

## Tony Darnell Cosby

April 8, 1955 - August 23, 2021

Tony Darnell Cosby was born in Richmond, Virginia on April 8, 1955, to the late Willie D. Cosby III and Shirley Mae Cosby. Tony held close to his heart his fondest memories of growing up in "Bungalow City " on Virginia Avenue with his sister, Sheree Taylor, and brothers, the late Timothy R. Cosby, George Cosby, and Willie D. Cosby IV. He accepted Christ at an early age and was baptized at Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Mechanicsville, Virginia. Tony's faith played an important role throughout his life and his bible was well-read and treasured, Whenever you visited Tony, his Bible was always by his side. A "worn and torn" testament to his faith and how he kept God at the center of his life.

Tony attended Fair Oaks Elementary and as a child, he loved to play sports with his Uncle David Cosby and family in the yard at their homeplace. He continued his early childhood education at Fairfield Junior High School and graduated from Highland Springs High School in 1973, where he made history as the "First Black Quarterback" to start on the football team. He was later inducted into the Highland Springs "Wall of Fame". Tony's love for football continued throughout his college career at Bowie State University in Bowie, Maryland. While attending Bowie State, he pledged Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity and met many of his life long friends. He graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Speech, Theatre, and Performing Arts.

Upon graduation, he returned home to further pursue his passion for Theatre & Performing Arts and began his professional acting career working with Theatre IV, where he landed the role of Dr. Martin Luther King. This role inspired Tony to start "Theatre & Co", his own business, where he produced and directed original stage plays and brought to life the work of famous African-American playwrights, such as Lorraine Hansberry's "A Raisin in The Sun" and August Wilson's "Fences" for the Richmond community and surrounding areas. Tony also worked for the Richmond Public School system at JFK Kennedy High School and spent some time working in the family business, Willie D. Cosby III Contractors.

In between working, Tony traveled to colleges and universities, museums, libraries, and churches across many states re-enacting Dr. King's speeches for over 35 years. Even though Tony did not look like Dr. King, when you heard him perform "I Have a Dream " and "I've been to the Mountaintop" you felt that Dr. King was in the room. In addition to re-enacting Dr. King's speeches, Tony toured and presented Jeff Stetson's stage play "The Meeting" a fictional story about an imaginary meeting between Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X at a Harlem hotel in the height of the Civil Rights Movement . Tony was working on his autobiography entitled "Walking in the Shoes of King" which his family hopes to publish in 2022.

Aside from his passion for working hard and performing, Tony's "Pride and Joy" was his family, especially his loving daughter Kristin Cosby and grandchildren, Kynnedi and John Henderson III. Tony would light up at the mention of their name. He instilled the importance of story-telling and encouraged his grandchildren to use their imagination. Kynnedi and Myles enjoyed drawing, playing outside in the garage, eating Mentos candy, watching movies, and listening to Michael Jackson with "Papa T".

He leaves to cherish his memory, his loving daughter, Kristin D. Cosby,

grandchildren Kynnedi and John Henderson, III; mother, Shirley Cosby; one sister, Sheree Taylor; two brothers, Willie IV "Kake" (Joy) and George "Butch" (Bridget) Cosby; nine aunts, Della Cosby Coverton, Lois Brown, Carolyn Brown (Warren), Patricia Cosby, Linda Taylor (Barry). Helen Hayes, Carolyn Anderson (Roland). Alice Tart and Thelma Cosby ; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives, and friends. One devoted friend, Patrick X Smith.

Tony never met a stranger, was a fearless leader, a phenomenal actor, and enjoyed life to the fullest. We thank God for the life of the one and only, Tony Darnell Cosby, our very own "Dr. King"!

Free at last. Free at last. Thank God almighty, he's free at last.

# Cemetery Details

## Washington Memorial Park

6217 Memorial Dr.  
Sandston, VA 23150

# Previous Events

## Public Viewing

AUG 30. 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

March Funeral Home-Laburnum Ave.  
2110 E. Laburnum Ave.  
Richmond, VA 23222

## Family Hour

AUG 30. 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

March Funeral Home -Laburnum Chapel  
2110 E. Laburnum Ave.  
Richmond, VA 23222

## Celebration of Life with live streaming

AUG 31. 10:00 AM (ET)

March Funeral Home-Laburnum Chapel  
Richmond, VA 23222

# Tribute Wall



“ *To View the Webcast of the Funeral for Tony Darnell Cosby, Please Click the Link below.*



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**March Funeral Homes** - August 28, 2021 at 07:56 AM



“ *Tony Darnell Cosby*

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October 13, 2022 at 08:33 AM



“ *Sincerest sympathies to the family and friends on your loss of your dear Tony. May he rest in heavenly peace.*  
*Valerie R. Johnson*



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**Valerie R. Johnson** - October 08, 2021 at 09:06 PM



“ To the family I come with a heavy heart learning of the passing of Tony. We worked together years ago on the stage and I will forever remember his gifts, as actor, director, and friend. While at Kennedy HS, my father Lloyd Ricks, would refer to him as a talented brother. He spoke the truth. To his daughter, my daddy was crazy about you. God be with during this difficult time. This too will pass, this I know. Take your time and smile at the gift you had and have in a father. God bless you and the family.  
*Frederica Ricks*



