

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Gwynn Family would like to acknowledge each act of kindness and love displayed during this time. We sincerely appreciate the calls, texts, expression of condolences and most of all the prayers. May God continue to bless, strengthen, and comfort you.

THE GWYNN FAMILY

WHEN I MUST LEAVE YOU

When I must leave you, for a little while,
Please do not grieve, and shed wild tears
and hug your sorrow, to you through the years,

But start out bravely, with a gallant smile;
And for my sake, and in my name
Live on and do, all things the same,

Feed not your loneliness, on empty days,
But fill each waking hour, in useful ways,

Reach out your hand, in comfort and cheer
And I in turn will comfort you, and hold you near

And never, never, be afraid to die,
For I am waiting, for you in the sky!

- Helen Steiner Rice



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R E M E M B E R I N G

JOAN B.
Gwynn

SEPTEMBER 2, 1942 ~ JANUARY 5, 2026

THE LIFE STORY OF

JOAN B. Gwynn

SEPTEMBER 2, 1942 - JANUARY 5, 2026

Joan Gwynn was a woman whose life spoke through love, service, and quiet strength.

She was born on September 2, 1942, in Baltimore, Maryland, to Flossie Ubelian Gwynn and James Black, and was raised in Caswell County, North Carolina, where her roots were firmly planted in family, faith, and perseverance. As a young woman, she followed her determination north in search of opportunity and purpose, eventually settling in Newark, New Jersey, where she built a life, a home, and a legacy that would touch generations.

On January 5, 2025, Joan was called home to rest in the presence of the Lord after living a long, full, and beautifully meaningful life.

Joan was a woman who believed in education, hard work, and responsibility. She attended Essex County College, earning her associate degree, and completed cosmetology school at Wilfred Academy of Hair and Beauty Culture in Newark, NJ; accomplishments achieved while lovingly raising her four children: Barry Gwynn, Kenneth Gwynn, Elliot Gwynn, and Azell Gwynn. Her dedication to providing and caring never wavered. She later retired from her final role as a banquet manager at hotels near Newark Airport, a position she carried with pride and professionalism.

Those who knew Joan knew her as a woman who did what needed to be done. She was dependable, steady, and deeply caring—often placing the needs of others before her own. Her strength was quiet but unmistakable. She was sharp, precise, and not to be played with, yet her heart was tender toward her family. Above all, Joan wanted to know that her children were okay. She lived by the words she often spoke to them: “Keep working until it works.” That belief shaped her life and continues to guide her family.

Joan found joy in togetherness. She loved music, laughter, good food, and celebrating life with those she loved. She had a love for dancing that never faded, famously lighting up the dance floor on her 80th birthday, reminding everyone that joy has no age.

She leaves to cherish her memory her beloved grandchildren Torrey Bryant, Ashley Gwynn, Jahl Brown, and Mekhia Gwynn, and her treasured great-grandchildren Al-Tariq Morris, Zion Bryant, Ziona Bryant, Precious Morris, Miracle Bryant, Nicolas Vargas, Lilliana Vargas-Gwynn, Emiliano Vargas-Gwynn, Zaiyda Vargas-Gwynn, and Alayah Standifer.

Joan is also survived by her sisters Donna Black-Hogan and Catherine Chapman, her brother-in-law Tony Hogan and she is now reunited in eternal rest with her sisters Jackie Custis and Shannon Yvonne Hester, along with a host of family members and friends who loved her deeply.

ORDER OF *Service*

Funeral Service | 12:00 PM
Smith Memorial COGIC
16 Stratford Pl., Newark, NJ
Bishop Dr. C.H. Evans, Pastor
Bishop Charles W. Harris Jr., Officiating

PROCESSIONAL

PRAYER OF COMFORT

OLD TESTAMENT

NEW TESTAMENT

SELECTION

REFLECTIONS (2 MINUTES)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & OBITUARY

SELECTION

EULOGY

Bishop Charles W. Harris Jr.

RECESSIONAL

