



## Tonya A Young

September 6, 1947 - May 23, 2020

“There are few people in life and in this world that have such a profound effect on so many and are able to touch their hearts and inspire them to be the best they can be. Tonya Young was one of those people.”

Tonya Anne Young, 72, of Olive Branch, MS, passed away on May 23, 2020, peacefully in the comfort of her own home, in the loving arms of her husband and her daughter. Tonya was diagnosed with Stage 4 Breast Cancer in November of 2010. After treatments, she was cancer free up until June 1, 2019. At that time, she was diagnosed with metastatic breast cancer, which was very aggressive and quickly spread throughout her body and brain. During her fight, Tonya’s Unwavering Faith in the good Lord, radiated through her. She remained optimistic, and not one time did you ever hear her complain; when asked how she was doing; She would always say without hesitation, “I am fine, don’t worry, God is Good & He has a plan - He’s got this.” Tonya showed boundless strength, courage, and determination, throughout her entire Journey and right up until the very moment, she was called home to be in the arms of her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, early Saturday morning.

Tonya was born in Dyer, TN on September 6, 1947, to A.B. Hugueley and Ruby Cheshier Hugueley. She was raised in Rutherford, TN, and graduated from Rutherford High School in 1965. At Rutherford High School Tonya was a cheerleader and selected as “Miss Rutherford” in 1965. After graduation, she attended Murray State University in Murray, Kentucky, where she received her Bachelor of Science Degree in Education in 1969. At Murray State, Tonya was honored to be “Ranger Sweetheart” (1967) and “Homecoming Queen” (1968). While at Murray State, Tonya met her future husband, Gerald Young, and they married on October 3, 1971. Tonya also attended the University of Tennessee at Martin, in Martin, TN, where she received her Master’s in Education and later received her Master’s + 30 from Murray State University. Tonya had a long and storied career in Henry County, TN, where she served as a Physical Education Teacher, Driver’s Ed Teacher, Guidance Counselor, High School Cheerleading Coach and Soccer Coach, for 31 years. Tonya was instrumental in starting and serving as Chairman of the Drug Free Alliance “D.A.R.E to Keep Kids off Drugs.” On November 25, 1982, Tonya and Gerald were

blessed with the birth of their beautiful daughter Brittney Darling Young.

After retiring, from the Henry County School System, Tonya embarked on another journey in helping kids, as a Guidance Counselor in Mississippi, in the Desoto County School System. She served at Lewisburg Middle School and Lewisburg High School. Tonya retired after 11 years in July of 2018, with a total of 47 years of service to young people. Tonya loved traveling, taking care of her flowers and plants, shopping, exercising, sports, being outdoors and watersports. She always maintained a strong and positive attitude and focused on living for her daughter and husband. Tonya was admired as a very special, loving, genuine woman with a kind heart. She was a valiant and courageous soul who was an inspiration to every person she encountered. Tonya lived her entire life for others. There was not a day that went by that she thought of herself over someone else. She was the most selfless person I have ever known. Once she met you, she would do absolutely anything in the world for you. She was truly compassionate and genuinely loved everyone. Everyone that has met Tonya would agree, wherever she was, she always brought enthusiasm, kindness, generosity, warmth, creativity, and boundless energy. Tonya was kind and nurturing, caring, inspiring, dedicated, hard-working and never hesitated to go the extra mile to make a difference in someone's life. Tonya was LOVE.

Tonya leaves behind her husband Gerald Young and her daughter Brittney Young. She is preceded in death by her father A.B. Hugueley and her mother Ruby Cheshier.

Memorial Services Honoring the Life of Tonya Young will be held: Thursday, May 28th at Memorial Park Funeral Home & Cemetery- 5668 Poplar Ave Memphis, TN 38119 at The Riverside Chapel.

Visitation will be from 11am to 1pm, Service will begin at 1pm and Graveside will be immediately following.

In lieu of flowers, Memorials may be made in Tonya's memory to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at

<https://www.memorialparkfuneralandcemetery.com/obituaries/Tonya-Young/>

# Comments

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“ An external video has been added.



**Memorial Park Funeral Home and Cemetery** - May 29, 2020 at 09:47 AM



“ Great video! I am Kenny Horner, one of Tonya's classmates, and I want to extend my deepest sympathy to all of Tonya's family including her brother, Chris. I suppose that Chris still lives in or near Rutherford. I was the tall guy in some of the pictures on the memorial. Thank you so very much for all the great pictures. Tonya will be greatly missed by many, many friends, family and classmates. We thank Tonya for being the great lady she always was and I thank the Lord for her and her life.