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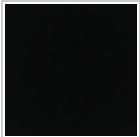
**Frederica Ricks** - August 31, 2021 at 10:31 AM

MC

“ I pray that precious memories of your loved one carry you through these difficult times. I will always remember my friend Tony.  
God Bless,  
*Mable Carter*

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**Mable Carter** - August 31, 2021 at 09:52 AM



“ Words can not describe the sadness I feel with the passing of my dear friend Tony...we conquered many theatre mountains together...light and love to the family in this time of sadness and grief



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**Toney Cobb** - August 30, 2021 at 10:06 PM

GC

“ I am still at a loss for words when I read that my friend of over 30+ years had transitioned from this life. In the 1980s Tony and I performed a two man act during Black History Month as we would travel to many colleges performing other plays. I owe Tony a debt of gratitude in helping me fulfill my passion in the arts. Thank you Tony, you will be missed.

Gregory Carter - August 30, 2021 at 09:03 PM

BB

“ To the family of Tony Cosby  
It was with sadness that I learned of Tony's passing. We shared the stage for several theatrical productions, most notably, *Do Lord Remember Me*. He is admired and remembered for his productions of *The Meeting* which feature characters of Malcolm X and MLK, Jr. Sending condolences to his daughter and the rest of his family. Beatrice Bush



Beatrice Bush - August 30, 2021 at 06:59 PM



“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Tony Darnell Cosby.



August 30, 2021 at 04:28 PM



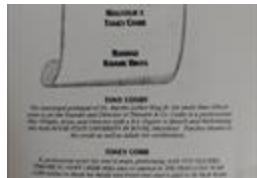
“ To the Cosby Family:

*We, Cheri and William James, were saddened to hear of your loves one’s passing. We reflected on the times when we were on the staff at John F. Kennedy High School. His outward personality, commitment to the students and his remarkable talent as an actor will be missed. We are in prayer for your family. Blessings!!*

William James - August 30, 2021 at 04:25 PM



“ Beautiful bother Toney Cosby, who got me started in acting play Rashad in "The Meeting" back when we both worked security for rps. We will miss him preforming as the late great Dr. Martin Luther King and his laughter and fun times we had performing in different plays over the years. My condolences to his family and love ones may you find peace 🙏



Kwame Binta - August 30, 2021 at 01:40 PM



“ Tony and I use to work together. People always asked were we related and of course we said "yes". To my cousin akin, your acting skills were amazing and I enjoyed hearing the stories of your travels when you went to different locations for productions. I am glad I had the opportunity to meet you.



Dana Cosby - August 30, 2021 at 11:15 AM

GW

“ To the Cosby Family,  
Expressing my Condolences to your family for the loss of your love  
one. Tony was a nice & interesting person to know. We were co-  
workers at the Coliseum.  
May God Bless his family!

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**Geraldine Winston** - August 29, 2021 at 01:15 PM

RC

“ "Beulah Jean" would not have been assuccessful without Tony's  
help! I shall NEVER forget. My condolences to Tony's family. - Rev.  
Carolyn Clark aka Beulah Jean"

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**Rev. Carolyn Clark** - August 29, 2021 at 01:09 PM



“ Delightful Dieffenbachia was purchased for the  
family of Tony Darnell Cosby.



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August 29, 2021 at 09:10 AM

DA

“ I remember telling Tony my son wanted to be an actor(he was in  
middle school) He invited us to see him in a play called The  
Meeting. He played Dr King of course. He insisted we sit on the  
stage behind the curtains to watch him perform. Tony was a great  
mentor and friend. RIP Tony

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**Deborah Crawford Ames** - August 29, 2021 at 04:32 AM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Tony Darnell Cosby.



August 29, 2021 at 02:42 AM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Tony Darnell Cosby.



August 28, 2021 at 05:57 PM



“ Carolyn/Warren Brown lit a candle in memory of Tony Darnell Cosby



Carolyn/Warren Brown - August 28, 2021 at 12:15 PM



“ Condolences from Allen Grier & A.E. Grier & Sons in Charlotte, NC 🌹



A Grier - August 28, 2021 at 11:00 AM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Tony Darnell Cosby.*



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August 27, 2021 at 05:58 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Tony Darnell Cosby.*



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August 27, 2021 at 04:04 PM



“ *Sandy & Keith Conner lit a candle in memory of Tony Darnell Cosby*



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**Sandy & Keith Conner** - August 27, 2021 at 01:59 PM



*Rest in Peace Dear Cousin, until we meet again. Love you, Sandy and Keith*

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**Sandy and Keith** - August 27, 2021 at 02:03 PM



“ *Sheila Brown lit a candle in memory of Tony Darnell Cosby*



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**Sheila Brown** - August 27, 2021 at 12:14 PM



“ *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.*

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**March Funeral Homes** - August 27, 2021 at 10:50 AM

SS

*To the Cosby Family,  
I had the pleasure of knowing Tony through theater many years ago.  
What a fantastic actor. He will be truly missed.  
May GOD give you peace & comfort. 🙏🌹🌟*

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**Shelia Spurlock - Shaw** - August 27, 2021 at 04:06 PM

CB

*Love you Tony. We will truly miss you. Warren and Carolyn*

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**Carolyn/Warren Brown** - August 28, 2021 at 11:56 AM