



Tonyatta Nicola Burse

February 27, 2026

Tonyatta Nicola Burse was born on October 30, 1973, at Charity Hospital in New Orleans, Louisiana, to Jimmy L. Burse and Tonda M. Burse. She spent most of her life on the Westbank in Marrero, where she built deep roots with family, friends, and community. At an early age, Tonyatta accepted God and was baptized at Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church No. 2, beginning a lifelong foundation of faith. She graduated from L.W. Higgins High School as a proud member of the Class of 1993 and later attended the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. In 1995, Tonyatta answered the call to serve her country by enlisting in the United States Army. During her years of service, she earned multiple honors and commendations and advanced to the rank of Specialist in Telecommunications. She served with dedication and distinction until receiving an honorable discharge in 1999. Tonyatta was preceded in death by her great-grandmother, Eolia D. Stewart; her grandmothers, Katherine V. Williams and Velma L. Burse; her grandfathers, Clifton Burse and Nelson Stewart; and her brother, Jimmy N. Burse. She leaves to cherish her memory her loving parents, Jimmy L. Burse and Tonda M. Burse; her godfather, Joseph J. Morgan; her godmother, Sheila A. Early; her devoted daughter, Niema D. Neal; her beloved sisters, Duwana M. Burse and Kalaina L. Burse; her treasured grandson, Leonardo O. Neal; her godson and nephew, Demond D. Williams Jr.; her nephew, Jimmy N. Cole; her nieces, Kris L. Johnson Taplet, Kourtney R. Parker, Jaire'L N. Jackson, and Carie'L A. Burse; and a host of aunts, uncles, cousins, comrades, and dear friends. Tonyatta's life was

marked by service, strength, faith, and love for her family. Her presence will be deeply missed, but her legacy will live on in all who knew and loved her.

Cemetery Details

Southeast LA. Veterans Cemetery

34888 Grantham College Dr, Slidell, LA
70460
Slidell, LA 70460

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 16. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (CT)

Rhodes Funeral Home - Washington Avenue
3933 Washington Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70125
(504) 822-7162
<https://www.rhodesfuneral.com>

Funeral Service

MAR 16. 10:00 AM (CT)

Rhodes Funeral Home - Washington Avenue
3933 Washington Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70125
(504) 822-7162
<https://www.rhodesfuneral.com>

Tribute Wall

DJ

“ Sincere condolences and prayers to the Burse family 🙏



Denise Jamison - March 22 at 07:36 PM

KB

“ I will ALWAYS love you and remember your grace. ❤️

Kalaina Burse - March 19 at 07:20 PM

“ Dear family,

I wanted to share a few words about the privilege of knowing and caring for her at the VA.

When I first met her, it was shortly after she received her diagnosis. She was upset, and rightfully so. Her life had changed suddenly, and she was trying to take in news that no one is ever prepared to hear. Those first days were difficult, but over time I had the chance to see another side of her. As the days passed and we talked more, she softened. What began as a doctor-patient relationship gradually became a real friendship.

We worked together to keep her comfortable and ease her pain, but we also shared ordinary moments in between the hard ones. I remember how something as simple as sushi could bring a smile to her face. Those small things mattered. They reminded both of us that she was always much more than what she was going through.

One night she asked me something I will never forget. She looked at me and said, “Why are you doing all this? How can you do all this?”

I told her honestly that I did it for her as much as I did it for me.

Near the end of her life, or maybe better said, near the beginning of her eternal life, we had one of those quiet conversations about what may lie beyond this world. I shared with her a simple story about two babies in their mother’s womb. One asked, “Do you think this is all there is?” The other answered, “Maybe this is not the end. Maybe this is only the beginning.” The first then asked, “But how could there be anything more if this is all we have ever known?” And the other replied, “Maybe there is a life beyond this one that we cannot yet see.” Then one asked, “And who would be there waiting for us?” The other answered, “Maybe our mother,” the one they could not yet see, but who had been carrying them the whole time. I shared that

story with her because I hoped it would bring her comfort and peace, and in its own way, it speaks to the hope that even when we cannot fully see what lies ahead, we are still being held by God.

I saw her the night before she passed. I also had the honor of meeting some of you. What stays with me most is the warmth, honesty, and heart she carried through such a difficult time. Even in the middle of everything she was facing, there was still room for connection, trust, and grace.

It was truly an honor to know her and to walk alongside her during that part of her journey. Please know that I will remember her with deep respect and affection.

With deepest sympathy,

Cornelio Corrales, MD (Dr. C)

Cornelio Corrales - March 16 at 11:45 AM

KB

You are not just a great doctor, yet an awesome person ❤️ Thank you for your kind words spoken and written. Your presence provided a sense of calm that was definitely needed. Thank you, Dr. C💕💕

Kalaina Burse - March 19 at 07:15 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Tonyatta Nicola Burse.*



March 13 at 03:56 PM

RS

“ My heartfelt condolences to Toni’s family.
Toni and I go back to our days at Higgins High School and later at
USL. We shared so many memories throughout those years. One
thing I will never forget is her laughter and running to class.
The Bible reminds us:
“Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.” Matthew
5:4
May God’s peace and comfort be with your family.
I will Keep everyone in my prayers 🙏

Richelle C Smith-Wilson - March 11 at 10:48 PM

KB

Thank you so much ❤️

Kalaina Burse - March 19 at 07:17 PM