



Denise Dobson-McDonald

June 15, 1953 - February 14, 2026

Denise Spencine Dobson McDonald, affectionately known as Niecy to family members and close friends, was born on June 15, 1953, at Fort Meade Hospital in Anne Arundel County, Maryland, to the late Spencer G. Dobson Jr. and Della Miranda Dobson Baylor.

Denise was educated in the Baltimore City Public School System and devoted her life to education and service. She spent 20 years as a classroom teacher and 13 years in administration with Baltimore City Public Schools, concluding her distinguished career as Assistant Principal at Sharp-Leadenhall Elementary School. She also worked for seven years with Houghton Mifflin Publishing Company, bringing her passion for learning into private industry.

A lifelong lover of the arts, Denise expressed herself most freely through dance. She studied African dance under Olu Funmilayo and trained with renowned artists Arthur Mitchell and Alvin Ailey. Known for her joy on the dance floor, Denise was also an accomplished hip-hop dancer whose spirit and rhythm were unmistakable. She loved karaoke, soap carving, playing double-deck pinochle, and other card games that kept family and friends laughing and connected.

Denise was an entrepreneur at heart and found success in ventures including Amway, Mary Kay, and Pure Romance. She also earned a black belt in Kung

Fu alongside her first husband, Thomas W. Anderson, reflecting her discipline, strength, and fearless nature. Deeply committed to community, Denise was active in many organizations. She was a proud member of the Three No Trump Club, Post 122 of the American Legion, and the 50+ and Fabulous. She served as Architectural Director for the Daisy Field HOA and was closely connected with the Laurel Group, affectionately known as her crew. Most dear to her heart was her Zonta Club, where she was a founding member and served as Second Vice President, living out its mission of service, advocacy, and sisterhood. And cannot forget the Boo Crew who was formed during the Pandemic.

Denise was known for her generosity and her belief that love must always be followed by action--because love is action. She would now ask: If Denise ever showed you an action of love, to you or for you, please raise your hand. Those raised hands are her legacy. She was also known for her affectionate smile, and she invites everyone once more to turn to someone nearby and smile.

Denise was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Carl E. McDonald, with whom she shared 27 years together and 15 years of marriage.

During her final journey, Denise was lovingly cared for by her devoted friend and "little baby sister," Valerie Sturdivant. She was also strongly supported by her goddaughter Dominique Bailey and Devin Stephenson, who provided essential care, strength, and comfort toward the end. Denise loved them greatly for their compassion and presence. First and foremost, sincere appreciation is extended to her brother, Spencer Dobson and her sister in love, Ida Dobson, who lovingly cared for her during her first surgery and remained steadfastly by her side throughout her second battle with cancer.

She was further surrounded by the extraordinary love and support by her

closest neighbor, Emily Taylor and goddaughter Tiara Franklin and the rest of her Daisy Field Neighborhood Association, whom she considered the most fantastic neighbors. They ensured she was cared for every step of the way as she returned home from the hospital.

She leaves to cherish in memory her sisters, Lydia Wilson and Della Mooring (Lee Mooring); her brother, Spencer G. Dobson III (Ida Dobson); her uncle, Irvin Dobson age 96 (Barbara Dobson); her aunt, Pam Dobson, widow of the late Reverend Harold Dobson; her longtime companion, Bob Walker; her godchildren Dominique Bailey, Tiara Franklin, Shanna Darden, and Christian Royster; her beloved Zonta Sisters; and a host of cousins, nieces, nephews, and lifelong friends.

Denise Spencine Dobson McDonald lived fully, loved boldly, served faithfully, and gave freely. Her legacy of love in action lives on in every life she touched. An acronym she affectionately used with family and close friends was I-W-A-L-Y (I Will Always Love You)!!!

Previous Events

Memorial Visitation

MAR 4. 10:00 AM - 10:30 AM (ET)

Macedonia Bapt. Church
718 W. Lafayette Ave
Baltimore, MD

Memorial Service

MAR 4. 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM (ET)

Macedonia Bapt. Church
718 W. Lafayette Ave
Baltimore, MD

Tribute Wall

TA

“ Taz lit a candle in memory of Denise Dobson-McDonald



Taz - March 16 at 11:35 AM

MC

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



March Life Tribute Center - February 23 at 02:34 PM

AH

Ms. Denise will truly be missed at Karaoke. Condolences and prayers to the family

Angela Henson - March 03 at 05:35 PM

MC

“ We the March Family and Staff wish to extend our deepest and heartfelt sympathy in the passing of your loved one. Our prayers go out to you and your family in your time of loss. We know and understand that you have received many expressions of love, and we will continue to lift you up in prayer. May the memories you cherish of brighter and happier days help to ease your sorrow and comfort you always.

March Life Tribute Center - February 23 at 02:33 PM