



# Thank You

WORDS CANNOT EXPRESS HOW DEEPLY WE APPRECIATE ALL THE LOVE AND SUPPORT SHOWN TO OUR FAMILY DURING THIS DIFFICULT TIME. WE ARE INCREDIBLY GRATEFUL AND WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER YOUR KINDNESS.

- YOUNG FAMILY -



IN LOVING

# Memory



## DEBRA MARELLA GARCIA YOUNG

JANUARY 7, 1959 - AUGUST 29, 2024

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2024

BENTA'S FUNERAL HOME





## Obituary

She was intelligent and began college at age 16. Deb graduated from Fordham University in 1988 with a bachelor's degree in political science. She earned a master's degree in secondary education from Grand Canyon University in 2009, graduating with honors. Deb was actively involved in the community, holding memberships in various organizations, including the Mayor's Educational Council for District 11 in The Bronx. Deb was also the faculty advisor for the Black Student Union at the school she retired from in Arizona.

Teaching was her calling, and she excelled at it for more than 35 years. She was a powerhouse, always assigned to teach the "bad" class, yet produced the valedictorian year after year. She took her students on field trips to Washington D.C. and for many, it was their first time leaving The Bronx. She taught them right from wrong.

"If you cheat once you'll always be a cheater and you'll never get far in life," Ms. Young told a student she caught cheating.

Recently, that student saw Whittaker and expressed how much that moment changed his life. News of Deb's passing brought similar stories from former students and friends, who recounted how she transformed their lives for the better through her words and actions.

Her ability to encourage others to be their best extended beyond her teaching; it was a fundamental part of who she was. If you ask any relative or friend what Debbie was like, they would all describe her as selfless, down-to-earth, outspoken, and hardworking.



## Obituary

Debra Marella Garcia Young, better known as "Cool Deb," passed away on August 29, 2024, surrounded by her loved ones. She was born in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, on January 7, 1959, to Sylvia Garcia and Irvin Austin Primus. She is survived by her four siblings: Trevor (Sherrie), Ian, Lisa (Wayne), and Jillian.

She grew up in Tunapuna, Trinidad, where she was often seen with her skirt tucked under her belly, shoelaces untied, and her hair in two plaited braids because she had a lot. Every morning, Deb and her aunt would raid the plum tree on their walk to school. She attended Arima Government Secondary School until she moved to the United States as a teenager. As a military wife, she had five children: Nashaka (Terrance), Whittaker, Winston, William, and Nadira. Cool Deb was always laughing, smiling, and cracking jokes; she was everyone's favorite person.

Cool Deb loved to dress up. She attended the Barbizon Modeling School to learn how to model and apply makeup. Deb decided not to pursue the runway but if she did, Naomi Campbell wouldn't have stood a chance. She loved to wear bright colors and flowy pieces. She would dress up, do her makeup, and sit in the lobby of her building. Her parents didn't allow her to go out, but that didn't stop her from dressing how she wanted. Deb was confident.

Carnival was Deb's favorite time. She loved to fete and traveled to England, Miami, and, of course, Trinidad to participate. "Ready For De Road" was her favorite song, and she enjoyed the Sunny Side Up breakfast fete in Trinidad. Deb embraced her Indian side and was very proud of her heritage. One of her dreams was to return to Trinidad to teach English and learn more about her ancestry.



## Obituary

She loved her family deeply. Distance meant nothing to her, as she traveled from Arizona to New York and Trinidad every year to see them. She cherished all her siblings, children, grand children; Winston Jr, Whittaker (DJ), Trey, Cam'ran, Valentina, Whynter, and Nyah. Her affection extended to aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, and cousins alike. It didn't matter which generation you came from or how long it has been since you last spoke— Deb loved you.

Debra will be terribly missed and never forgotten. Long live Cool Deb; we love you.



## Obituary

She was the blueprint and inspiration to achieve higher education goals while raising a family and working full-time.

"I did it, you could do it sis," Deb said to her sisters while they pursued their degrees.

She was an amazing cook and eagerly taught anyone who wanted to learn. She was not afraid to try new recipes she saw on the cooking channel the same day. In doing so, her family and those around her became better cooks. Debbie enjoyed cooking for any occasion. It was an act of love for her.

"When you share your food you're sharing blessings," Debbie said.

Her favorite dishes included bake and shark from Maracas Beach, stew pork, anything curried, souse, and butterfish. Whenever she arrived in Trinidad, her first meal was rice, dahl, and smoked herring. She loved to wash it down with either Carib, Stag, or Hennessy and coconut water, her signature drink.

She enjoyed relaxing and watching TV. If the cooking channel wasn't on, she could be found watching "The First 48" or "Bar Rescue." She had a passion for history and watching old Western movies. A skilled Spades player, always ready to wipe the floor with you. Deb adored her dog, Gucci who was always on her shoulder and supported her in many ways.



## *Funeral Arrangement*

VIEWING: 10 AM

SERVICE: 11 AM

**Benta's Funeral Home  
630 St. Nicholas Ave  
New York, NY 10030**

INTERMENT

**Kensico Cemetery  
273 Lakeview Ave  
Valhalla, NY 10595**

REPAST: 3-8 PM

**24-70 49th St.  
Astoria, NY 11103**



## *Order of Service*

PROCESSIONAL

INVOCATION

SELECTION I: **What a Friend We Have in Jesus**

POEM: **To My Sister**

SELECTION II: **His Eye is on The Sparrow**

FIRST READING: **Psalm 90**

SECOND READING: **Psalm 23**

PRAYER OF COMFORT

OBITUARY

THIRD READING: **John 14, 1-4**

SELECTION III: **Going Up Yonder!**

EULOGY

REMEMBRANCE

BENEDICTION

FINAL VIEWING

RECESSIONAL



