

FOR KOKO

By: Nyema Stewart

Sometimes in life, we cannot deal,
With moments that don't seem quite real.

Koko, forever you'll be near,
In loving thoughts, our hearts sincere.

You're in a better place,
A truth we all must learn to face.
We'll say goodbye, but just for today,
For you are not truly gone—just away.

So many things we wish to share,
The love you gave was always there.
You made us laugh, you made us smile,
Your warmth will linger all the while.

Your laughter bright, your knowing wink,
You made us pause, you made us think.
An angel now, you've spread your wings,
You've left us wisdom, precious things.

We'll always love you, come what may,
For love is endless, free today.
When skies above I stop to see,
Your bold spirit smiles at me.

Forever Koko, in heart and mind,
In memories sweet, your love we find.
Rest now in peace, your soul set free,
Forever a part of you lives in me.



Rest

C. S. Bennett, Sr. Building
315 Hallspur Road
Hazlehurst, GA 31539

Acknowledgements

We wish to express our heartfelt gratitude for all acts of kindness shown during our hour of sorrow. Though we are heartbroken, we take comfort in knowing Tara's memory will live on in all those who knew and loved her. May the riches and blessings of God be upon each of you.

—The Family of the Late Tara Selene Hill

Final arrangements and obituary design entrusted to
Thornton's Funeral Home
26 N. Miller St., Hazlehurst, GA 31539
www.thorntonsfuneralhome.com



CELEBRATION OF LIFE



TARA SELENE

Sunrise: May 21, 1961

Sunset: Aug 30, 2025

September 13, 2025 | 12:00pm

Mount Calvary Missionary Baptist Church | 27 Girtman Street | Hazlehurst, GA 31539

Christian King, Pastor

Remembrance of a Beautiful Life

On a warm spring Sunday morning, May 21, 1961, in Hazlehurst, Georgia, Lafayette and Helen Wilson Hill welcomed a beautiful baby girl, Tara Selene Hill. From the very start, Tara was a force of nature. She was adventurous, playful, friendly, and intrigued by all that the world has to offer. Her girlhood was one of innocent bliss, unfettered fun, and spirited play with her older siblings and neighbors on Brooker Street. Raised in a loving Christian home, Tara enjoyed an idyllic childhood which recognized and nurtured her formidable intelligence. Two of her greatest and most enduring influencers were her grandmothers, Mabel Ware Wilson and Onie B. Strong Hill.

At an early age, Tara joined Mount Calvary Missionary Baptist Church under the spiritual guidance of Pastor D.E. Kelley. She continued her spiritual growth under the leadership of Pastor E.K. Myles and her father, Pastor Lafayette Hill. She was a loyal member of the Mount Calvary Youth Choir under the tutelage of her grandmother, Onie B. Strong Hill. Later, she found pleasure and spread joy to others in serving in the church kitchen during special events and funeral repasts.

Tara began her educational journey at Hazlehurst High and Elementary School and completed her secondary education at Jeff Davis High School where she was crowned Homecoming Maid of Honor, being the first African American to occupy this position. A graduate of the Class of 1979, Tara initially matriculated at Fort Valley State University in Fort Valley, Georgia. Later, she completed her associate's degree at Savannah State University, her bachelor's degree at California State University at Stanislaus, and her master's degree in Computer Information Systems Security at Strayer University. Each of her degrees achieved the commendation of magna cum laude.

Tara enlisted in the United States Navy and served her country with distinction. During her service, she was assigned to Great Lakes, Illinois; Okinawa, Japan; and Christchurch, New Zealand. She was medically retired from the Veterans Benefits Administration.

Always a mover and a shaker, as well as a dreamer and a doer, Tara was elected as President of the Hill Family Reunion. She served two terms and was instrumental in establishing the biennial gathering. Tara had an amazing work ethic, a relentless drive to succeed, and absolutely no quit in her being. In conjunction with her uncle, Robert E. Hill, the reunion treasurer, she worked tirelessly to ensure the financial viability of the Hill Family Reunion.

Tara had an affinity for people and animals. Her vivacious charm and welcoming smile brightened every room she entered. Her friendships were legion and lasting.

Witty, well-read, and warm-hearted, Tara wore many hats and wore each of them well. She was a born entrepreneur who instinctively knew how to provide that special item or memorable experience for others. With a passion for travel, Tara visited every continent, except Antarctica, all the tourist hotspots, and all the major cities of the world.

She was an intrepid traveler who embraced other cultures with a refreshingly open mind. Her love of adventure was matched – if not exceeded – by her unquenchable, enthusiastic generosity. Tara was a liberal giver from a bottomless well.

