire - September 10, 2025 at 08:52 PM

TF

“ *Tongeia Farmer lit a candle in memory of Rita Louise Dillard Henderson*



Tongeia Farmer - September 09, 2025 at 11:06 AM

DD

“ *My prayers goes out to the family for their loss. I knew Rita as a sweet fun to be around and very nice she always had a smile and a great personality Their Wil never be another like her. Love you almost sister in law and I will see you when I get to heaven. So I'm going to try to be good.*

David Dixon - September 03, 2025 at 01:44 PM

LD

“ *Your Big Brother son I can't believe this is true. I think about you day and night. I will never forget the sweet things you done for me. You will be truly missed. Until we meet again baby is no more suffering I love you forever ❤️🙏 nephew*

Lamar Dillard - September 02, 2025 at 11:52 PM

DS

“ *Aunt Rita very sweet lady Rest easy Auntie ❤️*

dedra Sheppard - September 02, 2025 at 11:39 PM

WS

Wow I hated to hear this

willie f stinson - September 04, 2025 at 07:04 PM

VW

RIP my dear friend, you will be truly missed. Fly high baby

Vanessa Williams - September 06, 2025 at 02:41 PM

MH

“ *Maiya T Hill-Mosley lit a candle in memory of Rita Louise Dillard Henderson*



Maiya T Hill-Mosley - September 02, 2025 at 01:20 PM

MT

“ *Love You Aunt Rita. Marcus Thomas*



Marcus Thomas - September 02, 2025 at 12:12 PM

RF

“ *Cousin Rita will be missed& prayers going out to husband& kids. Love you all*

Ruth Flemister - September 02, 2025 at 09:13 AM

RD

“ *My Auntie, will be truly missed and never forgotten. My most memorable moments to describe her would be characterized with the words Loving, Outgoing, Veracious, and Easy going.*

Reginald Dillard - September 01, 2025 at 10:12 PM

AD

“ My sister & I had a bond that could never be broken, we started out as little girls raised up in Blowings Springs Ga, everyone that grew up with us who really knew us always knew us as a loving kind family starting with our mama. And yall also knew Rita & I always was together no matter what! Running up & down dirt roads out in the country! I wouldn't take nothing to get that back😭 Moving to the city was hard & a horrific part of our lives which some of you that really knew us was there with us even then and now that's true love! And I love all of you! Now it's really a loss of words loosing my baby sister, but until we meet again I love you ❤️ Sister R.I.P. Baby



Angela Dillard - September 01, 2025 at 08:53 PM

RC

Rita was like a sister to me! I am her cousin and I spent almost every summer with her as a young child. So many memories. She was soft spoken and kind. She always loved to laugh. She always shared. I haven't spent much time as adults. The message regarding her demise was overwhelming. I just pray that she and I will meet again on the other side in that great getting up morning when Jesus comes to gather his flock.
I want my family to know that I love you all and I pray peace for us all. If any of you need me. I'm just a phone call away!

Raygina D Calhoun - September 11, 2025 at 03:19 PM



“ Our sincere condolences and prayers to Mike, Mikesha, and family. We are so sorry for your loss. Praying God will give you all the peace that surpasses all understanding. ❤️🙏
Pamela and Donald Toney "Aunt Pam" and "Uncle Don"



Pamela Toney - September 01, 2025 at 10:40 AM

A6

MY Nephew Mother In Law My Condolences to You Sam And Makesha I love the both of you

Agnes 6 - September 02, 2025 at 09:35 PM

JJ

“ *Jackie Johnson lit a candle in memory of Rita Louise Dillard Henderson*



Jackie Johnson - August 31, 2025 at 06:13 PM

JJ

My condolences to the Henderson/Dillard Families in your loss. My Little Sister-in-Law (My Sister). To my Family, please know that I love you (Angela Dillard) and am here for you in this time. Praying the Lord keeps and comforts you. Love, Jackie.

Jackie Johnson - August 31, 2025 at 06:15 PM

SL

“ *Sam Lacy lit a candle in memory of Rita Louise Dillard Henderson*



Sam Lacy - August 30, 2025 at 12:02 AM

NW

“ *Sincere condolences to unc Mike and family at this time of loss. May God give you all peace and comfort during this season. I will keep you in my prayers.*

Nettie Wright - August 29, 2025 at 07:40 PM