



Mrs. Gwendolyn Michelle Riley

April 12, 1963 - March 4, 2020

In Loving Memory Of;

Gwendolyn Michelle Gambles was born on April 12, 1963 to Fletcher and Oceaola Gambles. She was the youngest of five children. She accepted Christ at an early age at The First Baptist Church of Ecorse, Michigan and then converted to Catholicism upon her union with Karl Riley.

Gwendolyn received her education through Detroit Public Schools. She graduated from Southwestern High School in 1982 with honors. She then began studying at Henry Ford Community College in 1982 where she met her lifelong partner and soulmate, Karl Riley. Gwen and Karl's walk lasted thirty-eight years and from this union, four beautiful children were born, Karl Jr. "Tony," Krystyl, Kamal and Krystyn.

Gwen was a very successful business owner. She started Gwen's Place, Inc. out of her home in 1994. She made a commitment to meeting the needs of the community by educating and caring for countless children. The business has been operating for twenty-five years and gained her four out of five stars from the State of Michigan's quality childcare initiative, Great Start To Quality. As a result of this, many new and established owners consulted with Gwen for her expertise. Gwen was always active in the children's lives whether it be girl scouts, boy scouts, high school events, or community volunteer work. Gwen

continued her lifelong pursuit of learning and obtained her Bachelor's degree in Children and Families from the University of Michigan-Dearborn in 2017. She then began her next path in teaching as a Head Start teacher at Matrix Franklin Wright School.

Gwen's personality is one that can never be matched, she was truly one of a kind. Gwen was not only wondrous but also inspiring. Gwen had a smile that brightened up any room she set foot in. She had a laugh that was contagious and heart warming. She had one of the biggest hearts known to mankind that will forever be cherished. Along with being an amazing wife, mother, daughter, and sister she possessed many talents. One of them being cooking her famous homemade rolls, sweet potatoes and ice cream. She also had a love for gardening and spending quality time with the family.

Cemetery Details

Holy Sepulchre

25800 W. 10 Mile Road
Southfield, MI 48034

Previous Events

Family Hour

Thursday, Mar. **12.** 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Charles Lwanga Parish (Formally St. Cecelia)
10400 Stopel St.
Detroit, MI 48204
(313) 933-6788

Funeral Service

Thursday, Mar. **12.** 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Charles Lwanga Parish (Formally St. Cecelia)
10400 Stopel St.
Detroit, MI 48204
(313) 933-6788

Tribute Wall



“ *Mrs. Gwendolyn Michelle Riley*

January 21, 2023 at 09:34 PM



“ *Have you ever known anyone like Mrs. Riley? I haven't. She was graceful, she was a beautiful person that managed to make raising a family and running a business look easy. It took me some time to get here because I have nothing but pure Love for her. She cared for my daughter and me. Everything she shared with me about raising a child I have done and will continue to do. My condolences go to the family. Mrs. Riley was a Rock in a storm, she was a book of instruction in life. She was a beautiful woman with a beautiful soul. I will miss you Mrs. Riley.*

Sonia B.

Sonia Bailey - April 03, 2020 at 02:01 PM



“ *Remembering Mrs. Riley family in heartfelt prayer. There are no words to express the sorrow in our hearts. Please accept our deepest sympathy. May the God of all comfort help you to endure this time of sorrow.*

Evans family - March 20, 2020 at 05:38 AM



“ *Hello. I would like to send my sincerest condolence to Kamal Riley and family. On the passing of Beloved Mother Gwendolyn M. Riley. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends. Chaplain Marnice Alford*

Marnice Alford - March 14, 2020 at 05:50 AM

MA

“ On behalf of UAW Local 1700 Leadership and Membership, we extend our sincerest condolences to Kamal Riley. On the passing of Beloved Mother Gwendolyn M. Riley. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends.

UAW Local 1700
8230 E. 8 Mile Rd.
Detroit, MI 48235

Marnice Alford - March 14, 2020 at 05:42 AM

TG

“ The best daycare provider one could ask for. Riley family you are in my prayers today and always. Love Terri & Jaden Gamlin

Terri Gamlin - March 11, 2020 at 09:41 PM

BL

“ Such a beautiful, genuine spirit that will be missed so much. We will forever have you in our hearts and minds.

Rest Well Queen! Job well done! Thank you for everything!

I love you! - Brittany

Brittany Lee - March 11, 2020 at 09:15 AM

EH

“ *Edith, Todd, Kelly, Rodney & Francine Hardin purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Mrs. Gwendolyn Michelle Riley.*



Edith, Todd, Kelly, Rodney & Francine Hardin - March 10, 2020 at 03:38 PM



“ *To the Gambles/Riley Family. Gwen and I became great friends at Mark Twain Elementary. We often frequented each others homes. I lived on Ethel and Peters, and Gwen lived on Beatrice. We were very close until after High School graduation. Of course there was no Social Media, Cell Phones or Internet for that matter and we lost contact, and unfortunately we never regained our closeness. I've never forgotten the great fun, uncontrollable laughter and leaving Southwestern High School at lunch time to walk to the store for Orange Drink, Barbecue Better Maid Potato Chips, but her favorite candy bar escapes my memory; was it PayDay? LOL! Gwen you have been and will forever be in my heart!*

I pray that God bless the family with peace and strength during this tough time! God bless you all where you need him the Most!

Love,

Elma Jean Lackey-McMurray

E Jean McMurray - March 10, 2020 at 02:20 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mrs. Gwendolyn Michelle Riley.*



March 10, 2020 at 01:29 PM



“ *To our dear RILEY family during this inconsolable hour, please know that we are with you in spirit and soul. This mother and wife, among many other titles, came here and did what she had to do and now, Gwen is needed to do her great work with The Ancestors and God. We looked forward to seeing her beautiful smile and face, beaming with pride, with her exceptional krew: Cousin Karl Sr., Karl Jr, Krystyn, Krystyl and Kamal on pictures sent across the country via telephone and mail. We will cherish those moments that were shared with us and are thankful for the lives she has brought into this world and the love she shared with us all. Much care and love to you all, right now and forever.*

With Infinite Sympathy,

Dan, Darlene, Reed, Allison and Riley Nowels.

dee nowels - March 09, 2020 at 09:31 PM