

Celebration of LIFE



GWENDOLYN NICHOLS

5-11-42

9-15-23

SUNRISE

SEPT

23

2023

SUNSET

Officiating - Rev. Clarence "Teddy" Williams
Pastor of *The Pilgrim Baptist Church of Savannah, GA*

ADAMS FUNERAL SERVICES
510 STEPHENSON AVENUE, SAVANNAH, GA 31405

*For I know the thoughts that I think toward you saith the LORD, thoughts of
peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.*

JEREMIAH 29:11 KJV

ORDER OF SERVICE



*YOU WILL BE MISSED
BUT NEVER FORGOTTEN.
YOU HAVE CAPTURED A
PLACE IN OUR HEARTS.*

**PROCESSIONAL
MUSICAL SELECTION**

PRAYER OF COMFORT
TRACEY WHALEY, SENIOR PASTOR
NEW CREATION CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

SCRIPTURE READING
OLD TESTAMENT- REV. ALLEN BANKS, SR.
NEW TESTAMENT- REV. LINDA BANKS

REMEMBERING GWEN
DR. ALICE NICHOLS BROWN

MUSICAL SELECTION
REV. CLARENCE "TEDDY" WILLIAMS

EULOGY
PASTOR RICKY TEMPLE
OVERCOMING BY FAITH MINISTRIES

RECESSIONAL





Gwen's Life Journey

Once upon a time, about 81 years ago, on May 11, 1942, in Savannah, Georgia, Almighty God in his infinite wisdom, showed more Love to the lives and families of Joseph Nichols and Altermease Chatman - Nichols by gracing them with their second baby girl, Gwendolyn Arleen Nichols. Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Nichols was a young couple and like many other African American families in the forties left the south. With familial support they chose to join the "Great Migration" in hope of greater job opportunities.


Gwen, as she preferred to be addressed, was an impressive child who grew up in a loving and highly respected family. Her compassion for others was beyond measure.

Though born in Savannah, GA but shaped by the times and culture, Gwen's formative education began in the Philadelphia PA public school system, at Elverson Elementary School. A confident child who was nurtured and educated in both cities.

As a child of the fifties and sixties, Gwen was progressive, valiant and highly favored. After returning to Savannah, Gwen's fortitude was tested and shaped, being trained to battle against social injustice and civil disobedience during the Civil Rights movement. She enjoyed music and was a member of the Alfred E. Beach High School drill team. Both schools have the Bulldog as their mascot, which is also strong-willed and determined. After her graduation in 1960, believing "it takes a village", Gwen was a passionate life long fighter for the underdog. Being the person she chose to be, helped her parents with her younger siblings and nephew, thereby gaining valuable experience in training a child in the way they should go.

She chose to reconnect with her Philly roots to further her education and opportunities. While working for the London Fog Company, she attended the Community College of Philadelphia, where she began learning to speak the African Bantu language of KiSwahili. In 1961, by the time she gave birth to her only child, naming her JoAnn after her older sister, she put her big sister experiences to work and was able to instill strong family values and love. While furthering her education by attending Temple University, working for Bell Telephone of Pennsylvania, she was raising a carbon copy of herself. After receiving her degree, she became a State of Pennsylvania social services case manager. Leaving that profession to dedicate over 30 years to the United States Postal Service, and retiring in 2013.

Gwen was quiet but competitive. She enjoyed board games, reading, traveling, spending time with family and friends. Scrabble was her absolute favorite to expand word knowledge and lovingly compete with her sisters and friends.



Gwen's Life Journey

Baptized at Mt. Zion MBC by Rev. J.Q. Adams, where grandparents and aunt were active ministry leaders. Challenges by faith, cultural diversity and fortitude. She remained faithful to family and maintained life long friendships. Gwen loved people of all races, genders, and generations. Her private confession of faith in Jesus Christ allowed her the victorious strength to overcome many obstacles of life. Victory over two bouts of cancer, hip replacement at 79, multiple brain aneurysms, and a grocery list of heart issues. An exceptional woman known for her keen intellectual, charitable spirit, and loving heart. Gwen is and will always be remembered for being unapologetically saved by grace. Learning to Live, Laugh, and Love gives meaning to it all. Gwen's lived life was based on unconditional Love. Throughout her journey, often put others before herself. If asked what she felt was her greatest achievement, she demonstrated the path of God.

She gave her best to those who were privileged to know her. Throughout the complexities of her journey she was a forward thinker, having fortitude, while being a confident single mother, giving nurturing grace to her daughter, JoAnn, to continue the legacy of this God given Warrior Queen to future generations.

Preceding her transition along with her parents are, her sisters, JoAnn Nichols-Crosson and Janet Nichols-Ruffin, her brother, Donald Nichols, and great grandson, Jeremiah Harston. To cherish their memories of her, she leaves: JoAnn Allen (Kevin), sister Alice Brown (Richard), brothers Charles Nichols and Joseph Mobley, grandchildren Melvin "Sheridan" Harston II and Xavier "Xavvy" M. Adams, great-grandchildren; Destiny, Jya'Mere, Yesenia, Gabriella, Gabriel, Naccari, and Malachi along with a village of nieces, nephews, cousins, additional family and friends.





Don't grieve for me now, I am free.
I am following the path God laid for me.
I took his hand when I heard him call.
I turned my back and left it all.
I could not stay another day,
To laugh, to love, to work or play.

Tasks left undone must stay that way.
I found that peace of close of day.
If my parting has left a void,
Then fill it with remembered Joy.
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss,
Ah, yes, these things I too will miss.

Be not burdened with times of sorrow,
I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow.
My life's been full, I savored much;
Good times, good friends, a loved ones touch.

Perhaps my time seemed all too brief.
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief.
Lift up your hearts and share with me.
God wanted me now.
He set me Free.

Author Unknown

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS



We would like to take this opportunity to extend our most sincere appreciation for all the loving expressions shown during our time of bereavement.

You may have sent a card or sat quietly in a chair, offered a hug, whispered an encouraging word or said a prayer.

The Family would also like to thank the entire staff of St Joseph's Hospital and Extensive Medical Care Team of Specialists for their care of and dedication to our beloved Gwen.

May God forever grant peace and blessings to each one of you to be kept in his tender loving care.

We are truly grateful.

THE FAMILY OF GWENDOLYN NICHOLS

HONORARY PALBEARERS

Michael Adams
Ronald Crosson
Stanford Allen

FLOWER ATTENDANTS

Family and Friends

