



Dennis Black

March 27, 1956 - October 11, 2024

“That’s my twin!” you might hear in the halls of Scott High School in the early 1970’s as Denise chased her brother, who is one-minute younger than she. Born March 27, 1956 Dennis Black was the youngest of four children born to Viola Perkins Black. His father, Drayton Green Bembry, better known as “DG”, taught him many life lessons every day.

A 1974 graduate of Jesup W. Scott High School, Dennis early education was through Washington Elementary, Lincoln Elementary, and Robinson Junior High Schools. His life was a woven tapestry full of deep commitments within Toledo Public Schools. They educated him, nurtured his competitive spirit, as well as developing his skills to be a role model, mentor, and guide for generations of capable young men and women.

Dennis played drums in the band at Robinson and briefly played the “big Bass drum” at Scott under the leadership of the legendary Augustus Walker. But his dedication was transferred to football. Under Coach Richard Johnson, Dennis was on teams which won 2 consecutive “Shoe Bowls”, City Championships, and in 1972 played in the semi-finals State Championship at Ohio State University. Who knew that he would later return to Scott as head football coach.

His senior year, Dennis began dating the girl that would become the love of his life, head majorette Trevor Thomas. He was voted “Mr. Escort” for his suave, congenial, and cooperative qualities in that year’s Debutante Cotillion Ball.

Given only two options for life after high school: “Go to college or join the military!”, Dennis opted to attend Kent State University. There he majored in Tele-Communications with his eye on becoming a program producer. He played intramural football for his dorm, but mainly wore out the road between KSU and Ohio State University to spend precious moments with Trevor.

During his summer vacations, as a college student, Dennis drove the big yellow tractors, cutting grass for the city of Toledo with his childhood friend Charles McBee. However, after graduating from KSU in 1979, he was unable to secure a job in his degreed field. As a result of a chance meeting with his former principal, Flute Rice, Dennis got his substitute teacher’s certification. He taught for 38 years, retiring twice.

On August 22, 1981, family and friends came together to celebrate the marvelous wedding of Trevor Thomas to Dennis Black. As a couple they were supportive of one another. They enjoyed going to the movies, eating out, traveling and cruising. Annually they attend the Kentucky Derby in Louisville and the Circle City Classic in Indianapolis to encourage Scott’s Marching Band.

Mr. Black’s professional career with TPS included teaching at Robinson, McTigue, Start, Woodward, and of course Scott. He taught all academic subjects as well as business, trade, and art related subjects. His favorite and most challenging job was as Intervention Specialist. In that role, he challenged

students with specific learning disabilities to excel beyond expected limits.

At Robinson Mr. Black coached the football, track, and basketball teams. Under his guidance his basketball teams won the Junior High School City Championships 7 years in row. Later, as Scott's Freshmen Basketball Coach, he won several City Championships. He was assisted by former Scott student, Anthony "Tubby" Miller. Coach Black laid the foundation for players to move up to Scott's varsity team headed by Mr. Ben Williams and beyond.

Dennis was also Assistant Football Coach under Clarence Price whom he followed as Head Coach. Matt Davis, who had been a player under Dennis, became his successor.

Dennis was an excellent cook and a grill master. He was an avid Pittsburgh Steelers fan; decorating his family room in black and yellow, while decorating other parts of the house in maroon and white. He was also a basketball enthusiast. Watching sports was one of his favorite pastimes.

Despite his illnesses he continued to greet people with a warm smile and a hardy handshake. No matter where he was, it was known that Mr. Dennis Black was the embodiment of "Once a Bulldog, Always a Bulldog!" He claimed that he and his classmates were the originators of that phrase, which was stolen and corrupted by other schools around the country.

Dennis was preceded in death by his mother, Viola Perkins Black; father, Drayton Green Bembry; sister, Corrine Black; brother Drayton Green Bembry, Jr. of New York, brother Lavell Black, nephew, Lavelle "Mark" Black; and parents-in-law, Carrington and Anez Thomas all of Toledo, Ohio.

Those who will continue to cherish their time with Dennis are his wife of 43

years Trevor; twin sister Denise Black-Poon, sisters Lorraine Black and Toni Bemby Griffin; brother-in-law Michael S. Thomas; sister-in-law Linda D. Thomas of Columbus, Ohio; nephews Jerrell Coleman, Antwon (Debbie) Johnson, both of Toledo, Ohio, John O. Poon, II of Columbus, Ohio, and DeAndre' Webb of Detroit, Michigan; nieces: Doreka (David) Gans of Stone Mountain, Georgia Tasha (Sammie) Harton of Toledo, Ohio, Miquelyn Thomas of Columbus, Ohio, Donyelle Thomas of Lithonia, Georgia, Lorraine "Toni" Black and Lynelle Black-Allen, and Laura J. Poon all of Toledo, Ohio; goddaughter Kiesha Givens of Wilson, N.C.; special friends Napolean and Lorraine Dobbins of Louisville, KY., Kenneth and Patti Poston, and Linda Collins, both of Toledo, Ohio; "The Family" of Scott High School, great nieces, great nephews, cousins, adoptive children, and loving friends.

