



## Mary Elizabeth "Little Tootsie" Carter

March 29, 1964 - August 23, 2021

CARTER, Mrs. Mary Elizabeth "Little Tootsie" - age 57, passed away Monday, August 23, 2021 at Beaumont Hospital Troy. Family hour 10:30 AM Saturday, September 4, 2021 from the Chapel of the Lawrence E. Moon Funeral Home, 268 North Perry Street, with funeral commencing immediately at 11:00 A.M. Pastor James Keys, Officiating. Interment Perry Mount Park, 878 North Perry. Friends and pallbearers will assemble 10:30 A.M. at funeral home Saturday. Mrs. Carter will lie in state at the Chapel of the Lawrence E. Moon Funeral Home from 8:00 A.M. until the time of service on Saturday.

Mrs. Carter leaves to cherish her memory, husband, Samuel L. Carter; children, Julian Carter, JuJuantay Carter, and Marie Carter; grandchildren, Robert Buckley, Rehina Buckley, Azariah Patton, JuJuantay Carter, Jr., and Adrian Carter; father, Jerry LeDuff; mother, Gwendolyn Troop; brother, Yusef LeDuff; cousin, Gwen Pugh; best friend, Janice Grant; and special friends, Pastor and Sherry Roberts.

Mrs. Carter was preceded in death by grandparents, Octave LeDuff and Mary Elizabeth LeDuff.

# Cemetery

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## Perry Mount Park Cemetery

878 N. Perry St.

Pontiac, MI,

# Events

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**SEP 4** **Visitation** 08:00AM - 11:00AM  
Lawrence E. Moon Funeral Home Pontiac  
268 North Perry Street, Pontiac, MI, US, 48342

**SEP 4** **Family Hour** 10:30AM - 11:00AM  
Lawrence E. Moon Funeral Home Pontiac  
268 North Perry Street, Pontiac, MI, US, 48342

**SEP 4** **Funeral Service** 11:00AM - 12:00PM  
Lawrence E. Moon Funeral Home Pontiac  
268 North Perry Street, Pontiac, MI, US, 48342

# Comments

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“ A webcast video has been added.



**Lawrence E. Moon Funeral Home** - September 04, 2021 at 10:15 AM

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“ My Daughter “Tootsie” by Jerome “Jerry” LeDuff 09/04/2021  
(Read at her Celebration of Life)

I am very sorry that Annette and I cannot be with all of you to celebrate the life of Mary Elizabeth “Tootsie” LeDuff Carter.

Losing my daughter is extremely difficult...I love her so very much.

Mary was interested in and very proud of her LeDuff Creole heritage. She was the 12th generation of my family line of Louisiana Creoles. She enjoyed learning about our family history. Mary Elizabeth was named after her paternal grandmother, Mary Elizabeth Esnault LeDuff, and they shared the nickname “Tootsie”. “Li'l Toot” was the fiery version of my mother. Tootsie named her first-born Marie Therese after her eleventh-great grandmother, Marie-Thérèse Coincoin. Our roots run deep.

I will miss our many conversations about her interest in jazz. As her father, I began talking to her about the music at a very early age. As a parent, you want your child to appreciate what you value. As an adult, Tootsie wanted to know where I was performing and came to hear my group when she could. She was enthusiastic and truly enjoyed the music. It wasn't unusual for her to call to tell me about a jazz musician or group she heard.

My daughter decided to know and talk about jazz with me. I recognized that she chose this as something we could share, because many years before, I decided that I should know and talk about sports with my father so we could share in his interest. That is a gesture of love between child and parent.

Mary and I would talk about current events also. Of course, she would usually agree with me, mostly to make me feel good because my adult child learned something from me. Very clever! I don't believe she learned that from me. She was a clever conversationalist. Tootsie had a natural ability to make others comfortable with her.

I have memories of our conversations from the time Tootsie began to talk until our last conversation when she was hospitalized shortly before her death. They are memories spanning Mary's lifetime, and with those memories, she will never be forgotten.

Most importantly, every conversation with my daughter ended with “I love you.”

