



Rita Veronica Guishard

April 21, 1946 - September 14, 2025

Rita Guishard, affectionately known as “Shakema,” was born on April 21, 1946, in Basseterre, St. Kitts. As a child, she relocated to St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands, to join her mother and siblings, where she received her formal education. In her young adult years, she briefly resided in New York before eventually settling in St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands, which she made home for herself and her two sons, Ronald Jr. and Ahmed. Shakema loved and doted on her boys. With a stern, no-nonsense demeanor balanced by her humor and deep love, she created a nurturing home where their every need was met. Shakema worked for several years at the Virgin Islands Employment and Security Agency (VISTA), now known as the Department of Labor, from the 1970s until August 1989. Her entrepreneurial spirit eventually led her to take early retirement from the agency, and she went on to become an Independent Lottery Dealer with the Virgin Islands Lottery Department. Well-known across the island of St. Croix, Shakema was a familiar and beloved presence—often seen impeccably dressed at Sunny Isles Shopping Center and throughout the island. She had an infectious zest for life, a radiant laugh, and a sharp sense of humor that brought joy to everyone around her. Her passions included travel, fashion, the St. Thomas Carnival, and her signature color: purple. She effortlessly wove this favorite hue into her personal style—through her clothing, nail polish, lipstick, and even subtle highlights in her hair. Throughout her journey in this realm, she formed several lifelong friendships. One of them was Bernadette

Williams, who honored her by naming her the godmother of her grandson, Kumasi. Bernadette visited and spent time with her during her final days where she smiled and laughed about times spent during their younger years. Even after relocating to North Carolina, Shakema maintained deep and lasting connections with Victor “Duke” Petersen, Omar Petersen, Violette George, Dinah O’Reilly, Rebecca Seeman, Sellis Cork, James Hinds, Susie Gereaux, Muriel “Barbie” Livingston, and Molly Kirby. In her final days, she was surrounded—near and far—by an overwhelming outpouring of love, prayers, and heartfelt messages. Friends reached out with calls filled with cherished memories, words of comfort, blessings of peace, and expressions of deep gratitude for the light she brought into their lives. Shakema was deeply loved and supported by many friends and extended family members. Rita “Shakema” Guishard will rest in eternal peace, but her joyful spirit, and deep devotion to family will remain in our hearts forever. She touched countless lives with her warmth, laughter, and vibrant energy — gifts that continue to live on in all who knew and loved her.

Cemetery Details

Beatties Ford Memorial Gardens

11201 Beatties Ford Road
Huntersville, NC 28078

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP **22**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

A.E. Grier & Sons Funeral and Cremation, LLC.
2310 Statesville Avenue
Charlotte, NC 28206
(704) 377-4243
info@aegriersonsfcc.com
<https://www.aegriersonsfcc.com>

Celebration of Life Service

SEP **22**. 12:00 PM (ET)

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Tribute Wall



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Rita Veronica Guishard.* ”



September 21, 2025 at 12:18 PM