Cemetery Details

Historic Woodlawn Cemetery

1502 West Central Avenue
Toledo, OH

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **25**. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Dale-Riggs Funeral Home & Cremation Services
572 Nebraska Avenue
Toledo, OH 43604
(419) 248-4254
info@dalefh.com

Family Hour

OCT **26**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Friendship Baptist Church
5301 Nebraska Ave
Toledo, OH 43615
(419) 531-3242

Funeral Service

OCT **26**. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Friendship Baptist Church
5301 Nebraska Ave
Toledo, OH 43615
(419) 531-3242

Tribute Wall

AN

“ My condolences to Mr. Black's family. He had been my substitute teacher at Glenwood Elementary. Whenever we would learn that we were going to have a substitute, we would be glad when Mr. Black would come to fill in. I remember him being a kind person, even years later it would always be great running into him from time to time. He always had something positive to say. I pray the God of comfort bring peace and comfort to the family.

Angie - December 21, 2024 at 08:48 AM

TT

“ Tanya Johnson Turner from South Gate CA class 74' send my condolences to you Trevor, Denise, and the Black family for your loss.



Tanya M Turner - November 07, 2024 at 11:59 PM

WH

“ Willie "Skipper "Harris&family from Oakland, California send our Condolences to his wife&family. I have always felt Dennis were a brother for LIFE especially when I first met him at KENT STATE UNIVERSITY.

Willie Harris - October 30, 2024 at 03:32 AM

CL

“ Not only did I grow up with the Black twins on West Woodruff but we also graduated from Scott H. School together Class of 74. Dennis would always greet you with a smile and always had encouraging words when he knew you were having a bad day. You will truly be missed. My deepest condolences to the family. R.I.P. my childhood friend 🙏

Claudine - October 26, 2024 at 12:30 PM

MS

“ To Trevor and family: My sincere thoughts and prayers are with you. Today, I shall remember Dennis the way I last saw him as he walked across the street wearing a sharp jogging outfit, with the biggest smile on his face. He was so happy and excited because Trevor was taking him to visit family out-of-town. He was always so thoughtful, caring, and kind.
Mrs. Wilma Smith

Mrs. Wilma Smith - October 26, 2024 at 08:26 AM

JS

“ Sending prayers to the entire family of Dennis Black. His kind smile, witty personality, hand shakes & hugs for everyone in our family are fondly remembered. The support & genuine care as a basketball coach to our son & other kids during the '90s was appreciated. Thank you Trevor for sharing your husband with so many who will miss him.
We wish you peace in the days ahead. ❤️🙏
Dennis & Jackie Springs & Family.

Jacqueline Springs - October 25, 2024 at 01:37 AM

RT

“ Dennis was fun-loving, hardworking, and full of life! I will miss him dearly, but will remember so many good times shared with family and friends. He loved popcorn, the Pittsburgh Steelers, and my homemade biscuits! So long, my friend, until we meet again.

RISTINA THOMPSON - October 24, 2024 at 11:57 PM

AS

“ To the family: Please accept my deepest condolences. Mr. Black and I worked together at Robinson, and I will always remember him to be a great man.

Amir Shabazz - October 24, 2024 at 11:03 PM

SH

“ My sincere condolences and deepest sympathy to the Black family and friends. My thoughts and prayers are with you all during your time of bereavement. May God bless you all with comfort strength and peace during your time of sorrow.



Sheila M Howell - October 24, 2024 at 04:40 PM

RJ

“ Ruby, Keith, Angie, Lauren and Josh purchased the Basket Full of Wishes for the family of Dennis Black.



Ruby, Keith, Angie, Lauren and Josh - October 24, 2024 at 12:03 PM

RJ

“ Ruby, Keith, Angie, Lauren and Josh planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dennis Black.

Ruby, Keith, Angie, Lauren and Josh - October 24, 2024 at 12:03 PM

SG

“ 🙏 Prayers For The Entire Black Family...
My Deepest Sympathy And Condolences...
Dennis Will Be Missed By Many.
SHARON GRAHAM



SHARON GRAHAM - October 24, 2024 at 11:48 AM

RR

“ Rolanda Ross lit a candle in memory of
Dennis Black



Rolanda Ross - October 24, 2024 at 08:50 AM

MF

“ McCaster family purchased the Serene Reflectio
ns Bouquet for the family of Dennis Black.



