



## Ms. Onita Mae Terrell

June 5, 1955 - March 17, 2026

### CELEBRATING THE LIFE of Onita Mae Terrell

Onita Mae Terrell began her beautiful journey of life on June 5, 1955, at Fauquier County Hospital and was raised in Culpeper County, Virginia. From an early age, her genuine love, nurturing spirit, and natural ability to care for others left a lasting impression on everyone she encountered. Although she fought against Lupus for more than 40 years, she surrendered to God's call and accepted her wings on March 17, 2026.

Onita was baptized at a young age and joined Antioch Baptist Church in Culpeper, Virginia. As she grew in faith, her renewed commitment and dedication became increasingly evident. This was covenanted by her choice to be baptized again as an adult under the worship of Bishop Robert E. White at New Hope Baptist Church in Forestville, Maryland. A faithful and devoted member, Onita served wholeheartedly on the Hospitality Committee, where she was eventually appointed Chairperson. She took great pride in serving the Lord and His people.

Onita truly lived life to the fullest. She graduated from Culpeper County High School in 1973 and was so excited to attend her 50th class reunion. During her high school years, she also attended Piedmont Technical School (formerly Carver High School), where she learned to type faster than the average

person and to take shorthand. As a young girl growing up in Culpeper, she was a proud Girl Scout and sang with the Up With The People Choir. Onita accomplished so many worthy goals and other valuable achievements that it would take a book to capture them all.

With her bubbly personality and strong work ethic, Nita began working at a young age. Her very first and never-ending job was as the "Big Sister," also self-appointed as the third parent. She also worked at the Soul Shack, a beloved Black-owned record store on Davis Street, where she had the music and the town pumping on Saturday mornings.

She later relocated to Washington, DC, and followed in her father's footsteps by joining the federal workforce at the Department of Energy. However, her true calling came when she began what would become a remarkable 42-year career with Communities In Schools, Inc. (formerly Cities In Schools). There, her compassion, dedication, and radiant spirit shined brightly as she embodied Bill Milliken's belief that "programs don't change people, relationships do." She took this into her everyday life, where she could make a friend or connection in any room, and she would transfer or use her resources to help those in need.

Nita was always on the move, never allowing life to slow her down. In addition to her career, she worked part-time and wholeheartedly supported others in their pursuits. For over two decades, she shared her warmth and joy through her work with Jason Tours & Limousines, LLC, where she connected with people, explored new places, and created lasting memories.

If you knew Nita, you knew she loved her people-deeply and unapologetically. Family, friends, church members, coworkers, neighbors, and especially the young people she adored were at the center of her world. As the eldest of eight siblings, she naturally stepped into leadership early-lovingly known for

being "a little bossy," but always with a heart full of love. She also gave back to her community by serving for many years as President of the Forest Spring Homeowners' Association and volunteering annually with the Toys for Tots Project. She found joy in life's simple and meaningful moments-playing games, cooking, dancing, traveling, and celebrating others. And if you really knew her, you knew she was a proud fan of the Dallas Cowboys.

Onita will be lovingly remembered by many names-"Nita," "NeNe," "OT," "Neat," "Mama Nita"-but most cherished were the titles of Godmommy, Auntie, and Nana. She was deeply loved by people from all walks of life who were blessed to experience her joyful spirit. She shared a special and enduring love with her devoted fiancé, Tim Williams.

Her legacy lives on through her beloved siblings: James Terrell, Jr. (Jane), Jedania Terrell, Twanna Lesperance (Pierre), Andriell Harris (Ira, Sr.), and Darlene Terrell; two generations of nieces and nephews, including her honorary daughter, Amber Nolon; and her two youngest loves, Alena and Immanuel Sylla, whom she cherished as her grandchildren. She also leaves behind her godchildren, extended family, dear friends, and special coworkers who will forever carry her love in their hearts.

She was preceded in death by her parents, James (Sr.) and Mary Terrell; her brothers, Curtis and Jerrold Terrell (Stephanie); her nephew, Horascio Terrell; and her goddaughter, Lil Nita Love Gibson. We find peace in knowing they are reunited once again.

Until we meet Onita again, may her soul rest in heavenly peace, and may her legacy of love continue to live on through each of us.

# Cemetery Details

## Trinity Memorial Park

3221 Mattawoman Beantown Rd  
Waldorf, MD 20601

# Previous Events

## Viewing

APR 8. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Pope Funeral Service at Pope Place Event Center  
4701 Lydell Road  
Cheverly, MD 20781

## Funeral Service

APR 8. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Pope Funeral Service at Pope Place Event Center  
4701 Lydell Road  
Cheverly, MD 20781

# Tribute Wall



“ Pope Funeral Homes created a Webcast in memory of Ms. Onita Mae Terrell



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**Pope Funeral Homes** - April 08 at 10:21 AM

AX

“ Ashley & Carlos XOXO purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Ms. Onita Mae Terrell.



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**Ashley & Carlos XOXO** - April 08 at 11:59 AM

AX

“ Ashley & Carlos XOXO planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ms. Onita Mae Terrell.

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**Ashley & Carlos XOXO** - April 08 at 11:59 AM

BM

“ Sending my condolences and prayers to the family and loved ones of Ms. Onita. She was such a beautiful person inside and out and I pray that you are comforted by the beautiful memories as you mourn.

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**Brenda Kittles Miller** - April 08 at 11:32 AM

MW

“ Sending all my love and condolences to my Family!! Love you all.

