



















## – Pallbearers –

Family and Friends

## – Flower Bearers –

Family and Friends

## – Acknowledgment –

**The family of Tonya Lea Shorter acknowledges with grateful appreciation all acts of kindness, prayers, cards, telephone calls, flowers, and words of comfort extended to us during our time of bereavement. May God bless each of you.**

IN MEMORIAM

May we take this opportunity to express sincere and deep appreciation for allowing us to serve you during this most difficult period. It is our constant aim to afford to the people of this community a service completed in all details and faultlessly executed with sympathy and understanding.

Final Arrangements Entrusted to:

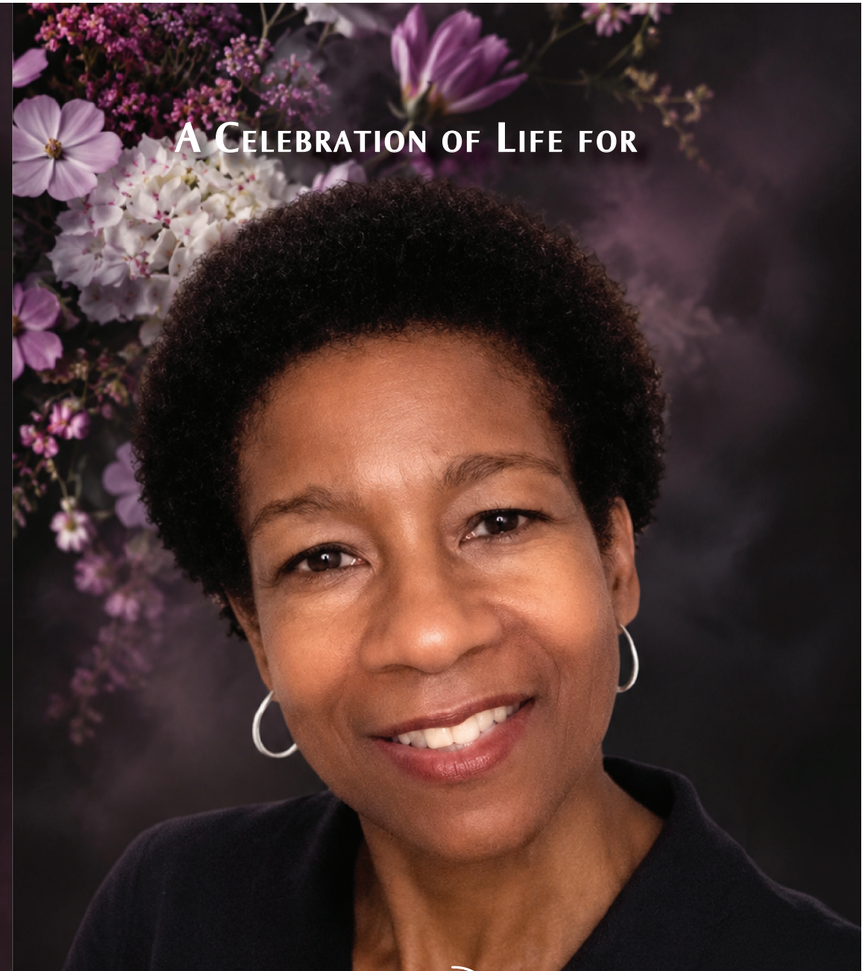
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A Celebration of Life for



# Tonya Lea SHORTER

**Saturday, October 24, 2026**
**11:00 a.m.**

**Bethesda Missionary Baptist Church**
201 South 4th Street
Opelika, AL 36801

**Reverend Anthony Pogue, Officiating**

# – Obituary –

Ms. Tonya Lea Shorter, daughter of the late Mr. Melvin and Mrs. Vilenar Morgan Shorter, was born March 16, 1965, in Macon County, Alabama.

At an early age, she confessed Christ and united with Bethesda Missionary Baptist Church in Opelika, Alabama.

Ms. Shorter graduated from Opelika High School Class of 1983. She attended and graduated from Southern Union State Junior College in 1986 with an Associate of Arts degree. Furthering her education, she attended Auburn University and graduated in 1990 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Visual Arts and a Minors in Psychology and Speech Communication.

She later attended H. Council Trenholm State Technical College, August 2004 to October 2004. She received her Certificate of Truck Driver Training.

She began working as a Deli Clerk at Kroger in Opelika.

After college she was employed at Lee County Department of Public Health/Human Resources as a Case Manager.

She worked at the Home Depot as a salesperson in Montgomery. She later worked for the Colonial Mortgage Company in Mongomery.

She moved back to Opelika and worked for the Alabama Department of Transportation, as an Engineer Assistant, surveyor. She later moved on to Engineer Assistant in Construction.

She worked for Averitt Express as a truck driver where she drove semi-trucks all over the United States. She later worked for the city of Auburn as a recycle equipment operator.

Later worked at GKN Aerospace, Inc where she started as a composite worker and was promoted to Senior Secretary. She worked for the Lee County Commissions and as a Voter Registration Assistant. In her free time, she enjoyed riding motorcycles, expressing her creativity through art, working on cars and caring for animals, all of which reflected her many interests and passions.

On Thursday, October 8, 2026, she departed this life at the East Alabama Medical Center in Opelika, Alabama. She was preceded in death by one brother, Frederick "Freddie" Russ.

She leaves to cherish her memory: a sister, Melvina (Jerry) Ponzio of Hollister, CA; brother, Stanley (Shirley) Shorter of Montgomery, AL; two aunts, Valerie (Andrew) Nolan of Boston, MA and Linda Marable Tunner of Auburn, AL; a devoted niece, Tania Hill of Atlanta, GA; two devoted nephews, Cody Ponzio of Hollister, CA and Dylan Ponzio of San Diego, CA; a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.










# – Order of Service –

**PROCESSIONAL**
Clergy and Family

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**
Reverend Chris Nunn

**PRAYER OF COMFORT**
Minister Margaret Gerido

**MUSICAL SELECTION**
Barbara Sanford

**EXPRESSIONS OF LOVE AND MEMORIES**
Two Minutes Each Please

**RESOLUTION**
Jason Ponzio

**MUSICAL SELECTION**
Virginia Graham

**EULOGY**
Reverend Anthony Pogue

**BENEDICTION**

**RECESSIONAL**