

*Barbara Denson Tatum* was born in Americus, Georgia on November 27, 1960, to the parentage of the late Mr. Claude Deriso and Mrs. Gradene Deriso, who survives.

Barbara was a small-time country girl with big time city dreams. She accomplished—through a multifaceted journey—graduating from Americus High School, furthering her education at South Georgia Technical College, where she received an associate degree, and continuing her education later in life at Branell College, where she earned a bachelor's degree.

Barbara had an entrepreneurial spirit and was incredibly talented. Barbara was known for her impeccable skills as a seamstress, a home interior decorator, a wedding planner, and a housekeeper. She also enjoyed landscaping.

Barbara's most admirable gift was to cook you a wonderful meal; however, her true passion was baking. For many years, she was employed with Food Lion as a cake decorator. Barbara made the most delightful baked goods you would taste in this lifetime. That was her most coveted gift that this earth will remember her for besides her beautiful smile, her beautiful heart, and her witty sense of humor.

Barbara was a loving housewife, mother, friend, sister, aunt, and grandmother. She had a knack for always putting others before her. She was an exceptional woman who had been around the world twice and spoke to everybody once and if you encountered her, she changed your life forever.

In addition to her husband, the late Deacon Daniel Tatum, Sr. and her father, she is preceded in death by a stepdaughter, Gloria Tatum and a very dear friend, Patricia Battle.

Left to cherish her loving memories are her mother, Mrs. Gradene Deriso of Americus, GA; her children: Albert (Serita Harkness) Cooper III of Stone Mountain, GA; Consuela Cooper, Justin (Latasha) Tatum, all of Covington, GA and Anderson Bouvier (Gabrielle) Cooper of Riverdale, GA; a nephew who she loved as a son, Taurus Deriso of Atlanta, GA; her stepchildren: Dorothy Tatum Gardner, Lisa Tatum, McKeithia Billups (Sam) Hurley, all of Americus, GA; Daniel (Brenda) Tatum II of Lancaster, CA; Anthony (Saundra) Tatum, Sr. of Wake Forest, NC; Danette (Darnell) Hall, Susie (Henry) Tatum, all of Tuskegee, AL and Christopher Tatum of Riverdale, GA; her brothers: Claude (Regina) Deriso, Jr. of Americus, GA; Roscoe (Helen Paul) Deriso, Shawn (Tina) Deriso, all of Cordele, GA and Tony (Wanda) Deriso of Plains, GA; her sisters: Jackie Barnes, Alicia Deriso and Brenda (Derrick) Wafford, all of Americus, GA; thirteen grandchildren: Quiana Cooper, Andrielle Cooper, Aubree Cooper, Amani Cooper, Justin Tatum II, Jessika Tatum, Sanchez Tatum, Jaylen D. Cooper, Aiden C. Cooper, Adonis C. Cooper, Tahkeydrah Cooper, TyQuance

Cooper and Kijuan Cooper; a host step-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives and friends, including devoted friends, Sharmi Pinkston and Juanita Minter also survive.