Marlon Waters - April 08 at 11:01 AM

SH

“ When I heard the news I was devastated. I share your grief with you. Sorry I can't be there in person. Shirley

Shirley - April 08 at 09:56 AM

DE

“ Miss Onita. You were always so warm, kind, and smiling the times that I was around you and the family. Rest in heaven queen. Hug your mom and my grandmother Ann Lee for me.

DeAndra - April 08 at 09:18 AM

MB

“ Onita I met you when I was 15 and you became a great friend. I had little Nita and she became your Mini me. You and your family embraced me and little Nita in to your tribe. She loved spending time in Culpepper with you and your family. She loved 🤗 you and all your siblings. Thank you for blessing us and being a part of the family. You and Little will see each other. Until we meet again. Love ❤️ Marty & Lil Nita.

Maud Benson - April 08 at 02:52 AM

DG

“ *Mama Nita I was so blessed to call you a colleague, friend, and 2nd mom. Your love of life and generosity towards everyone you met is such a gift. Over the past nine years you have been a trusted and wise advisor to me in all aspects of life. I will love and miss you.*

*Dawn*

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**Dawn Godaire** - April 07 at 06:56 PM

BM

“ *Beverly McCalop lit a candle in memory of Onita Terrell*



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**Beverly McCalop** - April 07 at 11:05 AM

MJ

“ *Mona Jamison lit a candle in memory of Onita Terrell*



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**Mona Jamison** - April 02 at 12:29 PM

PT

*RIP my friend, will miss you!❤️*

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**Peggy Turner** - April 07 at 07:23 PM

MF

“ *Massa Brown & The Brown Family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Ms. Onita Mae Terrell.*



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**Massa Brown & The Brown Family** - March 28 at 02:14 PM

MF

“ *Massa Brown & The Brown Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ms. Onita Mae Terrell.*

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**Massa Brown & The Brown Family** - March 28 at 02:14 PM

MB

“ Ms. Onita,

*It truly was so heavy to hear this news, especially for someone whose smile was always seen and felt like yours. Your kindness, warmth, and joyful spirit left a lasting impact on everyone who had the privilege of knowing you at CIS. I will always cherish the memories of your laughter, encouragement, and the way you made every day brighter. I'm grateful for every moment of joy.*

*May you rest in peace, embraced by God's love. As Psalm 34:18 reminds us, 'The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.' Your light will continue to shine in the hearts of all who were blessed to know you.*

*My deepest prayers and condolences to the entire Terrell family. I pray that Christ will carry you in spirit and bring comfort to all those who loved you. You truly will be missed.*

*With love,  
Massa Brown*

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**Massa Brown** - March 28 at 02:10 PM

GJ

“ *Ms Onita was such a beautiful, kind and loving woman to my daughter and I. She would call me her Buda. We laughed together often and she enjoyed requesting my cooking. She was such a giver to anyone in need and always willing to help anyone with anything. I miss her text messages every morning she would send. I love her, I miss her and I'm gratefully blessed to have known her. Thank you Ms Nita.. love Gabby & Harper*

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**Gabrielle Jordan** - March 27 at 01:28 PM



“ *I love and will miss you. Thank you for everything.* ”

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**Tygressa Jones** - March 27 at 09:21 AM

NF

“ *My Dearest Mama Nita!*

*It still feels unbelievable that you're gone. I keep catching myself thinking about calling you, hearing your voice, or sharing one of our usual stories about life's ups and downs. You weren't just a friend, you were my sister, my second mother, and my safe place through it all.*

*You were there for me through some of the hardest times of my life, the loss of my grandfather, grandmother, sister-in-law, brother, and father. You carried me through those storms with so much love, strength, and grace. You knew when to listen, when to make me laugh, and when to remind me that somehow, I'd be okay. You always made things feel a little lighter, just by being you.*

*You shaped my life in ways I'll never be able to put into words. You showed me what true friendship, loyalty, and love look like. You loved my children as if they were your own, and they will always know the warmth you brought into our lives.*

*Even though my heart aches, I find comfort in knowing that your spirit lives on through every lesson, every memory, and every bit of love you shared. You'll always be with me, in the quiet moments, in our stories, and in my heart.*

*Thank you for everything, for showing up, for believing in me, for simply being you. You will always be a part of our family. I love you, and I miss you deeply.*

*With all my love,  
Nicole Frazier*

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**Nicole Frazier** - March 25 at 02:51 PM

DL

“ To My Terrell Family.....I wish there was something I could do or say to take the unbearable pain from your heart and soul. The only things I can offer are my prayers (and I have been sending God lots of prayers for all of you), my love, and words of comfort to uplift your spirit. I have some fantastic memories I shared with "Nita".....and they will forever be with me. "Nita" will be missed tremendously by lots of people! All of you must lean deeper and harder into your faith, God, and the people who love you....to help give you strength to endure this challenging and sad time. I love all of you and I will continue to keep you in my thoughts and prayers. (Deborah Lee)

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**Deborah Lee** - March 25 at 01:11 PM

RO

“ Prayers of sympathy and strength to the Terrell family. I am so sorry to hear of Onita's passing. Sending hugs and love to all of you. You know that I always look at you all like my second family. May Onita rest in peace. You now have another angel watching over all of you.

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**Rochelle** - March 24 at 11:00 PM

PS

“ My deepest condolences to the family of Onita Terrell. I loved this woman and I will miss her so much. Her smile was contagious and she everyone she could. May she rest well in the arms of her Savior. 💔 Pamela and Milton Sherard

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**Pamela Sherard** - March 21 at 09:02 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Ms. Onita Mae Terrell.



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March 20 at 10:28 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Ms. Onita Mae Terrell.

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March 20 at 10:28 AM