**Kenny Horner** - May 31, 2020 at 12:26 PM



“ I was very heartbroken to here about Miss Young she was just one of the first of many angels God would put in my early life. I was a cheerleader at Grove Junior High in the 80s and I will never forget how she helped me during that time she was my counselor, my mentor, and my saving grace. I didn't have the money to pay for any of the many things that were required during my seventh and eighth grade years but she always managed to work it out so that I could afford everything without making me feel different or less than the others. Whenever I had a problem or wanted to give up she was always there to uplift me and keep me going. People like her inspired me to keep going when I could've easily become a statistic. I could go on and on about her, but I have never forgotten her kindness, her smile, and the way she always made me feel like things were gonna get better. I would've never made it during that time if it hadn't been for her. I hope she knows how many lives she touched throughout her career she truly was the best. May God bless her beautiful daughter and husband during this very significant loss. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

**Kimberly Teague** - June 02, 2020 at 05:11 PM



“ I always thought the world of Ms. Young as a teacher and a person. She was always pleasant and cheerful to be around. Coach Young I am so sorry for you and your daughters loss. I never got the privilage of meeting your daughter but your Mom was a wonderful lady! God Bless you all and Prayers for comfort! Love, Kelly Dunn

**Kelly Dunn** - May 31, 2020 at 07:31 AM

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“ Sorry for your loss Coach Young and Brittney. Mrs. Tonya was a beautiful person.  
Tony Kendall

Tony Kendall - May 31, 2020 at 12:23 AM

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“ A beautiful person inside and out! Praying for all her loved ones. God Bless!

Brooke Barker Heffington - May 29, 2020 at 10:34 PM

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“ Gerald, So sorry for you and Brittany's loss, Tonya was a sweetheart.

JOSEPH O FORTNER - May 29, 2020 at 06:40 PM

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“ My Condolences to the Young Family. Tonya was a Beautiful Person!

Verdell A. Bowden - May 29, 2020 at 12:37 PM

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“ Lisa Ordmandy is following this tribute.

Lisa Ordmandy - May 28, 2020 at 01:00 PM

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“ Thinking of you today. i will be live streaming the service but will be there in my heart. I love you both. Tonya was a wonderful woman and a dear friend.  
Lisa O.



Lisa Ordmandy - May 28, 2020 at 12:48 PM

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“ My deepest sympathy to the family for your loss. Pat Hollingsworth

Pat Hollingsworth - May 28, 2020 at 12:47 PM

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“ During the time that Tonya , Gerald and Britt were in the Paris and Henry Co area she was such a beautiful lady. Condolences and prayers to the Young family.

Vernesser Hartzfeldt-Payne - May 28, 2020 at 12:36 PM

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“ Tonya was always such a happy positive person you could rely on. I had the privilege of being her student and co-worker in addition to teaching Brittany and her husband, Gerald helping me get my first teaching job. Thank you to answer family. I know you will miss her.

Lori McCaskey - May 28, 2020 at 12:10 PM

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“ Tonya was my tennis and racquet ball opponent & partner for many years.I was so saddened to hear the news that she had passed away. She was a beautiful person inside and out. She will be missed by all who knew and worked with her in Paris Tn. Rest in the arms of your Lord & Savior, Tonya, until we meet again. Love you.  
Carolyn Chilcutt

Carolyn Chilcutt - May 28, 2020 at 11:12 AM

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“ All of us hate to see the loss of someone who so loved people and who shared such optimism. She had a wonderful way of connecting to young people. Such a loss cannot be measured. Her family is in our prayers. Becky Hudson

Becky Hudson - May 28, 2020 at 08:24 AM

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“ So sorry to hear this news. Mrs. Young was such a sweet lady!! Prayers for the family.

Naomi Shelton - May 27, 2020 at 03:41 PM

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“ Tonya was a sweet friend to everyone at Rutherford High School. Once graduated, she planned to be an airline stewardess upon graduation and she has earned her wings now. God bless her family and brother Chris.  
Katana Wiley Hawks

katana Hawks - May 27, 2020 at 12:54 PM

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“ Britt and Coach Young, you guys are so dear to my heart! We've been family since Britt and I were little girls on that softball field. I have some of the fondest memories of Mrs. Young and I consider myself truly blessed to have been apart of her life at some point. She was so sweet and loving and will truly be missed. You both are in my prayers and I love you guys Always! - Tasha Tharpe-Patton

Tasha Tharpe-Patton - May 27, 2020 at 12:10 PM

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“ Mrs Tonya Young there's no words to describe her. She was a very, very big influence on my life. She s gone to soon!!! I know she's gonna truly be missed. Love you Mrs. Young until we meet again

tim martin - May 27, 2020 at 04:04 AM

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“ I am saddened to hear of Tonya's passing. She was a kind and beautiful lady that was truly inspiring to me. I have great memories of spending time with her while in Paris. My love and prayers are with you, Gerald and Brittany.

