



Tess Hayes

October 15, 1968 - September 5, 2025

Tess Hayes-Santiago, born October 15, 1968, in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, was the beloved daughter of the late Albert Hayes Jr. and Elizabeth Hayes. She grew up in Deerfield Beach, Florida, alongside her cherished siblings, Janna Chinnery and Albert Hayes III, whom she loved deeply.

From an early age, Tess was vibrant, spirited, and a natural leader. At just ten years old, she could be found gathering her siblings, cousins, and even her aunt into a makeshift classroom, eagerly teaching “her students” the spelling and math lessons she had learned. As a teenager, she poured her energy into her mother’s community youth program, A Family Affair—an organization dedicated to mentoring young people through charity events, fashion shows, talent showcases, dramatic productions, and educational workshops. Tess’ creativity, passion, and unwavering commitment to others inspired everyone around her, and her leadership shone brightly.

Tess attended Charles Drew Elementary School and Crystal Lake Middle School before graduating with pride from Deerfield Beach High School. She continued her education at Edward Waters College, where she earned her Bachelor of Arts degree with honors. With a heart for both learning and service, she built a meaningful career as a teacher, tutor, and counselor. In every role she carried—whether professional, sister, daughter, wife, or friend—Tess embodied compassion, patience, and a tireless dedication to helping

others succeed.

Above all, Tess loved the Lord. She served Him faithfully, cherished His Word, and nurtured a deep personal relationship with Him that guided every aspect of her life. Her faith was not only spoken but lived—reflected in her kindness, her resilience, her unshakable hope, and her extraordinary love for God.

As a proud and faithful member of the 15th Street Church of Christ in Pompano Beach, Florida, Tess treasured her church family. She loved Scripture and the people of God, and her devotion was evident in the way she served, uplifted, and encouraged others.

She often reminded her loved ones that “life is but a vapor”—a gentle encouragement to live each day with purpose, intention, and gratitude. Tess believed in making the most of every moment and never missed an opportunity to remind others of their worth, the importance of walking in love, and the unwavering love of Christ.

Tess’ life was a testimony of grace, strength, and devotion. Her influence lives on in the many lives she touched, and she will be remembered always with gratitude and joy.

She leaves to cherish her memory her devoted husband and true love of more than 18 years, Herbert Santiago; her loving siblings, Janna Chinnery (Michael Chinnery) and Albert Hayes III; her god-sister, Debra Hanna-Vincent (James Vincent); beloved nieces Shanequa Jones, Allizon Hayes, Alleonna Hayes, and Allyssia “Lys” Hayes; her aunts Barbara Ann President, Meg German President, and Melquilette Eliazar; her uncle, Reginald President; her special cousin, Ethel Mae Burns; and a host of cousins, relatives, former students, colleagues, church family, and friends.

On September 5, 2025, Tess transitioned peacefully into glory, leaving behind

a legacy of love, faith, and service. Though her presence will be profoundly missed, her light and her legacy will remain forever in the hearts of all who knew her.

Cemetery Details

Treasure Coast Crematory

Previous Events

Memorial Service

SEP **20**. 10:00 AM (ET)

15th Street church of Christ
390 NW 15th Street
Pompano Beach, FL 33060

Tribute Wall

AC

“ I remember our High School days



April Clemmons - January 30 at 07:25 PM

BB

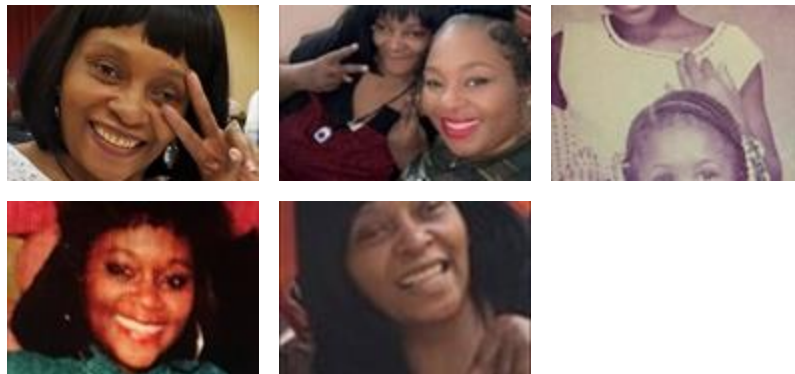
“ Barbara Butler lit a candle in memory of Tess Hayes



Barbara Butler - September 18, 2025 at 08:24 PM



“ 39 files added to the album Memories Album



L.C. Poitier Funeral Home - September 18, 2025 at 03:50 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Tess Hayes.*



September 18, 2025 at 08:53 AM



“ *Tess you'll never be forgotten. You were just as beautiful as your parents. I will miss our phone conversations and how I could hear your smile.* 😊



Helen P HUNTER - September 10, 2025 at 07:39 AM



“ *Ethel & Andy Burns lit a candle in memory of Tess Hayes*



Ethel & Andy Burns - September 08, 2025 at 05:21 PM



“ *Barbara Butler lit a candle in memory of Tess Hayes*



Barbara Butler - September 07, 2025 at 10:57 PM