

Pallbearers
Carl Pennington, Jr.
Derek Rhine
Barry Pennington
Bill Jones
Kirk Jones
Lee Lewis Pennington

Honorary Pallbearers
David Williams
Keith Morris
Rodney Pennington
Tristian Ross
Kent Jones
Charles Tucker
Leroy Morris, Jr.
Jalen Ross

Flower Bearers
Quayle United
Methodist Church

Honorary Flower Bearers
Lori Ann Tucker
Sherri Martin
Lia Pennington
Stacey Morris-Jones
Sabrina Future
Stephanie Morris
Angela Travis
Dorothy Cox Franklin



Acknowledgments

The family of Gwendolyn Sue Morris wishes to thank the many extended family members, friends and loved ones for their expressions of kindness; cards, flowers, calls, text, visits, and prayers have given us strength and courage during this difficult time. Please continue to keep us uplifted in your thoughts and prayers.

Repast

Lincoln Park Community Center
4712 N Martin Luther King Ave,
Oklahoma City, OK 73111

Please drive with your lights on for safety and fasten your seat belts.

Interment

Trice Hill Cemetery
5101 N. Coltrane Road
Oklahoma City, OK 73111

Temple & Sons
FUNERAL DIRECTORS, INC.

2801 North Kelley Avenue • Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73111

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"We Care"



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Memorial Service Celebrating the Life of



Gwendolyn Sue Morris

August 9, 1935 - March 22, 2021

Wednesday, March 31, 2021 at 12:00 pm

Ebenezer Baptist Church

3600 N. Kelley Avenue • Oklahoma City, OK 73111



Obituary

Gwendolyn Sue Morris

A Beautiful Life

Gwendolyn Morris was born on August 9th, 1935 to Caldwell and Captiolar Pennington in Wewoka, Oklahoma. The middle of seven children, Gwendolyn, or "Gwen" as she is affectionately known, always had a strong, vibrant personality and a voracious appetite for learning, graduating from Douglass High School in Wewoka, Oklahoma at the top of her class in 1952.

She attended Philander Smith College in Little Rock in the fall of 1952 and quickly became an integral member in her college community joining the band, Student Christian Association, and Debate Squad as well as pledging Delta Sigma Theta sorority later in her college career. During her freshman year at Philander Smith, Gwen met Lee Arthur Morris, a sophomore from Mounds, Illinois who was the starting guard on the school's basketball team and member of the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity. The two immediately hit it off and quickly started dating, eventually becoming college sweethearts.

After graduation, Gwen started her career serving her community as a Social Worker for Children's Welfare in Guthrie, Oklahoma in 1956. Her professionalism, dedication, and passion for her clients and the underserved children of Oklahoma was quickly noticed by her supervisors, and within a few years' time, she was promoted to serve in Child Welfare in Oklahoma County.

On June 25th, 1961, Gwen and Lee married, and from this union their first child, Leah, was born a year later. Two years following, the couple welcomed their second child, Lee Jr. and three years later, the family welcomed their third child Lowell.

Always striving to further her knowledge and expertise in her field, Gwen received her master's degree in Social Work from the University of Oklahoma in 1966 which further accelerated her advancement into roles of increasing responsibility. Gwen was passionate about protecting the safety and security of minors, ensuring that foster children were cared for in safe and loving homes while working with parents to develop the life-skills needed to care for their families when reunited. Of the many prominent roles that she held over her career, Gwen served as the Director of Child Protective Services, Oklahoma County, and the Chairman of Challenges of Adult Living (COAL) for the Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services, a program dedicated to helping young adults leave the child welfare system and transition into independent living.

The first time I looked in your eyes,
I could picture our children in my head.
I could see our life laid out before us,
And I knew we'd have a happily ever after.
Thanks for being the most wonderful wife
I could ever have asked for,
And thank you for being the best mother
To our children I could have dreamed of.

Obituary

Gwendolyn Sue Morris

A Beautiful Life

Over her career, she received numerous awards, recognition, and accolades for her contributions to children's welfare. Through her leadership, guidance, love and care, many children who started in the foster care system have transitioned to adulthood and become educated, productive citizens of the State of Oklahoma and beyond.

Gwen retired in 1998 after an illustrious forty-seven year career serving the children and citizens of the state of Oklahoma. With Lee by her side, Gwen enjoyed her retirement by attending University of Oklahoma Football games and travelling across the country visiting extended family and her children while doting over and spoiling her grandchildren.