Doña Bowers - May 26, 2020 at 11:10 PM

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“ Brittney - you and your Dad are in our thoughts and prayers. Tim and Debbie Wynn

**Deb Wynn** - May 26, 2020 at 10:22 PM

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“ So sad to hear about Tonya's passing... My heart breaks for you, Gerald and Brittany! I pray for God's strength and courage for you both... Every time you think about how much you miss her, just remember that she is now in her perfect body with Jesus. I pray God's loving arms to carry you through this heart-breaking time.

**Toni Marshall** - May 26, 2020 at 10:08 PM

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“ To Gerald and Brittney... We are so very sorry for your loss and the news of her passing hit us hard... we will keep you in our prayers,,, Thinking of you,,, Terry and Jo Nola , Dickson, Tennessee.

**Terry Nola** - May 26, 2020 at 09:00 PM

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“ Nice sweet lady sorry for your loss gerald and brittany

**Doris** - May 26, 2020 at 07:20 PM

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“ Ms. Young was my cheerleading coach. Vibrant, patient, driven, committed, spirited, amazingly beautiful inside and out. I looked up to her because she always held her head high and her heart open.

Her grace touched many lives, including those of an impressionable girl who wanted to be like her.

Coach Young and Brittany .... she lives on ... in you!

Monica (Sturdivant) Ray

**Monica Ray** - May 26, 2020 at 06:22 PM

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“ Tonya's grandmother(Mattie Hughley) and my grandmother(Dee Warren) were sisters and lived close to each other at Walnut Grove their whole lives.I went to school with Tonya and always thought she was such a beautiful person on the inside and outside too.I am so sorry for your loss. Margaret King Valentine Rutherford,Tn

**Margaret King Valentine** - May 26, 2020 at 06:14 PM

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“ Tonya Young: classy, beautiful, caring, patient, zestful, innovative, dedicated, genuine... An endless list of complimentary adjectives could describe this wonderful lady! I had the privilege of working with her at Lakewood School. She was an absolute asset to the education profession. What an honor to be able to call her friend! Go rest high, sweet Tonya. A life well-lived and such a lovely example for the rest of us.

**Lisa Wyatt** - May 26, 2020 at 03:39 PM

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“ Tonya was such a bright light! She was one of our teachers at Henry County High School, class of 1972. Never saw her without a smile and great energy. She is with Christ and we will see her again! Cheryl Williams Duck

**Cheryl Williams Duck** - May 26, 2020 at 11:39 AM

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“ From your Landmark Realty Family purchased the Treasured Lilies Spray for the family of Tonya A Young.



**From your Landmark Realty Family** - May 26, 2020 at 11:11 AM

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“ To Gerald and Brittany , my heart and thoughts are with you both .I loved Mrs. Young. She was a great teacher and role model for many young women in Henry County . Love to both of you .

**Sherry Lee King-Mummt** - May 26, 2020 at 01:47 AM



“ Gerald and Brittney, I am so,so sorry to hear of Tonya's death. I have such wonderful memories of the "old Friday night gang" and our Arkansas trip, as well as all the other times we all spent together. Tonya was such a real person; never any doubt where we stood with her! She was such a loving, generous person and friend. Know that you are in my heart and in my prayers. Carolyn Scarborough

**Carolyn Scarborough** - May 27, 2020 at 12:51 PM



“ 8 files added to the album Tonya Young



**Brittney Young** - May 25, 2020 at 10:42 PM



“ 7 files added to the album Memories Album



**Brittney Young** - May 25, 2020 at 10:38 PM



“ I am posting this to share for those who might not get the information that Tonya Young has left this Earth. I am so glad we met at Murray State University. I treasure our time there. I know it was a God Thing when she invited me to MSU's Homecoming so many years later. I was a survivor and we shared a lot of information and love through her 1st battle. A week with Tonya in Tulsa was a workout. She would finish her radiation and off we'd go! I had bought a new house in 2013 and she called me up and said "you want to go out West for a couple of weeks?! We did and I had the best time. Saw so many natural wonders and met some of her great friends. Spent 7/4 in Ennis, Montana. We stayed in touch til 5/2. The world has a big hole where Tonya was. She walks among the angels.

**Phyllis Ross Donahue** - May 25, 2020 at 09:59 PM