Tara, with the help of her siblings, spearheaded the endowment of the Lafayette Hill Memorial Scholarship, in honor of her father's dedicated service to Jeff Davis County Board of Education. She and the other directors collaborated with the Joe Lee Hansley Foundation to provide college scholarships to deserving high school graduates.

Tara was a founding member of Impact 100 Global Veterans, an organization created by women to empower women by awarding them large grants that transform lives in a meaningful way. Not being one to do anything by half-measures, Tara served as vice-president and was a "plank owner."

Tara was enamored of her names, all three. She loved knowing that Tara meant "an elevated place" or "star" and Selene meant "the moon." Her fascination with her names and her initials led her to gift both of her daughters with unique names with the same initials: Takilya Spantese Hill and TiLei Sharee Hill. She even named her fur baby, her adored toy poodle, in that manner, Trixie Sally Hill.

Tara was a dedicated, down-to-the-bone, avid football fan who bled the red and black of both the University of Georgia Bulldogs and the Atlanta Falcons. She traveled religiously to their games and could instantly recall countless victorious moments.

While touring Bali, Indonesia, Tara unexpectedly left this mortal world and entered into eternal rest on Saturday, August 30, 2025. She was preceded in death by her father, Pastor Lafayette Hill; her brothers: Purcell Hill, Michael Hill, Arrinzie Wilcox, and Harvey Williams; her maternal grandparents: Joe and Mabel Wilson; her paternal grandparents: Eschol and Onie Hill; and her beloved toy poodle, Trixie Sally Hill.

Tara's precious memories will be forever cherished by her beloved mother, Helen Wilson Hill of Hazlehurst; her daughters and their husbands: Takilya (Reshadd) Stewart of Lithonia, Georgia, and TiLei (Andy) Odom of Hermitage, Tennessee; her siblings: Kelvin Hill of Hazlehurst, Donna Hill (Michael) Williams of Macon, Georgia, Kathryn Hill (Franklin) Moses of Warner Robins, Georgia, and Beverly Henry-Brown of Dallas, Texas; two granddaughters: Nyema and Amarah, who affectionately called her "KoKo"; her aunts: Betty Lewis of Baxley, Georgia, Martha Wilson of Columbia, South Carolina, and Katherine Phyllis Hill of Valdosta, Georgia; her uncles: John (Mary) Hill of Atlanta, Georgia, Dr. Glenwood (Betty) Hill of Fort Valley, Georgia, and Charles Wilcox of Hazlehurst; two great-aunts: Ada Griffin and Carrie Hill, both of Oviedo, Florida; her goddaughter, Danicia Steele of San Antonio, Texas; several nieces and nephews; and a host of sorrowing cousins, bereaved friends, and grieving neighbors.



A Celebration of Life

PASTOR REGINALD CORDY, PRESIDING

PRELUDE.....SOFT MUSIC

SCRIPTURE

 OLD TESTAMENT.....MINISTER RONALD ROBINSON

 NEW TESTAMENT..... MINISTER HENRY JOSEY

PRAYER OF COMFORT.....PASTOR CHRISTIAN KING

MUSICAL SELECTION.....MATTIE MCKEVER PARKER

REFLECTIONS

 VETERANS BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION.....JANICE TUCKER

 SASSY SEASONED SISTAHS.....VERONICA JOLLY

 NAVY COMPANIONS.....TRACY HUDSON

 NEIGHBORS.....BARBARA FRANCIS

 CLASSMATES.....JACKIE KORNEGAY JACOBS

MUSICAL SELECTION.....BONITA KORNEGAY

TRIBUTES

 COUSINS.....MARGUERITE HILL

 LIFE-LONG FRIEND.....DONNA RUMPH HARMON

 SIBLINGS.....KATHRYN HILL-MOSES

 GRANDDAUGHTERSNYEMA AND AMARAH STEWART

 DAUGHTERS.....TAKILYA STEWART AND TIJEI ODOM

VIDEO TRIBUTE.....THORNTON'S FUNERAL HOME

MUSICAL SELECTION.....PASTOR CORDY

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....THORNTON'S FUNERAL HOME

MILITARY FLAG PRESENTATION.....U.S. NAVY HONOR GUARD

RECESSIONAL.....CLERGY, FAMILY, FRIENDS

"Life is a sacred journey, marked not by the miles we travel, but by the love we share along the way. Though the path has led our beloved home, her light continues to guide us forward."



♥ — TARA'S WORLD — ♥