Now my every thought of Tootsie is accompanied with the words “I love you.”

As a young girl, Tootsie always wanted to be with me. During our time together, I often took her to music rehearsals. She was very well behaved and listened to the music. The band members gave her lots of attention...and she really enjoyed it!

As a young adult, Tootsie wanted to have a family. She and Sam share three wonderful children. She was very proud of her children. When we talked, she would tell me what and how well her children were doing before I could ask. Always

positive! Over time that small family grew to include grandchildren, and Tootsie wanted to be near them as well. They were most important to her.

When she was younger and we talked about her health, I thought perhaps she didn't understand what the doctors were telling her. In more recent years, even while hospitalized, she always tried to make it seem that she was getting better. What I came to realize is that Mary was learning about her health and accepting those changes. She looked to the bright side and kept going.

Tootsie did not express concerns about her declining health. That choice was her final gesture of love for those she loved. We must know that she did that for us.

"I love you."

**Jerome LeDuff** - September 04, 2021 at 02:41 PM

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“ Ellen Hughley sent a virtual gift in memory of Mary Elizabeth "Little Tootsie" Carter



**Ellen Hughley** - September 04, 2021 at 10:04 AM

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“ Denise Taylor-Broner lit a candle in memory of Mary Elizabeth "Little Tootsie" Carter



**Denise Taylor-Broner** - September 04, 2021 at 10:01 AM

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“ WOW! TOOTSIE! It has been years, probably since Herrington Elementary! Sure wish I could have ran into you at some point in time, and now I'm sad because I didn't get to see you, but hopefully we will see each other in the Kingdom! Rest well, my friend!



**Michael Rowls** - September 03, 2021 at 09:59 PM

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“ May the LORD comfort and heal the broken hearts of Mary Elizabeth's family, as they grieve their loss.

**Jeanette Branner** - September 03, 2021 at 05:53 PM

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“ Mary is my second mom. When my mom passed away which was her partner in crime she became my confidant. Not to mention she helped raise me and my siblings just like she did for a lot of others. I'm going to miss you titi. I hope you got your mansion and your driving the gold lined streets of heaven in your little red corvette. I love you now rest easy and please don't worry about any of us we will be ok. You did your job here and now it's your time to go home to the lord and rest because you're not hurting anymore.



**Sylvia Wood** - September 03, 2021 at 05:19 PM

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“ Carolyn Clark lit a candle in memory of Mary Elizabeth "Little Tootsie" Carter



**Carolyn Clark** - September 03, 2021 at 04:59 PM

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“ Mary will always be remembered as a valued friend of my sister Vera Bullard. My deepest sympathies to her family and friends.

**Carolyn Clark** - September 03, 2021 at 05:01 PM

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“ RODGER & LISA ALEXANDER FAMILY lit a candle in memory of Mary Elizabeth "Little Tootsie" Carter



**RODGER & LISA ALEXANDER FAMILY** - August 31, 2021 at 09:05 AM

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“ I meant Tootsie 22 years ago when we became Neighbors on State Street. Not long after that we became family her and my mom became best friends as she would tell everybody we was cousins which was not a lie she is definitely family I loved her deeply and I love her family as my own. My heart is broken I don't understand why but that's not for us to understand. This is not goodbye Mary but see you later.



**Sabrina Knudtson** - August 30, 2021 at 11:47 PM

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“ My memory with Mary starts from when we both was children’ Mary and I could not sing at all and we would try our best and sing songs together’ tootsie came to visit us in arizona and we had such a good time together’ Mary is my first cousin and I am going to truly miss talking to her and Mrs her in general’ Love you tootsie’ and Rest In Peace. You

**theresa granberry** - August 30, 2021 at 05:06 PM

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“ Mary Carter AKA Tootsie was my Niece. She was a beautiful woman inside and out. She loved her Husband, Children and Grandchildren. She was loved by so many people. Tootsie I just wanted you to know how much you meant to me . We will be together again. Love you RIH.

**Amelia Rice** - August 30, 2021 at 04:41 PM