McCaster family - October 24, 2024 at 03:03 AM

RB

“ *Ruby L. Burel lit a candle in memory of Dennis Black*



Ruby L. Burel - October 23, 2024 at 10:25 AM

TT

“ *THE TARRENT FAMILY James F Tarrent purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Dennis Black.*



THE TARRENT FAMILY James F Tarrent - October 23, 2024 at 03:56 AM

TT

“ *THE TARRENT FAMILY James F Tarrent planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dennis Black.*

THE TARRENT FAMILY James F Tarrent - October 23, 2024 at 03:56 AM

BA

“ *To Trevor, the friends and rest of Mr. Black's Family, our prayers are with you during this time of loss to earth. Please continue to utilize God's love and the love you had with Dennis to get you through the remaining days ahead. Dennis is now at Everlasting Peace that God only gives when he calls his children home. Love Always, The Bailey, Reese and Lee Family.*

Bailey - October 22, 2024 at 11:24 PM

IM

“ Prayers are with the family. Be strong and let GOD comfort you!



Iris Martin - October 22, 2024 at 10:10 AM

M7

“ Monica (Scott) Galloway (Class of 73) lit a candle in memory of Dennis Black



Monica (Scott) Galloway (Class of 73) - October 22, 2024 at 06:43 AM

VR

“ Virginia Rodgers lit a candle in memory of Dennis Black



Virginia Rodgers - October 21, 2024 at 08:48 PM

MA

“ Maxine Autry lit a candle in memory of Dennis Black



Maxine Autry - October 20, 2024 at 05:01 PM

AR

“ Trevor,
Please know that I am thinking of you at this time. You have my most sincere condolences and sympathy at this time.
Sincerely,
Ann R. Redmond

Ann Redmond - October 20, 2024 at 03:03 PM

VW

“ To Trevor and Denise and Family,
May God grant you his peace and strength through this difficult time. You have my deepest sympathy and condolences.
Victoria Woodard

Victoria Woodard - October 20, 2024 at 01:44 PM

SS

“ I am thinking of all the childhood memories I have of Dennis, Denise and Treva, my sister Penny's classmates and our church family. Dennis was the best. He was funny and the coolest guy! May he rest in peace and may the family find peace in all of the great memories of his wonderful well loved life!

Sonya D. Sims - October 20, 2024 at 11:57 AM

RR

“ Rolanda Ross lit a candle in memory of
Dennis Black



Rolanda Ross - October 19, 2024 at 12:23 PM

YH

“ *Lorain and Denise. Words fail me as I try to offer comfort you for loosing Dennis. What a kind and beautiful man. Peace and love to uou and the rest of the family. Your cuz Yvonne Hopson*

Yvonne Hopson - October 19, 2024 at 10:17 AM

ED

“ *To Trevor & Denise & The Family of Dennis Black, our sincere sympathy goes out to each of you. May God give you strength and comfort as you go through this difficult time.
Eddie & Barbara Stodghill*

Eddie - October 19, 2024 at 12:34 AM

SL

“ *Shawana Lee sent a virtual gift in memory of
Dennis Black*



Shawana Lee - October 18, 2024 at 11:55 PM

GJ

“ *May your heart find comfort knowing that your
love one is at home with the Lord
Love Gwendolyn E.March Jones and Family*



Gwendolyn E.March Jones - October 18, 2024 at 07:57 PM

GR

“ Dear Trevor and Denise we were so sad to learn of Dennis' (Mr. Popcorn's) passing. We often enjoyed laughing whenever we'd see each other about our favorite snack. Maxine remembers and appreciated things being in order whenever he subbed in her room upon her return. George never taught he or Denise but remembers them from Robinson as well. We will definitely miss him as we're sure most who knew him will as well. We will keep you and the family in our prayers. May the Lord bring you comfort and peace in the days that lie ahead.



Sincerely,

George Maxine Rice

George Rice - October 18, 2024 at 12:12 PM

CS

Me and Earl extend our sincere condolences to you, Trevor and the family. He and Earl were good friends and he will truly be missed. Praying for comfort and strength. ❤️🙏🙏🙏

Carlis Stevens - October 20, 2024 at 12:56 AM

KP

“ You all are in my prayers. Dennis and Denise were in kindergarten together at Monroe School. Also to Treva Black I met later at United Baptist Church. God Bless you all
Karen Lewis (Pope)

Karen Pope - October 17, 2024 at 06:02 PM

ST

You are in my thoughts and prayers with the passing of your brother and you when to school with my Christine Byrd. I know you from St Paul Baptist Church where my husband attend before passing David N. Taylor. God bless you now and always. Shirley A. Taylor

Shirley A. Taylor - October 19, 2024 at 02:54 PM

TA

Denise and Trevor praying for you all and family that God will give you peace during this time Love you Bulldogs for life. 🙏🙏🙏❤️💜

Tanya Anderson - October 20, 2024 at 10:44 AM

FH

*To the Black Family.
Our condolences to you and your family. Dennis was like family to us. His beautiful contagious spirit laughter and wit will be missed. Keeping the family in our prayers.
From the family of the late Scotty Cleveland.
Dorothy, Fran and Scott Jr Cleveland*

Fran (Cleveland) Hatch - October 27, 2024 at 01:33 AM