



Ms. Ta'Naja Ze'na Blackston

May 19, 2003 - March 24, 2024

Ta'Naja "toot-toot" Ze'na Blackston 2003-2024

Ta'Naja Ze'na Blackston, 20, took her final breath on March 24th, 2024 in Fayetteville, North Carolina. Ta'Naja was born on May 19th, 2003 in Pinehurst North Carolina to Dimissa Deborah Blackston and Michael "Dinky" Kelly: Tanaja loved to dance, sing, and have fun with her family and friends.

In 2021, Ta'Naja graduated from E.E. Smith. She was a part of their drumline, softball team, dance team and participated in ROTC. She had dreams of being a lawyer, so she was looking forward to enrolling in classes at Fayetteville State University/Fayetteville Tech.

Before her passing Ta'Naja was working two jobs at Mary Lee & Mike's soul food and McDonald's. She was described as a dependable worker who always showed up on time and in uniform. She was one who they could call if they were ever short staffed, and she would show up no matter the hour of day or night.

She is preceded in death by her father, Micheal "Dinky" Kelly and grandfather, Tony Phillios.

Ta'Naja is survived by her mother Dimissa Autry, bonus father Anthony Autry, sisters Ay'nyc Blackston, Chiycnre Blackston, Ao'misha Blackston, Tonii Autry, and Za'narriah Pullins; Bonus sisters, Jonara Ray-Autry, Julionna Ray-Autry, Shania Lee, and Dy-lan Hough; bonus brother Joren Ray-Autry; Grandmothers, Annette Mayhue and Mary "Libby Kelly; Aunts Kristi Rogers (Morvin), Tonisha Brooks Armstrong (Wayne), and Nakita Kelly; Bonus uncle Lee McCollum; Bonus Aunt Erica Baskerville.

Ta'Naja will be remembered for her smile, her unique laugh, her amazing work ethic, and the respect, love, and compassion that she had for others... (Unless you got on her nerves).

Previous Events

Viewing

APR 4. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Colvin Funeral Home Chapel
2010 Murchison Road
Fayetteville, NC 28301

Funeral

APR 5. 12:00 PM (ET)

Simon Temple A.M.E. Zion Church
5760 Yadkin Rd.
Fayetteville, NC

Burial

APR 5 (ET)

Simon Temple AME Zion Church Cemetery
Fayetteville, NC

Tribute Wall



“ *Magnificent Life Spray was purchased for the family of Ms. Ta'Naja Ze'na Blackston.*



April 03, 2024 at 09:55 AM



“ *From Carter, Lucas, and Faison families purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Ms. Ta'Naja Ze'na Blackston.*



From Carter, Lucas, and Faison families - April 02, 2024 at 09:48 PM



“ *I miss you so much honey, I'll definitely miss how our birthdays were only a day apart and we would tell each other happy birthday. I been knowing you since 6th grade. I miss you so so much. Love you - Nekya(EE SMITH CLASS OF '21) ♥*

Nekya Brown - April 01, 2024 at 03:51 PM



I am tanaja cousin we a so care for people who is nice kind to say something tanaja loves you

Jaleeyah - June 20, 2024 at 09:47 PM

CM

“ C J Monroe lit a candle in memory of Ms. Ta'Naja Ze'na Blackston



C J Monroe - March 29, 2024 at 01:34 PM

TB

“ Memories from our Habitat days!



Tia Blackston - March 28, 2024 at 07:34 PM

TO

“ Gonna miss you baby girl



Toni - March 28, 2024 at 12:11 PM

TB

Love you Toot. I can't believe we have to continue on with out you. I had to pull out my photo book and go back down memory lane. So many laughs just looking back. Miss you Toot. Tia

Tia Blackston - March 28, 2024 at 07:29 PM

JA

I miss you too. JuJu

Janiaya - February 20, 2025 at 09:26 AM

JA

love her sooooo much like i love my family

janiaya - November 29, 2025 at 09:00 PM