Gwen was an avid fan of the Oklahoma Sooners Football Team and she cheered loudly and provided "thoughtful and direct" coaching from the stands or in front of the television. She was blessed to see both her son, Lee Jr., and her grandson, Lee Lewis, play on the gridiron for the Sooners, and on November 23, 2019, Gwen and Lee were honored during a halftime ceremony of the Oklahoma vs. TCU game for being 44-year long-term season ticket holders.

Gwen lived an amazing, blessed, and beautiful full life, and on Monday, March 22, 2021, she ascended to Heaven, joining her siblings Carl C. Pennington, Joe-Mae Williams, Margie Pennington, Lee Lewis Pennington, and Naomi Ruth Jones. Her legacy and memory will live on in through her beloved family as she is survived by her husband, Dr. Lee Arthur Morris; sister, Stella Louise Rhine; daughter, Leah Sue Pitts; son, Lee Arthur Morris, Jr.; son, Lowell Patrick Morris; son-in-law, Mark Ari Pitts; daughter-in-law, Elizabeth Genise Morris; daughter-in-law, Kendra Chizel Morris; grandson, Mark Ari Pitts II; grandson, Lowell Patrick Morris II; grandson, Lee Lewis Morris; grandson, Kaleb Christopher Morris; granddaughter, Mikaela Imani Morris; and, grandson, Maxwell Logan Morris.

Gwendolyn Sue Morris was a faithful member of Quayle United Methodist Church, a passionate civic and community servant, and a remarkable and loving wife, mother, grandmother, sibling, and friend. Gwen has been the powerful guiding light for her family, and her intelligence, sharp wit, tremendous presence, and her enormous, compassionate, loved-filled heart will be missed by all that know and love her.

A Mother's Crown

BY AN UNKNOWN AUTHOR

Heaven lit up with a mighty presence,
as the Angels all looked down.
Today the Lord was placing the jewels
Into my mother's crown.
He held up a golden crown,
as my darling mother looked on.
He said in His gentle voice,
'I will now explain each one.'
'The first gem,' He said, 'is a Ruby,
and it's for endurance alone,
for all the nights you waited up
for your children to come home.'
'For all the nights by their bedside,
you stayed till the fever went down.
For nursing every little wound,
I add this ruby to your crown.'
'An emerald, I'll place by the ruby,
for leading your child in the right way.
For teaching them the lessons,
That made them who they are today.'
'For always being right there,
through all life's important events.
I give you a sapphire stone,
for the time and love you spent.'
'For untying the strings that held them,
when they grew up and left home.
I give you this one for courage.'
Then the Lord added a garnet stone.
'I'll place a stone of amethyst,' He said.
'For all the times you spent on your knees,
when you asked if I'd take care of your children,
and then for having faith in Me.'
'I have a pearl for every little sacrifice
that you made without them knowing.
For all the times you went without,
to keep them happy, healthy and growing.'
'And last of all I have a diamond,
the greatest one of all,
for sharing unconditional love
whether they were big or small.'
'It was your love that helped them grow
Feeling safe and happy and proud
A love so strong and pure
It could shift the darkest cloud.'
After the Lord placed the last jewel in,
He said, 'Your crown is now complete,
You've earned your place in Heaven
With your children at your feet.'



Order of Service

Prelude

Mrs. Jesse Wesley

Processional

Call to Worship

Reverend Elvyn Hamilton

Affirmation of Faith

As a family of faith,
let us affirm our faith together.
I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth;
And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
the third day he rose from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth at the right hand of God the
Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to
judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Holy Scriptures

Psalm 121 - Mr. Leon Franklin
John 14:1-7 - Reverend Bessie Hamilton

The Lord's Prayer

Reverend Bessie Hamilton
Our father who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come.
Thy will be done
On earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those who trespass against us,
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
And the power, and the glory
For ever and ever
Amen

Worship In Song

His Eye Is On The Sparrow
Reverend Erica C. Thomas

Tributes & Remarks

Quayle United Methodist Church

Ms. Juanita Thomas

Delta Sigma Theta

Mrs. Loraine Jones

Wewoka Douglass Alumni

Mr. Steven Edwards, President

Grandchildren's Tribute

Children & Family Tribute

Mr. Mark Pitts on behalf of Leah, Lee & Lowell

Worship In Song

"How Great Thou Art"

Reverend Erica C. Thomas

Words of Comfort & Eulogy

Reverend Dr. Victor T. McCullough
District Superintendent, Heartland District

Video Tribute

Benediction

