

GOD'S GARDEN

*God looked around His garden
And He found an empty place,
He then looked down upon this earth,
And saw your tired face.
He put His arms around you
And lifted you to rest.
God's garden must be beautiful;
He always takes the best.*

*He knew you were in pain
He knew that you would never
Get well on earth again.
So He closed your weary
Eyelids. And whispered "Peace
be thine." It broke our hearts to
lose you. But you didn't go alone
For part of us went with you*

INTERMENT

Union Cemetery
3349 Olentangy River Road,
Columbus, OH 43202

REPAST

Deb's Event Center
5508 East Livingston Avenue
Columbus, Ohio 43232

PALLBEARERS

David King — Brother-in-law
Jabez King — Great grandson

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Our family sincerely thanks you for every prayer, kind word, call, visit, and act of love shown during this difficult time. Your thoughtfulness has brought us comfort as we remember and celebrate our beloved Norma Jean (Crittenden) Gates. We are deeply grateful for your support. May God bless each of you.
With love and gratitude, The Family.



MARLAN GARY
FUNERAL HOME
1 FUNERAL HOME | 5 LOCATIONS

MINISTRY OF COMFORT ENTRUSTED TO:

NORTH CHAPEL
2500 CLEVELAND AVE.,
COLUMBUS, OH 43211
614-267-8310

EAST CHAPEL
5456 LIVINGSTON AVE.,
COLUMBUS, OH 43232
614-604-8774

MANSFIELD CHAPEL
753 MCPHERSON ST.,
MANSFIELD, OH 44903
419-524-6999

SPRINGFIELD CHAPEL
823 SOUTH YELLOW SPRINGS ST.,
SPRINGFIELD, OHIO 45506
937-325-1447

CINCINNATI CHAPEL
674 FOREST AVE.,
CINCINNATI OH 45229
513-221-4812

WWW.THECHAPELOFPEACE.COM

Homegoing Celebration For



Norma Jean
CRITTENDEN - GATES SR.

OCTOBER 10, 1931 – SEPTEMBER 13, 2026

Saturday, October 3, 2026 | 10:00am
Marlan Gary Funeral Home, The Chapel of Peace, East
5456 E. Livingston Ave., Columbus, OH 43232

HER OBITUARY

Norma Jean (Crittenden) Gates—beloved mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, great-great-grandmother, sister, friend, tutor, and devoted volunteer—passed away peacefully on September 13, 2026, in Columbus, Ohio. She was 94 years old.

Norma Jean was born on October 10, 1931, in Gary, Indiana, to Velma Robertson. Affectionately known as “Jean,” she accepted Christ at an early age and remained grounded in her Christian faith throughout her life. As a young girl, her faith and sense of community were nurtured through activities at the historic John Stewart Memorial Settlement House, an important center of religious, recreational, and social life for African-American families in Gary. She later became a member of Delaney Memorial United Methodist Church, which remained her final church home.

Jean attended and graduated from Froebel High School in Gary, where she developed her love of sewing. Her first job after graduating was in a factory performing piecework alongside her cousin and “sewing sidekick,” Juanita Cruse. Jean later advanced to performing alterations at Tom Oleskar’s men’s clothing store.

At the age of 60, Jean’s desire to keep learning led her back to school, where she studied upholstery. Over the years, Jean’s skilled hands created far more than clothing. She made wedding dresses, upholstered furniture, embroidered beautiful designs, and lovingly shared her knowledge and talents with others. What began as a childhood interest grew into a remarkable expression of her creativity, determination, and care.

Jean was united in holy matrimony to Frederick Gates. They shared 58 years of wedded bliss, and from their loving union, one daughter, Norma, was born. Though everyone in the family wanted the baby named after them, Jean had already made up her mind: “No, I’m naming her after me!” And so, her daughter proudly carries her mother’s name.

Strong, faithful, kind, and fiercely independent, Jean lived a life of service and purpose. She generously gave her time as a tutor and volunteer and was always willing to help someone learn. She was also known for baking cookies for the children’s club at church—a simple but loving gesture that brought happiness to many young faces.

Jean found joy in gardening, traveling, reading, sewing, and working with her hands. She possessed a curious mind and a genuine love of learning that remained with her throughout her life. Her strength, wisdom, creativity, and unwavering faith were evident in everything she did.

Above all, Jean cherished her family. She leaves to cherish her memory her devoted daughter and son-in-law, Norma and Greg King; her sister, Sandra King; her grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren; and many other loving relatives and dear friends.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Frederick Gates; her mother, Velma Robertson; her aunt, Gertrude Williams; her sisters, Joyce Clay and Irma (Leon) Suttles; and her brothers, Donald (Della) Crittenden and Lloyd E. Robertson Sr.

Those who knew Jean will remember her as a woman of deep faith, quiet strength, remarkable talent, and loving devotion to her family and community. Her hands created beautiful things, her wisdom guided those she loved, and her faith sustained her through every season of life.

Although Jean will be deeply missed, the love, lessons, traditions, and treasured memories she gave to her family will remain in their hearts forever.

Jean will be deeply missed and lovingly remembered.

ORDER Of SERVICE

Organ Prelude
Abide with Me

Parting view

Scripture Reading
Old Testament: Psalm 23
New Testament: John 14:1 - 3

Prayer
Pastor Colin Jones

Selection
I Need Thee Every Hour (instrumental)

Acknowledgement/Condolences

Remarks
Family and/or Friends (2 minutes)

Reading of Obituary
Read silently

Selection
In the Garden (intrumental)

The Eulogy
Pastor Colin Jones

Benediction
Pastor Colin Jones

Recessional: Clergy, Family, Friends